



LaurelhurstSchoolPTA.org

**September Laurelhurst PTA Minutes**  
**September 15, 2020, 7:00PM via Google Meet**

**Board Present: Amanda Sorrell (President), Sharon Morgan (Acting Co-Vice President/K-5), Emily Henkle (Acting Co-Vice President/MS), Thessie Fujihira (Enrichments), Aaron Mullan (Membership), Carlin Williamson (Playground), Willy Lynn (Volunteers), Emily Spurlock (Co-Treasurer), Julia Jordan (Co-Treasurer), Brandie Roberts (Acting Secretary)**

**Minutes Approval/Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **President Updates - Amanda Sorrell**

- Welcome to community members, first meeting of year
- PTA General Meetings may or may not be held each month this school year
- No fundraisers or community events will be taking place, but TBD as year unfolds
- Board restructuring:
  - VP resigned
  - VP will be split into two roles: Elementary - Sharon Morgan, Middle School - Emily Henkle
  - Open Secretary position with Sharon Morgan taking VP role - Brandie Roberts nominated
  - Open Legislative position with Emily Henkle taking VP role - Hannah Kramer nominated
  - Voting will take place next month - if others are interested, they should throw hat in ring
- Raising money cannot happen through fundraisers such as Carnival, Dance Party, etc. This year a joint fundraiser between PTA and Foundation will be one big ask for direct monetary contributions. PTA usually raises about \$65,000 per year. We need less because expenses are less, but some things still need to be covered.

#### **Principal Updates - Dr. Amor**

- Welcome and thank you all for patience. Teachers are being flexible, everyone is trying to make the best of things in spite of Covid, fires, etc.
- Kids are adjusting well to online learning.
- Thanks to PTA and parents for support

#### **Equity Team Update - Amanda Sorrell**

- Equity team has developed a collaboration between ABAR, Admin, PTHRE, Foundation, and PTA - currently working on funding

#### **Treasurer Updates - Emily Spurlock and Julia Jordan >> split role**

- When we last met back in May, issues addressing race education - Equity budget has been increased, but all activities will be voted on by PTA before funds are allocated.
- Teacher request for reimbursements are coming in - some money/activity is happening this year
- Income this year will come from Direct Appeal
- Emily reviewed budget - increases and reductions this year. Reduce expenses while continuing to support everyone. Equity fund is increasing from \$5K to \$7K.
- Technology - tentative reduction from \$10K to \$8K

- Teacher allotments reduced from \$15K to \$6400 - allowing for \$200 for FT teachers and \$100 for PT teachers - if they need additional funds, they can appeal to the PTA and we will see if it can happen
- PE fund reduced from \$1000 to \$400
- Arts fund reduced from \$750 to \$200
- Magazine subscriptions are down to \$0 - lots of online options for teachers to use
- What are material teaching resources? This is classroom support - student planners, Worldly Wise, Handwriting without Tears, and Kinder level books last year.
- Question: what is Equity used for? Different things. Restorative justice training, other items. As we roll out more on the collaborative Equity group, we'll put items up for votes.
- There are other small fundraisers: Amazon Smile - you can set PTA as your charity in Amazon, also Boxtops, possibly a Book Fair, Chinook books maybe, etc. We have pushed off everything that is not online and ongoing.
- There is still money in the budget for Field Day, 8th Grade Party and Social, etc. in case we are able to return to school by the end of the year. Dance may happen depending on state rules, etc. Still unknowns.
- Question: what is Emergency Preparedness used for? Mainly earthquake preparedness - Shelly Zucker coordinated the effort. There is a box outside the school that houses emergency supplies. There is a list of more things to do to improve our ability to handle an emergency.
- Emily Henkle moved to approve the budget. [Aaron Mullan](#) seconded the motion. Vote - there were no nays (checked in chat box of virtual meeting).
- Bottle Drop bags: Becca Smith-Morgan's house - porch, metal kettle

#### Playground Update - Carlin Williamson

- We have order infill to keep the turf at its g-max levels for safety - we needed 5100 pounds of infill. We ordered slightly more, 6,000 pounds, will cover our needs and leave us some extra to the future.
- Covered structure - we finally got our building permit application right before things shut down in March. The application was denied based on a fire safety concern. After being addressed by the committee, it was resubmitted and again rejected based on fire safety, specifically related to the play structure positioning. We had to go back to PPS to get original building plans for the school. Currently in process of addressing City concerns. We are allowed two resubmittals without incurring a charge. If it is rejected again, it may cost thousands of dollars to resubmit. At this point, it will be about a month to hear back.

#### Membership Chair Updates - Aaron Mullan

- Membership push will be a part of the large fundraising ask
- Back to school night - packets will be distributed, including membership forms
- Room parents will be very important this year
- Last year we had 151 members - this year we might be able to beat it - community building!

#### Volunteer Chair Updates - Willy Lynn

- There may be opportunities for volunteering later in the year, so we want parents to move forward with getting their background checks, etc. so they are ready if opportunities arise.

#### Enrichments Chair Updates - Thessie Fujihara

- No updates.

#### **Equity Chair Updates - Amanda Sorrell / sitting in for Aaron Lefitz**

- **What is the BIC? Building Inclusive Community team, includes representatives from different parts of the school including Amanda Sorrell from PTA, Brandie Roberts from Foundation, Representative teachers including Maggie Dixon and Jessica Schlosser, Admin including Dr. Amor and Ms. Brant, and the entire PTHRE Board. Focus is how do we talk about equity and inclusion in education within Laurelhurst, and what do we want that to look like. This is not the parent organizations leading this. It's the whole community coming together and deciding how we want to handle issues in a more present way, and figure out how we can make this woven into the whole fabric of the school. Will be rolled out more formally when a little more work has been done.**

#### **Legislative Chair Updates - Emily Henkle**

- **No report.**

#### **Additional Updates**

- **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT will be happening toward the end of September. It will be a Zoom or Google Meet, and the date is TBD.**
- **GIFT WRAP fundraiser: Beeman Strong and Michelle Spellman are leading the effort**
  - **The event starts in two days, on 9/17. There will be posts on Facebook and via email.**
  - **All sales are online, and the process is very simple - you order and items will be delivered to your home.**
  - **The schedule is the same - in the past, most folks received orders before Thanksgiving. The company has addressed issues they have heard of from past fundraisers.**
- **PTHRE has asked that folks listen to the NYT Nice White Parents podcast. This will be the topic of discussion at the next Pubs and Podcast meeting.**
- **GARDEN - Hannah Kramer gave an update. Nicole Hoffman is now in charge of the garden, keeping the garden alive and planning for the future. About a dozen folks watered over the summer, new flowers and veggies and even figs now! The garden lived! Still want to keep it looking nice and alive for the future. Thanks to everyone who took time out to water over the summer!**

#### **Q&A**

**Dr. Amor asked: What ways can she support the community more? Monthly meetings? Or by grade?**

**Sharon Morgan: Coffee Conversations with Principal, so maybe a virtual coffee hour would be nice.**

**Brandie Roberts: Would you think about dropping into the virtual classrooms as a surprise for the kids.**

**Hannah Kramer: New teacher bios would be helpful. More communication is helpful.**

**In CHAT - the parade was wonderful.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:46PM**