

Bryant PTSA General Meeting

October 8, 2024

Agenda Item

Welcome

- All members of the PTSA Board that were present introduced themselves to the general membership

Standard Items (Matt Hunt and Marika VanderSmith)

- Land Acknowledgement
- PTSA Overview
 - An overview of the structure of the Bryant, Seattle and Washington PTSA organization was shared, as well as an overview of the Bryant PTSA's mission
- Review of Board Norms
 - Previously agreed upon norms were presented that the co-Presidents recommend be adhered to this year:
 - We represent the interests of our students and community.
 - Speak up and share your opinion with respect.
 - Assume best intentions.
 - Be inclusive, welcoming, and have fun.
 - Board meetings are a focused time for achieving clear decisions and next steps. Table issues needing more discussion.
 - Keep your responses brief and focused.
- Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month
 - Monthly theme related to the Bryant PTSA's Anti-Racist Commitment was presented
- What's Happening at Bryant
 - Key dates for upcoming school events were reviewed
- Approval of Minutes
 - Draft minutes of the June 2024 General Membership meeting are available on the Bryant PTSA website
 - Anna Bonnett made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2024 General Membership meeting as presented; David McKnight seconded the motion; the motion passed
- Approval of Revised Standing Rules
 - An overview of the proposed updates being made to the standing rules was presented, referring to the meeting materials (below). Updates were made to align to changes made to the Washington PTSA bylaws and to reflect current operational practice.
 - Anna Bonnette made a motion to adopt the standing rules as presented to the membership; Michael Polin seconded the motion; the motion passed

Principal's Update (Dr. Marshall)

- The revised Well Resourced Schools proposal is now to close up to 5 schools for the 2024-2026 school year. Dr. Marshall expects that this will result in no large scale boundary changes or significant impacts to Bryant.
- Curriculum Night was well attended and teachers are able to provide handouts/information to any families that may not have been able to attend. 2nd grade curriculum night will occur once Ms. Regalado returns from leave.
- The school is considering holding a fall harvest parent picnic. The school will also hold a Veteran's Day assembly on November 7, which parents are invited to attend
- October adjustments to budget/staffing have been done by the District. Bryant did not have any reductions or staffing shifts since our projected enrollment was very close to our actual enrollment in October
- The District is asking schools to focus on curriculum embedded assessments. Writing assessments will be delivered to all grade levels this year.

- LASER and Dr. Marshall collaborated on a change to LASER's safety policies which LASER will speak more about in its report

Laser Update (Marissa Kane and Kevin Stordahl)

- LASER noted that the program is well underway this year, with 180 students participating. LASER is excited it was able to retain a number of prior counselors. The K-3 classrooms are completely full with a waitlist and there is limited space in the 4th and 5th grade rooms. The first LASER camp day is Oct. 11 and there is space.
- Effectively immediately LASER will be locking the gates to the playground from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and all pickups will need to be processed at the LASER entrance. This change is being made due to a safety issue involving an unauthorized adult on the playground and LASER feels it is in the best interest of its students' safety.
- LASER noted that it has reached out to various community groups that use the playground to assess how to lock the playground with minimal impacts to the community. They have reached out to Mat Chess, Wunderkind and ASE. Based on their feedback, they will not lock the playground until 3 p.m. and will allow the playground to reopen for ASE pickup as needed.
- LASER stressed that they are trying to be as flexible as they can to allow joint use of the space by community groups while still protecting LASER student safety.
- The membership asked questions of LASER regarding the change, its impact to the surrounding neighborhood and other alternatives that were explored. Dr. Marshall noted that LASER's agreement gives it the right to sole use of the playground space after school and therefore can implement this new safety measure. She also shared that she is supportive of this change and feels it is in the best interest of student safety.

