



**DRAFT General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 10, 2018**

Handouts

- Meeting Agenda
- Treasurer's Report 08/01/2017 - 07/31/2018
- Draft PTO General Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2018
- Dirt Fest flyer
- Family Resource Center flyer

6:30

Agenda

- Welcome
- Dirt Fest
- Whole Child Update
- Principal's Update
- Parkview Gives Back — Family Resource Center
- Launching Spring Supply Drive
- Vote to Approve Last Meeting's Minutes

Welcome everyone! Please sign in (forms on tables) and take a look over last meeting's Minutes.

6:30

Dirt Fest

Amy is a food educator at Parkview. She handed out flyers about an upcoming event — Dirt Fest — that will be held at Parkview on 4/18. It is a celebration of gardening and is open to all schools. There will be crafts, snack making and fun. (There is a SignUp Genius and a few volunteer spots are still available.) Come join the event right after school.

6:35

Whole Child

Lindsay discussed the Whole Child program briefly: it is intended to be a hands-on and experiential learning experience, different for each grade level, that combines with classroom instruction.

The 2nd graders went to the Whatcom Museum and learned about birds. This is tied into science and what students have learned in class. 4th graders will go on a whale watching trip later this spring. The 5th graders will go to Mountain School but there is also a 5th grade trip to the Seattle Science Center. The Seattle trip is a cumulative event and draws on a year's worth of learning. It is also an experience. It is a big trip, and the exhibits are hands-on, such as a giant hamster wheel that demonstrates energy production.

Ms. Mills said the Seattle trip is a great experience for the kids. She also raised the idea of Mountain School t-shirts. All 5th graders in the District have the opportunity to attend Mountain School. Some schools produce t-shirts for the kids and it is a nice memento and looks very good. She wonders whether the PTO might be interested in this. Mountain School for Parkview students is May 7-9 this year and there are 50 students. Leslie will look into the possibility of Mountain School t-shirts.

6:42

Principal's Update

Mylo noted there are 45 days left in the school year. He is thinking about the full spring calendar of upcoming events as well as thinking ahead to next year.

There is still no official word about the order of new school construction, but he will share information when it becomes available. He, and the principals at the other two schools, are active participants in the committee working on this topic. All 3 schools will be rebuilt by the 2022 school year..

The spring is busy. Many grades have their capstone events and experiences coming up toward the end of the school year.

If your plans are changing, and your student won't be attending Parkview in the Fall, please let him or the office know. Our student population is fairly stable, but information about any changes of this type is very helpful.

6:48

Bellingham School District Family Resource Center

The FRC is a service of the school district that provides extra support for school families that need it. Kathe and Carmen came to speak to us about it.

The FRC is a family support center that links school families with local resources and human services addressing the needs of the whole child in order to promote student success. All families are welcome.

The FRC is a safe place where families can access information and available services including: Basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing; Child academic and behavioral support; Medical and mental health; Special needs and disability; Financial and legal assistance; Educational and employment opportunities; Emergency assistance; and Bellingham Public School provided resources and educational processes.

The FRC is based at a portable at Shuksan and provides support district wide. The Center works with the community to find funds and supplies to support an array of needs.

The FRC team conducts home visits for each English language learner (ELL) student new to the District. Many of these are refugee families fleeing dangerous conditions. FRC staff can identify needs and help ensure these kids can succeed by connecting families to appropriate resources.

Kathe said her team has seen significant needs and has had good success partnering with the community. She mentioned a long list of community partners including: Love Inc., Goodwill, Whatcom Literacy Council, Assistance League, Habitat for Humanity, Bellingham Public Library, Bellingham Food Bank, Samuel's Furniture, Opportunity Council, WSU Extension, and many church groups.

She shared pictures of many families that have been recipients of assistance. She also noted that many families that have been helped by the FRC become very active in their school PTAs and go on to help support other students.

Carmen shared that she is a parent volunteer and works to help the FRC. There are concrete steps individuals and groups can take to support the group. Supply drives are very helpful to gather items needed by families. The type of supplies in greatest demand can vary but blankets and sheets (new or gently used) and personal care items are common needs. A supply drive can be a great way to help and get kids involved. There is also a bin for supply donations at the checkstand at the Public Market. The Friends of the FRC have arranged consignment accounts that help raise funds at Little Bugs, Wee Ones ReRuns, and Labels. And of course monetary donations are also very helpful. Friends of the FRC would love to see all the school parent-teacher school groups donate funds annually to the FRC, but any help is appreciated.

Other schools have conducted supply dives to help the FRC, including Options, Lowell, Columbia, and Bellingham High. Currently the FTC has identified personal care items/supplies as their highest priority, specifically:

- Laundry soap (~30-40 load size)

- Diapers - size 5 & 6
- Baby Wipes
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Shampoo and conditioner

Kendra announced that we are excited to help and said that supply drive flyers are headed home with Parkview students this week requesting donations of the above-mentioned items. Our supply drive will last 1½ - 2 weeks.

Kathe said that if the students would like to deliver items to the FRC she can coordinate that. Oftentimes kids appreciate delivering the items they have helped gather.

7:20

Approval of Minutes

The group spent a couple of minutes looking over last meeting's Minutes. One person motioned to approve the document, and it was seconded. Passed with a unanimous "aye" vote.

7:30

Reminders

- May 4, Friday, Children's Art Walk downtown
- May 8, General PTO Meeting and Elections

Adjourn