

Leschi PTA Community Meeting 10/25/2022

Agenda

7:00 Welcome (Alexi)

Alexi started the meeting, going over the agenda

7:05 Benson read the **land acknowledgement and the redlining acknowledgement**

Dana added that a resource from the UW that really gives context to the acknowledgment, and tells the rich legacy of the neighborhood. https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/segregation_maps.htm

7:10 Appreciations (Alexi):

- Andrea appreciates Alexi for taking the reins for meetings and other PTA things
- Sarah gives kudos for all the staff for keeping kids safe and indoors during the smoke.
- Benson thanked volunteers for picture day. It was a busy day!
- Ricole appreciated Heather for putting up a memorial sign for D'Vonne Pickett Jr.
- Alexi appreciated Carley and Erin H for Taste of Leschi, Benson, and all volunteers
- Carley and Erin appreciated Benson for showing them the attic. =)
 - There's a Leschi ghost in the attic named Fred
- Alexi appreciated Andrea and Benson for supporting her during leadership transition

7:15 Officer Vote (Andrea)- Benson for treasurer

- Alexi nominated Benson Wilder for Treasurer
 - Benson accepted
 - Unanimously approved
- Benson nominated Alexi for President
 - Alexi accepted, noting that she is not comfortable taking reins entirely, but is organized and can help people do their work. Also hopes to have a co-president soon.
 - Andrea also spoke in favor
 - Unanimously approved
- Andrea will update member planet with new officers


7:20 Principal update- Steve 5-10 mins

- Monday will be school wide assembly to go over schoolwide expectations
- Playworks is an organization that we are partnering with who is teaching different recess games and expectations. They are also meeting with recess supervisors to make sure that everyone's expectations are aligned.
- Dress up day, families can send in non-sugary snacks. Limiting the candy in school during this sugar season
- Question - Can families still send in birthday treats or other celebrations - Yes they can!
- Bull pup awards - one KG-2nd grade class will get an award for hallway behavior, one 3-5 grade class will get one
- Indoor recess plan is where kids are in the lunchroom during recess. When the students went out on Friday after two days inside, lots of joy.
- Reminder to make sure kids are dressed for weather
- November conferences - we have 5 1/2 weeks until winter break, which will be happening after about a third of the year. For November conferences parents will be able to choose if they will be help virtually or in person. Staff voted to extend the conference days into the evenings to extend

more time for families. Principal Liu will be reminding teachers to schedule the conferences if they haven't already.

- There is a committee of staff working on the pup pride tickets. These tickets can be earned in all areas of the school. Once that is ready to go it will be presented to students.
- Questions/Comments
 - Carley: appreciation for the pup pride tickets and the standardized expectations/posters
 - Alexi seconded


7:30 Consult the **PTA calendar** (meetings and events) Benson walked us through the calendar. Benson will put these dates on the Leschi school calendar, Benson will train someone to do this if they are willing to.

 Copy of Year at a Glance

Question - The high five events are not on this calendar, don't know who organizes these events. Mr. Liu will help coordinate them. Also we should add 5th grade camp in February. Possibly the 13-16th?

7:40 **Budget amendment update Benson**

Benson is still looking for a co-treasurer. The document below includes the PTA budget.

 PTA Community Meeting Acknowledgement and Community Agreements 25Oct22.pptx

Benson gave a quick financial report. We freed up money from the budget with a grant to support fifth grade camp. We put \$5000 into a school supplement to bring it up to \$30,000

Questions:

- Andrea: Could some extra budget go into spirit wear?
 - Benson: It's set aside in the "other" line item. Ricole, Heather, Carley, Rosa have all been working on spirit wear. We don't do spirit wear as a fundraiser, but we purchase them and collect optional donations
- Dana: Jenny was initially concerned about the low amount we have for family support. Do we have a plan to raise more money?
 - Benson: We have formed a more formal parent team, 3-4 parents, meeting with Jenny (Ms. Miller) and Mr. Liu. Followed up with Jenny that family support is a restricted fund, because we take in donations and grants that are earmarked for family support. The budget line item in the PTA budget is from the overall PTA budget. There will be additional grants from multiple partners that will increase.
 - Likely will be in the range of \$40,000, which is closer to the range she had at her previous school. And we can always add more fundraisers if we have a greater need. We also have PTA reserves if there's a dire need