Teacher Updates (Alex Jones)

- Alex provided an update on the upcoming state in-service day for teachers and teacher support of the Annual Campaign
- The Staff would like to explore having more staff members CPR/AED certified and asked if PTSA funding would be available to support this initiative. Alex will submit additional information to the Board about potential cost
- The Staff is looking for a graphic designer who could volunteer some time to create a Playground Rules poster

President Updates (Matt Hunt and Marika VanderSmith)

- ASE sign ups have occurred, and fall classes are underway. Marika noted that we are aware there is opportunity to improve communicating the sign up deadline and that this will be a focus area for the next session of classes.
- The Annual Campaign is also about to launch. This is our biggest fundraiser and we appreciate the teachers help in promoting it.
- Currently about 10% of the community are dues paying PTSA members.
- All rooms (but potentially 1) have been assigned a room parent and a room parent toolkit has been distributed.

Treasurer's Updates (David McKnight and Maggie Dreifuerst)

- The Treasurers reviewed the approved budget for the year, referring to the meeting materials (below).
- The membership asked questions about how the Annual Fund donations are spent. The Treasurers explained that we fundraise for our sister school PTSA on an ad hoc basis. Individuals must opt in to provide funds to our sister school. It is not included as a line item in our budget.
- The membership also asked questions about the cap on PTSA funding. The Treasurers explained that we may only spend up to \$250,000 on certain PTSA funded expenses per school board policy. The Treasurers gave an overview of how the PTSA has historically chosen to allocate funds within the \$250,000 cap amount, noting that the principal and building leadership team typically make a proposal to the PTSA that is used as a starting point to craft the budget.

- The Treasurer team noted that the PTSA will be soliciting members for the budget committee later in the year and that volunteering for that committee is a great entry point for understanding the PTSA budgeting process.

Advocacy Updates (Leah Rutman)

- Leah was introduced as the new Advocacy Chair. She provided an update on the school district's Well Resourced Schools proposal, referring to the meeting materials (below). She noted that the original proposal to close 20+ schools has been abandoned and a new proposal will be forthcoming from the superintendent. Also, closing or changing the format of option schools is no longer being considered which likely means that the impacts to Bryant's boundaries will not be as significant (since Thorton Creek will remain an option school). It is also clear that although a smaller number of schools will be proposed for closure this year, more schools could close in subsequent years.
- Leah also noted that legislative advocacy is needed to increase school funding, which has been estimated to be underfunded by up to \$4 billion dollars. Writing the Governor and state legislatures to express your support for school funding is encouraged.
- Leah also noted that school levies will be on the ballot this year and explained the types of expenditures they can be used for.
- Going forward, the PTSA website will contain a landing page that will be updated frequently with information about the Well Resourced schools plan, school funding and other advocacy issues.

Fundraising Updates (Michael Polin)

- The Annual Campaign is set to start shortly. Participation will be key given the need for funding next year and the uncertainty regarding school closures. The recommended donation per child has remained consistent with last year (\$550 per child). The need to ensure all employer matching dollars are received was emphasized.

Art Committee Updates (Vanya Uzelac)

- The Art Committee provided an update on its activities, including its support of the Reflection Competition, the Artist in Residence Program, and the Family Art Night.
- Two new programs are also being supported this year. Art Adventures is a new PTSA funded program that will support teachers taking students into the community to visit museums or take part in other arts programming.
- The Creative Advantage program is also a new district program this year that is being implemented at the school. More information will be forthcoming on the program from the school.

Families in Need Updates (Nina Mettler)

- Nina reported that she is hoping to pull together a new committee to help support a number of related programs sponsored by the PTSA, including the Families in Need program and Hunger Service project. This new committee would also explore establishing other service opportunities for families.
- Nina also reported on the fact that we have more students who have expressed the need to have support from the Families in Need program than was originally budgeted for.

Volunteer Committee Updates (Anna Bonnett and Kelly King French)

- The Volunteer Coordinators walked through the key areas where PTSA volunteers are still needed, referring to the meeting materials (below). They noted that not all volunteer roles require SPS volunteer clearance.

Adjourn

- Anna moved to adjourn, David seconded. Motion passed.

