



LaurelhurstSchoolPTA.org

**Laurelhurst PTA General Minutes
January 19, 2021 - 7:03 PM**

Board Present: Amanda Sorrell(President), Sharon Morgan (VP - K-5), Emily Henkle (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

- Hannah Kramer has an update on school redistricting plans.
- Carlin Williamson has an update on Playground. .

BOARD UPDATES

Budget Update- Julia Jordan and Emily Spurlock

- Budget review - not many changes. Additional \$125 for Charleston Wrap in December, got up to almost \$4400 for gift wrap fundraiser
- TreeCycle - raised about \$2300
- Two Paypal transfers:
 - 10/12/2020- Transfer \$558.43
 - \$346.90- Membership Dues
 - \$10.16- Equity Fund Donations
 - \$201.37- General PTA Fund Donations
 - 12/10/2020- Transfer \$809.93
 - \$558.34- Membership Dues
 - \$251.59- General Fund Donations
- Today, paid Oregon PTA dues for current 64 members, amount was \$640
- Question: What will be spent on material teaching resources? Are we getting the word out to teachers about how they can use their dollars. Julia: A lot of teachers have been requesting those types of items. The amount is less (\$200) this year, but teachers are using the funds and they can ask for more if they need to.
- Amanda: We said we would discuss a direct appeal in the Spring, but we may or may not need to do that depending on what happens. Even if we do go back, we don't anticipate that we will be doing in-person events. But things could change. A lot of unknowns at this point. We also operate with funds in reserve.
- Question from Beeman Strong - have we lent out all of our Chromebooks? Amanda will follow up.
- Question from Brandie Roberts - do we want to do Laps for Lions? Virtually? Amanda - we should try to supplement what we brought in last year so we can have a robust arts program next year. Maybe more participation this year. We just need to make sure people do not gather in groups.

Playground Update- Carlin Williamson

- We had the most profitable TreeCycle yet! Raised over \$3300 - more than \$1k more than in the past. Email blast helped, and all door hangers were hung. Being able to donate online was also a huge help.
- End of last year, we got word from PPS that the City had approved our building permit for the covered structure. It was exciting news after an exhausting year.
- At the beginning of the year, we started reaching out to companies for bids since it had been so long. It turns out the initial bid was missing a key component, so the price went up on its own (after it had been so long) as well as due to the additional component. We are now short \$20K for the project. We're going to work with different contractors to see if we can get the number down. Insurance for the project is a requirement for PPS, and we have to supply the insurance. Our minimum insurance doesn't cover or come close to what PPS is asking. Will investigate more.
- We are eager to order the materials, as ideally this summer would be fantastic. PPS will not approve construction when children are present. Has to be a summer project or we will lose the window and push it by a year.
- Landscaping has to be included in the plans - could have been some of the add, if we look line items by line item. Pete Kramer is looking at it. We may be able to do it ourselves.

PTHRE Update- Amy Potter

- Wrapped up series on Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy*. Initially Amy was super cynical about doing the work on Zoom, but it turned out better than what the adults have done in person, with more people being able to participate than ever before
- Another series of conversations, another series of conversations, independent of each other, with no homework, just show up. Will address different issues of inclusion that our communities may need to some practice in. Open to anyone, PTHRE will send an email for sign up.
 - Issues of ableism
 - Biases in algorithms
 - Immigration
 - Indigenous Issues
- Trying to figure out some kind of concrete way to integrate PTHRE with PTA and see what is next. A lot of PTHRE are aging out, especially if Laurelhurst moves to a K-5 model.

Legislative Update- Redistricting Update - Hannah Kramer

- Not a lot on Laurelhurst specifically, but tracking what is happening in Southeast and how that might affect the Laurelhurst community. NE will happen after SE. There is a push away from K-8, but they would think about a K-4 as well as K-5. That has to do with school building size.
- What did the process look like for SE?
 - Looked well organized, but then things got messy. They are trying to fill the new Kellogg MS. What schools will feed into Kellogg, and what happens to the other MS in the area. Feeders into Franklin for K-5 and MS. Everything has testing impacts.
 - Trying to fix all problems at once. Colocation of programs was not favored (e.g., Atkinson has Spanish immersion and non-Spanish immersion portions of the schools). Community backlash was very strong on that. The cross-pollination was important to families.
 - Trying to rebalance. Switching K-8 to K-5 so we can have comprehensive middle schools. Largely about richer experience in MS, bigger better.

- The philosophies about K-8 differ widely. If we want to start providing feedback to the School Board on how our community feels about the model. Northeast is going to be next, and we should try to get feedback out by Spring.
- Hard to fill Madison without looking at Northeast. Franklin is overcrowded, trying to peel some off - but it's longer distances. PPS has not said they will look at NE and SE together from a HS perspective. Sticky subject.
- There have been a lot of community meetings and feedback. They had over 800 people attend some Zoom meeting, breakouts over 100 people.
- Question: Amy Potter - where are we as a community re: K-8 model? Hannah - no way to know as a community right now. Lots of people like the way it is, but there are also negatives, such as programming (no changing room for gyms, few electives). However, at Mt. Tabor, which has a lot of electives, chooses the electives for the children. No choice by students. Big topic - lots of opinions. (Same at Laurelhurst - kids don't get to choose their electives)
- Lots of limitations to a K-8. Would be unfortunate to convert Laurelhurst back to K-5 after making upgrades to become set up as a MS. But, big limitations from a staffing perspective.
- Change is hard. There will have to be bold moves made.
- Do we want to do an online survey? We need to understand the needs - lots of pros and cons. Would be nice to educate people on this issue one way or another.
- Comment: Brandie Roberts - emerging fifth grader - would be really nice to have an educational forum - Also: Beaman Strong - understanding the trade-offs of traditional middle school also. Really hard to dig down and understand what is actually offered at different schools. Amy Potter: yes, we need a forum. Electives may be overrated. Also: reprise - what traditions do we keep and which do we let go of? No right answers. Sharon Morgan: Great discussion, lots of conversations. One meeting will not be sufficient. Pros and cons would be helpful, fact-driven approach. Amanda - space is a huge issue at Laurelhurst.

Foundation Update - Brandie Roberts

- Will be publishing the results of the survey from the Fall - will go out next week
- Moving forward with a Direct Appeal - planned for February
- Third grade class will be doing an auction/online event - will probably be in May
- Lots of conversations about Foundations and Equity - there is a policy committee meeting on Jan 25th from 4-7pm, and that will be when Foundation funding will be addressed. For folks who are interested in Foundation reform, this would be a great forum to attend.

Membership Update - Aaron Mullan

- No news to report.

Additional Notes:

- There will be a lot of positions open on the Board next year, including President, 2 Treasurers, Equity Chair, Enrichments (maybe), Playground (if Carlin is leaving), Volunteer Coordinator.
- No school January 29th. Maybe a PTA meeting in February, maybe not, depending on whether there are updates to be shared.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.