7:45 **Updates/ assign co-chairs and target volunteers**

Spirit Wear Sales-Rosa (Ricole, Heather)

- Ricole: met recently to draft list of items considering for spirit wear. Mostly t-shirts and hoodies, possibly hats and knit caps. Looking at a couple possible vendors to compare quotes and will present recommendations to the PTA for additional feedback.
- Have a good core team
- Ideally they will send order forms out before Thanksgiving break

- Carley added they were thinking of a pin or something for graduating 5th graders

Family Support- Dana, Alicia, Rosa, Benson

- Benson: have a committee and setting up good systems with Jenny (as mentioned in budget update)
- Still looking for help this coming Thursday. Jenny is running a food pantry which has been well-used these past few weeks. Getting food from Rainier Food Bank. Need help bagging up food into smaller packages. Would like to get a regular roster of volunteers going.
- Q: Is food pantry always going to be Thursday?
 - A: yes because Friday is when families pick up food. But there might be some flexibility.
- Dana noted that the way that we do family support is changed from last year. Jenny is handling the connections with the families and tracking, which is what Dana used to do. Dana will be doing other associated work TBD. Alicia is looking for someone to help cut the checks (be co-treasurer).
- Will consider additional members and maybe rotating memberships

Break bags- Karina Kay

Yearbook- Adrienne W

- Alexi has people for Adrienne to work with

Membership- Andrea

- Andrea said the membership looks pretty good, memberships are trickling in.
- Alexi noted that she spent a lot of time at the last two events getting people to sign up

Family Facilitators- Benson (Carley, Jennie, Mara, Niall)

- Benson: We have a few people who've signed up to be grade-level facilitators for families to stay connected across the classes each grade. Will start with that.
- Will send out more solicitation soon
- Andrea: do we have a system to reach out to our membership (40 members) to help with roles?
 - Benson: will follow up with board on some ideas

Advocacy- Kevin

- One parent is interested in special education advocacy in particular
- Will be more to do 1st quarter of 2023

Communication/Marketing- Erin H.

- Alexi acknowledged that Erin is doing great on social media, need more support for website updates

Finance committee- Benson

Fundraising committee- Erin P Annual Give

- Needs help updating donor information on little green light
- Fundraising strategy and communications
- Committee could be as small as 3 people, but 6 would be great
- Brent Large volunteered to help
- Dana: have you reached out to those on the list who signed up at the last meeting?
 - Has not yet, but will
- Would love to have someone be in contact with the specific groups who donate for family support, to tell them how it has helped.
- Would like to get new people involved, not just board members.

Giving Garland - Katie and Jennifer (Carley)

Carley is going to the temple on Mercer Island and will present on the Giving Garland.

Events- Carley and Erin C (Spring)

Staff appreciation- Erin H. and Carley

Parent Volunteer Coordinator- Alexi?

Alexi: We'll send an email with specific volunteer roles or tasks. First to the folks who signed up in the community meeting, then to the 40 members, and possibly to the broader school.

Sarah: Schools Out Washington is leading advocacy at state level for \$52 million for youth development/enrichment. Folks can get involved: <https://ydstrategy.org/>

Attendance:

Benson Wilder
Taj Mathews
Eva's dad
Andrea Demajewski
Kevin Litwack,
Meaza Meaza
Erin Harnisch
Principal Liu
Dana Barnett
Jasmine Marwaha
Alexi Weirich
Carley Houlahan Jones
Sarah parent of Adelina
Ricole
Brent Large
Erin Purcell
Rowina Parayno