

Leschi Community Meeting 4/18/2023

Attendance: Alexi Weirich, Elisabeth Beaber, Erin Purcell, Alicia Essers, Kevin Litwack, Jasmine Marwaha, Benson Wilder, Tai Maddox

Online: Carley Houlihan, Ricole Johnson, Heather Wilde, Erin Harnisch, Steve Liu,

Meeting convened by Alexi at 7:09

Next week there will be an event to Lift up Leschi, share what you can do to lift up leschi.

- Pick up wrappers around the school
- Bringing flowers for the breakroom and office

Benson did land acknowledgment and redlining acknowledgment

Appreciations:

- Appreciation for Ms. Stout. She's always reliable and appreciates how she shows up. She's been dealing with a lot of illness in the office, and principal hiring process. Setting up interviews, making sure there's representation in the process.
- To Kevin for helping Alexi and being responsive and a sounding board
- To Alexi for taking leadership and organizing in person meetings
- Acknowledge Mr. Love. Has been through a loss in the family and been through a lot.
- Mr. Bomani and Mr. Gladney. Really helpful to get their class updates. And Mr. Gladney through rising sons gets monthly updates.
- The newsletters from Mr. Liu and the teachers have been great.

Upcoming Events

- Staff appreciation is coming up May 8-12
 - Need help in advance/planning, also week of to drop off. Erin H will be sending an email out about specific roles.
- May 17 is jog-a-thon
 - Preschoolers will be participating this year
 - Each class comes up with a theme, and raise money for how many laps they do. They run for 15 minutes and they count the laps.
- Upcoming 5th grade promotion event
- Upcoming Juneteenth event
- Wednesday April 26th is the Melanin Poppin event
- Friday April 28th is the family dance
 - 5th grade leaders have been working hard on that. Still need for volunteers
- Saturday April 29th is the Golden Grads event

Advocacy Update

- Kevin discussed the issue of public school fundraising equity, and there are a few different orgs. SESSPA (SE Seattle Schools Fundraising Alliance - they fundraise together and school get allocation based on equity formula)
- A new alliance has been formed North End SSFA - that includes Leschi, even though we object to being called “north end.”
- Take Back PTA organization - advocacy for more community building
- If anyone is interested in being involved in conversations around equitable funding, contact Kevin Litwack
- Benson: we’ve historically given a portion of our fundraising to Emerson, through relationships there and recognizing equity goals.
- Has had conversations with someone running for state level advocacy director position at WSPTSA [current SCPTSA President Samantha Fogg] . General tone was that it was a tough session for education funding. Not a shared understanding of what a “fully funded” school is. We have good advocates in the Seattle Council PTSA. Folks are welcome to participate in the more regional conversations even if they don’t participate in Leschi PTA.

Principal Liu presentation

- Students have reached 10,000 pup pride ticket goal! Will have a dance party at some point during the school day.
- Acknowledged that the decision to leave has been bittersweet. Really appreciate the messages of appreciation. Look forward to Leschi continuing the work we’ve started together. Really appreciates Leschi’s staff. They believe so strongly in this community. Typically there’s a lot of staff turnover when a principal announces leave, but the vast majority of staff are staying on.
- Budget
 - There’s a conversation that needs to happen at the state level for sure. The [McCleary](#) decision has not been fully implemented. There are states that spend twice as much per student that WA state does. Advocacy needs to continue at the state level. That’s probably the best way to start advocating for increased funding for schools.
 - Nursing allocation of 1.5 days/week is not enough. Puts additional pressure on Ms. Stout, who handles most first aid needs during the school day
 - Even though we are projected to lose about a classroom’s worth of students, our budget has not been hit as hard as others. We are losing one classroom teacher. While there will be some displacement, the Building Leadership Team has been able to allocate additional

- Appreciation to Seattle voters for approving the FEPP Levy. City of Seattle gives Leschi \$300,000-400,000 to help with staffing and community partnerships.
- We also receive Title 1 funds (over 40% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch)
- BLT felt strongly to have a full time assistant principal year to support the new principal. Dr. Estrada will continue on and provide continuity.
- Questions:
 - Are we still going to have all students get free lunch next year?
 - Once we got a full time kitchen manager and students got their pin numbers, they said breakfast and lunch are free, but if a student wants additional food they'd have to pay.
 - Not sure yet, but will likely go back to pre-covid, where students will likely have to pay if they don't qualify for free and reduced lunch.
 - Handful of new students enrolled in the enrollment fair. District will be doing an enrollment update in June, which could potentially change staffing. Don't anticipate any more decreases, could potentially have an impact.
 - Please enroll, it could only help
 - Music education?
 - Depends on each individual school, whether the specialists at the school are FT, or half time, availability, etc.
 - If there was an enrollment increase, where the district would allocate another halftime specialist teacher.
 - What specifically were the losses?
 - One classroom teacher
 - .2 FTE multilingual teacher, which was part of Ms. Hubbard's position
 - Math intervention teacher was reduced
 - Grade level configurations will be figured out later, but looking like there will be a split 2nd/3rd grade split class.
- More appreciation for the PTA, and connecting with Leschi for the needs of the school. Guidance has helped shape leadership.
- Snack: even if individual teachers request it, bring the snack to Ms. Miller so snacks get distributed equally.
- Ms. Miller's cupboard is empty!
- Use common sense to snacks - avoid nuts, fruit snacks, candy, etc.

Community Presentation from Tai Maddox

- Parent of 4th grader
- Works for organization called Space Between, serving schools throughout Seattle area
- Mindfulness for students, staff teachers

- Wanted to share practices to reinforce expectations between students and parents.
- Anchor practice to practice being present-minded
 - Anything can be mindfulness
- Next Thursday we're doing a student showcase online called "mindful together" online. Can see students leading practices.

Another resource through Odessa Brown - mindfulness practice for parents.

For next community meeting:

Will approve meeting minutes at the next meeting.

Budget discussion and approval next year

New officers

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm