



LaurelhurstSchoolPTA.org

**Laurelhurst PTA General Minutes
October 20, 2020, PM - 7:00 PM**

Board Present: Amanda Sorrell (President), Sharon Morgan (VP - K-5), Emily Henkle (Legislative, VP-MS), Brandie Roberts (Secretary), Emily Spurlock (Co-Treasurer), Julia Jordan (Co-Treasurer), Aaron Mullan (Membership), Willy Lynn (Volunteer), Aaron Lefitz (Equity), Carlin Williamson (Playground)

Minutes Approval/Date: _____

President Updates- Amanda Sorrell

- This session is being recorded for minutes purposes. We can make it accessible to anyone who would like to view it later.
- Introducing Scott Bailey, School Board Representative, here to discuss Measure 26-215, Yes for Portland Schools, on ballot in November

Update from School Board - Scott Bailey

- In 2012, parents, community members got together in the Lucky Lab in North Portland and said we need a bond that will pass that starts the district on a program that will rebuild our schools because the buildings are in crappy shape. 2012 - first construction bond, second in 2017, and this one on the ballot is the third.
- We have two mechanisms for funding schools: incoming/property taxes to state school fund, which funds staff, materials, etc. Construction bonds have to be spent on capital, including buildings, not teachers.
- Over 80 school buildings in Portland. Two of them were built before 2012 but after 1990, which means they met certain seismic standards. Four were built with 2012 bond, including Grant High School. Three are now under construction: Madison, Kellogg, and Lincoln. We use bonds for fixing up school buildings and continuing the rebuilding process moving forward.
- 2020 bond will include basic maintenance, also includes heating and ventilation systems, health and safety measures. The big layer of that has been taken care of (lead, etc.), but it will continue. Also includes security measures, like key card locks. Big investment in accessibility - need to have all ADA requirements met. Proposing investment in technology, such as server replacement, also buying new computers for students and staff, on a cycle. Continuing modernization: updating Benson, also multiple pathways to graduation program sites. Huge investment in rebuilding in the Jefferson cluster. Will be engaging with the community, including Center for Black Excellence.
- Question from Hannah Kramer? What has been the vote on past bond measures? Will this work continue to eventually get down to the elementary schools? Answer: Both 2012 and 2017 bond were around 66/67% yes, for a tax bond, very good. OPB poll showed bond passing. Racial equity is a key component in the work being proposed. Will set us up for a 2024 bond - if/when that passes, the projects will be ready to go (last of the high schools), and then after that, K-5 and

MS. Started with high schools, but when we get down to lower grades, will be faster because it's cheaper.

- Question from chat: Who manages the funds? Scott: Bond accountability committee - professionals from the world of building and maintaining who oversee the bond - benchmarks, etc. Also independent bond auditors.
- Scott Bailey provided his email in the chat box. Happy to come back at another time.

Principal Updates- Dr. Olgamar Amor

BOARD UPDATES

Equity Update- Aaron Lefitz

- PTHRE still considering book talk. Last book talk on Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy* is happening in November. It's been somewhat of a closed group for the people who showed up for the first one. Now they are considering where to go next for the school year.
- Heads Up: November 2-21st is Portland Book Festival - amazing authors, lots to check out. Isabelle Wilkerson will be there. She wrote *The Warmth of Other Suns* and the new book *Caste*.
- BIC and ABAR (Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist) staff based equity group) - they are meeting weekly. They are doing some solid work there. Collaborating as a group with PTA, Foundation, PTHRE, staff, admin. We'll be doing an all-school read with a specific book. PTA is helping with the funding, and all the work being done with the staff and admin. Idea is to have a broader conversation as a community. Working with Alyson Brant for BIC to include FQSA as well! *The Day You Begin* will be the school-wide read book. Lesson plans will be grade-specific, but everyone reads the same book.
- Amy Potter and Dr. Amor mentioned additional resources and information, integrated above.

Budget Update- Julia Jordan and Emily Spurlock

- Amanda spoke first. We have gone around and around about a Direct Appeal, how much money to ask for, etc., but with so much uncertainty, it's hard to know how much we will need. We keep a certain amount of funds for emergencies, and we're now tapping into those funds. We need to replenish that. So we will be waiting until Spring, and since we don't know about next year, we'll have to figure it out as we know more. Some small fundraisers will continue to happen. Smile. Amazon.com, boxtops, Bottle Drop, etc. There may be a virtual book fair, but it would not fund the PTA; we would get Scholastic Bucks, so it would directly go to Library.
- Question: will the PTA direct ask be coordinated with the Foundation Direct Appeal? Yes, we have been discussing. The Foundation will do a Direct Appeal in the Spring. There may be a virtual-type auction also; too early to say exactly.
- Emily showed budget:
 - Note: we just purchased our insurance for 2020-21 school year. We just wrapped up and delivered information for the audit, which is taking place now.
 - We had a fair amount of expense that carried over into this year. More than it was last year. Increasing from \$1400 to \$1700. Additions were for Ms. McKenzie's retirement for \$200 and \$120 to cover reimbursing Sarah Carrato to reimburse her for the website she put up for us. Requires a vote for budget adjustment.
 - There was a PayPal transfer from General Account to Laps for Lions account \$7832.60.

Gift Wrap Fundraiser Update - Beeman Strong

- Total funds raised were approximately \$4300
- As long as orders were in before October 9th, they should arrive before Thanksgiving.
- Thanks to everyone for participating.

Playground Update - Carlin Williamson

- Nothing new. Waiting to submit for review for the third time. Need to redo all the paperwork and set an appointment
- Mailed check for infill. Waiting to receive a check to fulfill the order. Should be put down on the turf
- We will be doing the TreeCycle December event since we can do it socially distanced.

Membership Update - Aaron Mullan

- We have the Directory more functional than it has been until recently - there may be remaining issues.

Volunteer Update - Willy Lynn

- Nothing to report

Legislative Update - Hannah Kramer

- For Spring, we may have Scott Bailey back to talk about redistricting stuff, especially regarding K-8. It's wrapping up for SE because Kellogg launched as a Middle School and K-8s are being converted.
- Dr. Amor - some schools are changing to K-4 and 5-8. So far, though, Laurelhurst and Beverly Cleary School are not currently on the docket.

New Board Members - Amanda Sorrell

Hoping to cast a wider net for future PTA members instead of who we know and are friends with, needs to be more inclusive. Difficult to do during COVID times. Goal is to expand, have more voices on the board.

Four positions to vote in tonight:

Vote to Approve Brandie Roberts as Secretary

- Motion to approve, seconded, all members voted - Approved.

Vote to Approve Sharon Morgan as Elementary VP and Emily Henkle as Middle School VP

- Motion to approve, seconded, all members voted - Approved.

Vote to Approve Hannah Kramer as Legislative Chair

- Motion to approve, seconded, all members voted - Approved.

Other Updates:

This will be the last PTA meeting of the year. Next meeting will be on January 19th at the earliest.

Between now and then - no school November 6th and 11th, Parent-Teacher conferences November 23rd and 24th, Thanksgiving Break 25th-27th, tentative online Winter Bazaar December 6th - may or may not happen, possibly just wreaths, and Winter Break is December 21st to January 1st.

Membership and Room Parent forms will be sent out.

Principal Address - Dr. Amor

- Questions re: OBOB - there will be no regional or state competition, but new librarian Ms. Lang, would like to do a schoolwide tournament for 3-5 and 6-8. She will need parent volunteers to help facilitate a school tournament.
- LIPI - Limited In-Person Instruction - smaller cohorts - some measures the district takes into account in order for kids to return to the school for instruction. They based decisions on Governor orders, DOH, etc. not our decision as Laurelhurst. Opening Criteria includes the case rates and positivity rates in the County. Only one presentation/meeting with the School Board related to LIPI. Currently certain children are coming in for limited testing for special education, but it is very limited.
- Question from Sharon Morgan: How is Distance Learning going? We, as a school, are quite organized, good attendance, kids have what they need to attend, most kids are attending regularly and we have connections with the parents. Teachers are actively reaching out to families if there is a barrier. We know what the plans are for each of the families. We are working in feedback: trying to seamless platforms, etc. There have been some issues, but we are trying to work things out for consistency for the parents. We still can learn a lot of things related to distance learning.
- Comment from Amanda Sorrell: Community feedback - too many apps. Teachers are working so hard, but there is just so much stuff. But, not all kids learn the same way. But it's overwhelming, the amount of apps.
- Grade bands are doing lesson planning as a team, so the material should be consistent
- Comment from Hannah Kramer: Is there more we can do for fun? Let's try to get creative with ideas for school spirit. Dr. Amor agreed.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:10PM