

**Bryant PTSA meeting minutes  
September 12, 2024**

Time	Item	Owner
7:05	<p><b>Welcome to September’s General Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introductions of new board members, new committee members, parents in attendance</li> <li>- Run through agenda</li> </ul>	<p>Matt Hunt /Marika Vandersmith, Co- Presidents</p>
7:15	<p><b>Principal Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great back to school. Enrollment holding steady. Ice cream social well attended. School wide assembly today. Kids know the rules, following the rules. Went over expectations, introduced new teachers.</li> <li>- Looking for parent volunteers for cafeteria and recess</li> <li>- Veronica Iococo is new part time Assistant Principal. Half time, flexes</li> <li>- Curriculum night Oct 1. Fine tuning some locations for the meetings</li> <li>- The big news: Boundary changes. She is learning them as we all are. At the Principal’s meeting on 9/10 District did not go into boundary changes.</li> <li>- Boundary changes were discussed at the Principal’s executive board meeting this afternoon. District wants parents to use the resource hub on the District website. This school has been vocal and should continue to, advocate. Community should use “Let’s Talk” tool on District website. She does not have all the answers. Principals cannot advocate or appear to go against the district’s wishes. Dr. Marshall recognized there is an open question with respect to continuing student assignments. Dr. Campbell and Tyler Hamilton at the District encouraged principals to reinforce with their schools that the current information is just a proposal. The boundaries in the proposal are subject to change. This is a fluid situation. Dr. Marshall recognizes there are many sticky situations such as the current 4<sup>th</sup> graders, who have already started their Islandwood fundraisers for their trip next year.</li> <li>- Office has done initial count and 116 families will be impacted by the boundary change. This is estimated to be about one third of 475 kids will be zoned for different school under new boundaries. This data was compiled by reviewing the addresses of current families. The District has said there is some math in play with how many students schools are gaining/losing. The board does not vote until December.</li> </ul>	<p>Charmaine Marshall, Principal</p>
7:35	<p><b>LASER update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No LASER representative was present at the meeting. Marika and Matt shared that the LASER community is grieving the sudden death of its director Robby Saunders.</li> <li>- Dr. Marshall shared that there are plans for a bench in memoriam for Robby. He worked for LASER for 11 years and is a former Bryant student. Marissa will let us know. Dr. Marshall also shared that Ms. Day is coordinating food for his mother</li> </ul>	

7:40	<p><b>Teacher Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alex shared that it has been a smooth start to the school year. No big updates yet.</li> <li>- David McKnight reminded the teacher reps that Art and PE have funds in the budget that weren't used last year. Alex will connect with the art and PE teachers. David also reminded the teacher reps that field trip funds are not assigned to each teacher and need to be parsed out by the staff among themselves.</li> </ul>	Alex Jones and Katie Salisbury
7:45	<p><b>New Business: PTSA Response to the Proposed Redistricting and School Closures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Matt led the PTSA in a discussion of the recently announced proposed school closures and boundary changes, noting that they had only come out yesterday so work was still underway to digest the proposal.</li> <li>- Those in attendance expressed the following with respect to this issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The PTSA should explore responding as an organization to the proposed new boundaries that were announced today.</li> <li>o Option A and Option B proposed by the District did not seem that different from each other.</li> <li>o There is frustration that there is not enough transparency about how these choices will really help the budget shortfall. Attendees expressed that they didn't feel the District provided enough info.</li> <li>o Attendees can advocate individually; the PTSA of Bryant can take a position</li> <li>o The group reviewed a slide (in the meeting materials) that provided information on different advocacy channels (What we can do right now: slide)</li> <li>o The District is encouraging the community to use Let's Talk Tool – on the District website. This is the #1 avenue that will be reviewed and tracked. Specific guidance on how to craft the messages to ensure some consistency from Bryant.</li> <li>o There will be community meetings.</li> <li>o We should all get the word out to engage and advocate at an individual family level with relevant links</li> <li>o There is no guaranteed grandfathering for kids already in their currently enrolled school.</li> <li>o from the PTSA perspective, we could point out that our enrollment will go down, so how does that reach the goal of more kids to be well resourced? Bryant can have 532 kids. We have about 480. Math not working in the report.</li> <li>o Thornton Creek has a capacity of 640, they have 440. Attendees expressed that the redrawn boundaries appear to show that they needed to fill Thornton Creek so they took kids from Bryant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alex Jones shared that they're talking about pre-K and also all 3 tiers of special education services going into each school (we have 1). Some kids are zoned for Bryant but without the special ed, they don't go here.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Matt Hunt

