

## **Leschi Community Meeting February 15, 2023**

### **Video Recording**

#### **Attendance:**

Zoom - Nia Steward, Barney Hilliard, Dana Barnett, Ricole Johnson, Carley Houlahan-Jones, Sarah Wolf, Tegene Demissie,

In Person - Benson Wilder, Alicia Essers, Alexia Weirich, Erin Harnisch, Heather Wilde, Gabe Rapier, Sarah Hamilton, Principal Stephen Liu

#### **Convened at 6:37 PM**

#### **Welcome and Redlining Announcements**

#### **Appreciations:**

- Appreciation of the ceiling projectors being installed! Thanks to the funding from Mercer Island Presbyterian Church. Ms. Chin was leading a campaign for overhead projectors, and now we have them! Thank you to Mr. Liu to support this project.
- Thankful for the school Black History Month assembly! Such an engaging and wonderful event for our kids.
- Thank you to the spirit-wearing volunteers for making that happen! The students and staff look great in their sea of green. Order your spirit wear here!  
<https://screenprintingnw.tuosystems.com/stores/screenprintingnw-dec15-141456>
- Ms. Richard for coordinating the thank you to our crossing guard. It was clearly meaningful to our beloved crossing guard.
- Appreciation for Jenny Miller, an amazing force behind the scenes advocating for our families!
- Mr Liu for getting the 5th grade camp grant for this school year!
- Jenny Miller's support for the Garfield golden grads and their work with our families!

Snack Policy Update - Nia Steward- The BLT went over the rules and updates about snack. Let the teachers know that Jenny has snacks in her office. Students will either eat snacks during morning recess or in their classroom. The teachers request bringing back the PCC program for fresh fruit. The teachers have asked Nia to ask the PTA about it.

Discussion: Solid Ground used to provide a class afterschool called cooking matters about nutrition classes. Katie Busby may know the status of the PCC program. PTA has done two

Cosco runs to stock up the repository. Jenny just needs to let the PTA know when she needs more snacks.

OSPI does a fresh fruit and vegetable program to WA state schools, we have to apply to it.

Current volunteers needs - An email went out about it. One on one support for Ms. Blackwell. Website support for the PTA website, more folks from Art from the Heart. Jasmine has not received any response for the call for a webmaster person. Maybe there is a way to give community service hours? Maybe a high schooler?

Fundraising: Erin P - We have just launched our big campaign. A letter should have come home in the mail. We are going to be asking people to contribute to the PTA. Raising money to create equity and to give a block grant to Mr. Liu. You can give on Facebook or with this fundraising link - <https://leschies.seattleschools.org/get-involved/fundraising/>

Update from Principal Liu - Students have earned over 7K pup pride tickets. They will have a dance party at 10k. Very excited about Black History night. There will be community organizations, performances and presentations, an immunization clinic, and dinner. There is some work scheduled during break, installing light bulbs on the playground and a gate on the fence. Going to send out more info on budget and staffing. They will be sending a survey. Leschi looks like a lower projected enrollment about 22 students less than our current enrollment. Aprox. 258 students. Beginning of March will have the budget from the district, and there will be a staff survey. We need more family or community participation on the hiring committee. Trainings are usually the first Tuesday of the month. Interested volunteers need to preregister. If you have had the training in the last three years it is still valid. Hiring is almost constant for staff positions. Once the gate is installed the kids will be able to play on the lower playground area. If you are aware of large constructions happening in the catchment let Principal Liu know, because it will impact the enrollment number estimate. Advocacy would be to our state reps, and telling our kids to send their kids to public schools.

Discussion: We could try to find out a little more statistics. The district has already talked about some changes. Cutting assistant Principals. Jump start has been canceled. Summer something as well? There is a public work session coming up at the end of February.

### **Community Connections** -

Barney Hilliard - Member of the Garfield Golden Grads - Any alumni from Garfield and other dedicated community members are welcome to join. Community service projects to support the schools with the most need. Leschi Elementary is the school with the most need due to the amount of populations that are in housing insecurity / low income. Teachers asked for golden grads to do support in the classroom, but that did not work out. Highlight has been the Leschi community fundraising concert. The concert is at the end of April. The funding is given to the school. There is going to be a live concert this year Saturday April 29th at 1 PM! Student

musicians and a professional band. Mr. Hilliard shared his own history with Seattle Public Schools, growing up, and fighting against segregated musicians unions in Seattle.

Coach G - Runs the futsal program and supports kids to be able to participate in after school activities. Talked about what brought him to start after school enrichment programs, to be closer with his children. He is also a PE teacher at Saint Therese. Has been able to give kids consistency during the pandemic with after school programs. He makes sure that it is affordable for everybody. Have the families with means support the program. Leschi helped provide the goals for the game. 40 kids have been participating. There is going to be a summer program at the Judkins park court. Have a place for street soccer. **Summer - half day at Garfield and half day at Judkins, and indoors something.... Will let us know more. Going to do something after school where he will walk the kids from Leschi to Garfield?**

#### **Discussion:**

- Something that Leschi PTA can do is to get the info out about the scholarships for Garfield CC. Coach G. would love to get the wall painted at Leschi with the kids.
- After School activities and summer camps - Kay Lalish has good suggestions for families about affordable options for after school and is happy to talk to folks.
- After school baking club may be coming to Leschi!
- Chess club. There is alot of interest, if there is a parent that could support it.

#### **Announcement Upcoming Event -**

Leschi parent, Dan Berger, has a new book out Stayed on Freedom: The Long History of Black Power through one Family's Journey. He is having an event with Michael Simmons, who is one of the people featured in the book. Michael lived in Seattle in the 1970's and organized with Tyree Scott around affirmative action for black workers in the construction trades.

<https://labor.washington.edu/research/events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D164194160>