Key Meeting Material

Your Bryant PTSA

Executive Committee

Co-Presidents: Marika VanderSmith & Matt Hunt

Co-Secretaries: Alison Bettles & Kerry Billingham

Co-Treasurers: Maggie Dreifuerst, David McKnight, & Jamie Prins

Board Chairs

Fundraising: Michael Polin & Maya Narayanan

Volunteer: Anna Bonnett & Kelly King French

Membership: Open Position

Advocacy: Leah Rutman

Community Engagement: Open Position

Member at Large: Tiffany Courtnage

Teacher Representatives: Katie Salisbury & Alex Jones

Other Committee Chairs

Communications: Melissa Pullen

Operations: Emily West-Foyle

2024-25 PTSA Board Meeting
Dates

7:00PM – open to public

(General Membership meetings in **bold**)

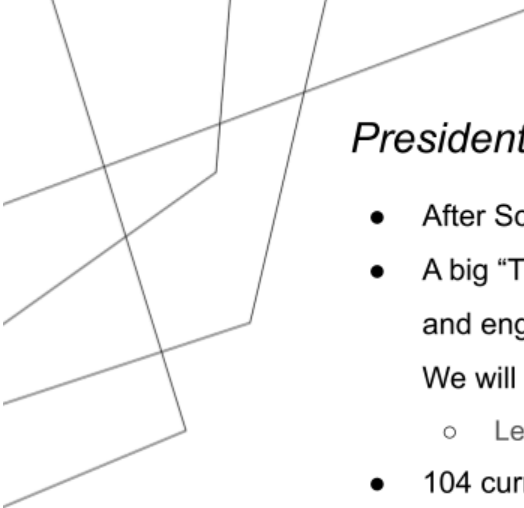
Sep 12, **Oct 8**,
Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan 14,
Feb 11, **Mar 11**, Apr 8,
May 13, **Jun 10**

You can reach us at:
ptsaxec@bryantschool.org



Key Updates to 2024-2025 Standing Rules

- Updated rules to incorporate required amendments to align to WA PTSA bylaws
 - Added provision that makes clear that Bryant PTSA may not serve as a fiscal agent or fiscal sponsor of any outside organization
 - Added provision that specifies the procedure for revoking a member's membership
 - Clarified that Executive Officers may only serve 2 consecutive terms in the same office and that an officer serving more than 8 months in an office is considered to have served a term in that office
 - Clarified that meetings may be held virtually
- Added Operations Co-Chairs as a members of the Board
- Clarified that each individual holding a co-officer/co-chair position is entitled to one vote at Board or Executive Committee meetings
- Clarified that only the co-Presidents and Lead Treasurer are authorized signers on the Bryant PTSA bank accounts
- Clarified that the Executive Committee can approve expenditure of unallocated funds up to \$100; the Board can approve expenditure of unallocated funds up to \$5,000; and the General Membership must approve expenditure of unallocated funds of \$5,000 or more. All must be approved by majority vote.
- Clarified that the Board may authorize reallocation of up to \$5,000 from one budgeted purpose to another; and the General Membership may authorize reallocation of \$5,000 or more from one budgeted purpose to another. All must be approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.
- Added the ability of the General Membership to re-allocate funds from a restricted account to the Bryant PTSA's general funds via a majority vote
- Updated location that Bryant PTSA corporate records are stored to reflect that key documents are no longer stored in hard copy in the Bryant Library



President Updates

- After School Enrichment is up and running!
- A big "Thank You" to the entire Bryant community for your support and engagement around the recent Well-Resourced Schools plan. We will keep everyone apprised of developments.
 - Leah Rutman has volunteered to help guide our advocacy efforts.
- 104 current PTSA members. Approximately 11% of the caregiver community.
- One Room Parent in place for each classroom, with the exception of one (close to final).
- The Room Parent Toolkit has been completed and distributed and Room Parent kickoff meeting was held on September 26.

Income Sources and Budgeted Expenses for 2024 – 2025

Income

Annual Campaign	227,500
PY Carry Over	28,640
Silent Auction	29,500
Blast	6,500
Other Income	1,000
Interest	400
5th Grade 23-24 I-wood Grant	8,000

Total Income **\$301,540**

Expense

Salaries/Wages	224,998
Curricular Materials	43,548
Extracurricular	19,715
Administrative	7,000
Unallocated	5,000

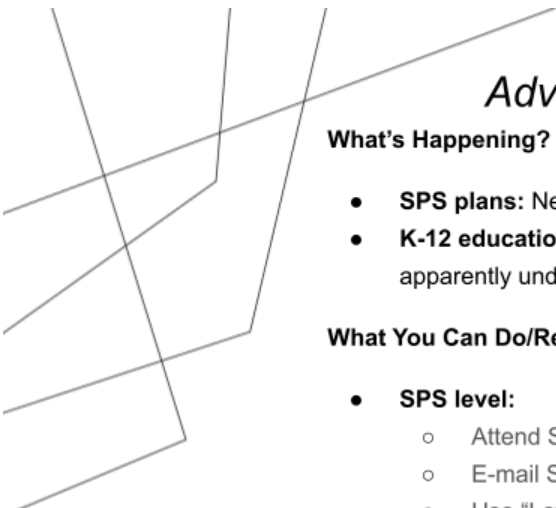
Total Expenses **\$300,261**

Treasurer Monthly Report

As of 8/31 Actual vs Projected Income

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Annual Campaign	227,500	228,979
PY Carry Over	28,640	47,714
Silent Auction	29,500	0
Blast	6,500	0
Other Income	1,000	1,453
Interest	400	22
5th Grade 23-24 I-wood Grant	8,000	8,036
Total Income	\$301,540	\$286,203
Total Expenses	\$300,261	\$123

- 2024-2025 Reserve Balance: \$48,077
- School Supplies Restricted Account: -\$13,445
 - Prepaid the Expense last year with expectation that funds would be raised this year
- Bus Bill 2023-2024: ~\$1,750 in field trip fees from last year were billed in Sept 2024. This is partial cause of the increased PY Carry Over.



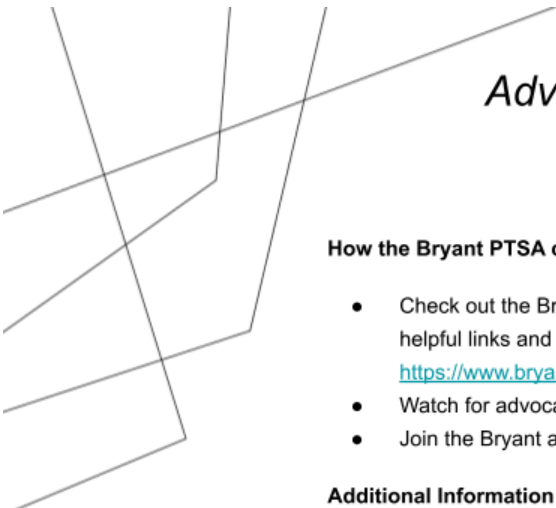
Advocacy Updates

What's Happening?

- **SPS plans:** New plan to propose consolidating five schools.
- **K-12 education funding issues:** SPS has an approximately \$100M budget gap, and WA. apparently underfunds K-12 education by approximately \$4 billion.

What You Can Do/Resources?

- **SPS level:**
 - Attend SPS meetings. If inclined, attend related rallies.
 - E-mail SPS board and the Superintendent.
 - Use "Let's Talk."
 - Engage in the levies work.
 - Connect with parent advocacy groups.
- **Legislature level**
 - E-mail your State Representatives, Senators, and the Governor.
 - Ask for meetings with lawmakers, potentially as groups of parents.
 - Connect with parent advocacy groups.
 - Sign-up for WA PTA's action alerts.