	<p>Those kids should come back. Also, some kids will leave Thornton Creek and go to Bryant since this is their geo-zone school. Also new boundaries has multi-family housing which will bring socioeconomic diversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IWhat is the final number that Bryant will come to after the boundary changes has not been shared.</li> <li>○ The bell times may change as well. 9am start time has previously been proposed</li> <li>○ Walkability should be a huge issue.</li> <li>○ Would be good to communicate with other PTSA’s to have a united front.</li> <li>○ North Beach PTSA (closing school)has reached out for coordination. They want to stop the train and are asking for backing of all the PTSA’s in Seattle. Their proposal is that the District not push this plan until we ask for more money from the legislature. They emailed out information and draft language to write to your state senator and representatives.</li> <li>○ We need volunteer to be on the Bryant Advocacy Committee. We are without a chairperson there.</li> <li>○ Group discussed whether October membership meeting should be focused on school closures and how to publicize that meeting</li> <li>○ Group discussed other ways to publicize issue with community (table at drop off? kid mail? town hall meeting?)</li> <li>○ We need a lot of help from a lot of different angles. We should spread the word.</li> </ul> <p>- Matt ended the discussion by committing to keeping the Board and community updated. The Board agreed that a communication should be sent from the PTSA ASAP highlighting the changes, sharing ways to give the District feedback, and asking for volunteers to be involved in advocacy.</p>	
8:15	<p><b>Treasury Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maggie is coming on board, she will be primary as David transitions out of lead Treasurer role</li> <li>- Jamie Prinz is coming on board as the new deposit person.</li> <li>- Slides in the meeting materials show current financial information</li> <li>- Budget final results – we made a slight surplus, carry over from last year. Frustrating if money does not get spent.</li> <li>- Recap of budget that was approved.</li> <li>- \$301k income</li> <li>- Annual campaign is the big line item: \$227,500</li> <li>- Salaries and wages – library assistant and computer assistant, reading interventionist, playground sup’s.</li> <li>- Reserve is \$48k. Decent number</li> <li>- Reminder that parents need to pay for their school supplies.</li> </ul>	David McKnight and Maggie Dreifuerst

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have we lost the messaging about the logic about buying in bulk? Need to remind parents.</li> </ul>	
8:30	<p><b>Annual Campaign and Fundraising Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slides in the meeting materials show annual campaign details</li> <li>- October 21 kickoff</li> <li>- Worry that families that are potentially leaving, they may not want to contribute. Unknown factor. We have to address this as we go along to avoid a huge deficit.</li> </ul>	Michael Polin
8:35	<p><b>Motions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May 2024 minutes approved (Anna Bonnett moved, David McKnight seconded, motion passes with those not on the Board last year abstaining.</li> <li>- Jamie Prinz approved as the check deposit person (Anna Bonnet moved, David seconded, motion passed.</li> </ul>	All
8:37	<p><b>Reminders on open positions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seeking: membership, advocacy and community engagement. These can be co-chaired.</li> <li>- Working with lead volunteers of events to make sure they have what they need.</li> </ul>	All
8:40	<b>Adjourn</b> (Matt made motion, Hans seconded, motion passed)	

**Action Items**

- Remember to put things in the Weekly, deadlines for the channels.
- Room parents can remind families about the Weekly.
- Also kid mail PTSA flyer. Kristy, Matt’s wife, is the room parent coordinator. Get involved as a room parent. If people want to help, they don’t know what to do.
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