Advocacy Updates

How the Bryant PTSA can help you stay informed/provide resources:

- Check out the Bryant well resourced page on the PTSA website: We will be including ways to engage with helpful links and resources.
<https://www.bryantschool.org/category/about-bryant/well-resourced-school-plans/>
- Watch for advocacy updates in the weekly Bryant newsletter
- Join the Bryant advocacy group. If interested please e-mail ptaexec@bryantschool.org

Additional Information

The Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly will take place on October 26-27 at Seattle Pacific University. Due to the venue, the Seattle Council PTSA is boycotting the event as anti-LGBTQ+ and plans to hold an alternative online advocacy event on the same weekend, called "every child means EVERY child."



Fundraising/Annual Campaign Intro & Overview

2024 Annual Campaign

Dates: 10/14-10/27

Fundraising Goal: \$227.5K

Participation Goal: 100%

Donation Ask: \$550 per student

Estimated Number of Students- 469

2023 Annual Campaign Stats

Bryant Students: 481

Participation Rate: 97.5%

Total AC Goal: \$220,000

Total AC Pledged: \$228,979 (104% of goal)

Donation Ask: \$550 per student

Key Notes

- Annual Campaign accounts for 90% of the funding for our annual budget. This year funds next year's budget;
- Blackout Reminder- need to remind room parents, committee leads and laser of blackout of other fundraising events during annual campaign period
- Bryant Weekly POC- need a new POC for Bryant Weekly (replacing Renee)
- PTSA Updates- every 2-3 days of the annual campaign we will update PTSA Board on progress of fundraising and any support we need from the Board

Annual Campaign Team

Annual Campaign Overall Lead: Michael Polin
Annual Campaign Communications Lead: Maya Narayanan
Annual Campaign Creative Lead: Matt Hunt
Annual Campaign Treasurer: Cathy Sullivan
Annual Campaign Extra Helper: Jamie Polin



Bryant PTSA Art Committee

2024-25 Programs:

- **The Reflections National PTA Art Competition** – featuring a showcase and artist recognition in the Bryant library in December
- **Artist-in-Residence program** – art classes with Ms. Elaine (K-2nd) and Ms. Kari (3rd-5th)
- **Art Room Parent** – a volunteer coordinator for the art teacher, Ms Kristen (OPEN POSITION)
- **Family Art Night** – a school-wide event with art and craft activities, an art exhibition, and choir performance in April
- **Art Adventure** – field trips to various art museums for all grades; a pilot program starting this year

The Art Committee is seeking new volunteers!

Join us for the **GENERAL ART COMMITTEE MEETING** on October 17th at 8PM at Project 9 Brewery.

For more information contact Vanya at silvervanja@yahoo.com



NEW Family & Community Support Committee

The FCS committee will encompass & evaluate existing families in need & community service projects at Bryant including:

- Bryant Families in Need (anonymous financial support for school related expenses, grocery gift cards at school breaks)
- Sister School support (grocery gift cards at school breaks, teacher/staff appreciation week)
- Student Hunger Service Project (food drives and packing parties for HIP)
- MLK Jr. Service Day (hygiene kit donations & event)
- Spring Service Day (move-a-thon to support SESSFA, garden clean-up)

As well as expand opportunities for possible new initiatives such as:

- Requests & resources bulletin board at Bryant
- Gift card drive for Bryant FIN students
- Warm meals sign-up
- School lunch fund
- Resource fair for NE elementary schools

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS to join the new committee and help lead or support these programs. Our kick-off meeting will be held soon so please contact me, ninamettler@yahoo.com, or Volunteer Co-chair Anna Bonnett, annab@bryantschool.org, if you'd like to get involved or find out more.

Volunteer Opportunities

- How do I get involved in upcoming school-wide events? Complete the interest form using the QR code.
- This will add you to our email list for ongoing volunteer requests and (important!) does not commit you to anything specific
- Specific support needed for Community Engagement, Membership, Art Committee, Running Club, Family & Community Support and After School Enrichment (ASE).
- Questions or new ideas? Contact volunteer@bryantschool.org

