



# PARKVIEW PTO

**General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

**Welcome everyone!** Please sign in (forms on tables).

**6:30**

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Cindy gave everyone a couple of minutes to look over draft minutes from our March 2019 meeting. Our bylaws require a formal vote to approve them. After a couple minutes looking them over, one person moved to approve the minutes. Another person seconded. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

## **Auction Recap**

Last month's auction was very successful — we had a great turnout, the location seemed to work well, and we raised about \$8700, which was significantly more than last year. People liked that there were different ways to contribute: donating or buying items for the silent auction, as well as the kid's boutique and bake sale. Even small things were encouraged.

It appeared as though there was good turnout from families with younger students. Thank you! Cara has agreed to coordinate the event again next year. If you'd like to get involved and help next year, information will come out a few months before the event next school year.

A couple of thoughts for next year's event: the food truck ran low on some items, especially the kid-friendly items. An even kid-friendlier menu would be great.

## **End of Year BBQ**

The all school End of Year BBQ is coming up on June 6 from 5:00-7:00 at school. A group of volunteers has been planning the event. They are still seeking a BBQ master for the grill and there will be a request for volunteers out next month.

## **5th Grade Celebration**

The Celebration is planned for Wednesday, June 12. It is a luncheon at school, where the 4th grade parents set up and serve and the 5th grade parents get to enjoy lunch with their student. The 5th graders also receive their yearbooks before the rest of the school and there is a desert and slideshow.

## **Newsletter**

There is one more PTO newsletter of the year. It will probably be published the second week of June. If you have any suggestions, please email Gina or [contact@parkviewpto.org](mailto:contact@parkviewpto.org).

## **Board Elections**

These are coming up next month. We are currently putting together our slate of candidates for open board positions and we are still looking for a willing parent to be the board secretary. If you are interested in being involved, please email [contact@parkviewpto.org](mailto:contact@parkviewpto.org). Everyone is encouraged to attend the general meeting and participate in the board election process. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Cindy or another board member.

## **Construction Update — Mylo**

The Ed Spec committee developing a design for the rebuild of Parkview has continued to meet and now has a draft site plan and draft floor plan. (Cindy and Kate are both on the Ed Spec committee as well.). There will be a community meeting coming up soon, probably before the end of the month. Please come to that meeting as well — there will be additional information, including a mock-up of the exterior of the new school. Mylo is pretty excited about the draft plans.

The site plan and floor plan can be viewed online at <http://bellingshamschools.org/about/committees-advisory-groups/parkview-educational-specifications-design-advisory-committee/>.

The work so far has focused on the exterior - the location of the school, the bus loop and playground, and developing a floor plan. The design of the interior will be the next focus. But first we need to reach consensus on the site and floor plans.

For background, the work that our Ed Spec committee has done to develop a site plan and a floor plan usually takes 6 months and up. We had a few challenges and are about a year into the process, but seem close to reaching consensus on a plan. Alderwood is also going through this process and is not as far along as we are.

Parkview has had some unanticipated challenges: our space includes the use of some land that is part of Cornwall Park (part of our grassy field). The land was donated to the city as park land, and the property deed language is very specific. We can not use that land for building, even with some sort of land swap. In addition, a sewer line runs under our property and we can not build on top of it. The committee looked at several options, all of which were cost prohibitive. After much work, we have a site design that involves some rerouting of the sewer line in a plan that works for both our school and the city.

The design and siting of the new school will be very close to our existing building. This presents certain challenges, but we will work to minimize the impacts on students during construction (for example, by doing particularly loud activities during the summer during break). A couple of years before Mylo came to Parkview, parents were asked how they would feel about relocating students for up to 3 years for a school rebuild. The idea was not well received. So we will have construction concurrent with the school year. Several schools have been rebuilt this way, so there is experience in minimizing the impacts to students and staff.

Some big changes include moving the front of the school and the bus loop. There will be significantly more parking and a larger gym. The covered play area will be relocated. The garden does not yet have a designated area, but it is considered an important part of the school.

*Question: Does the site design include portables?*

*Answer:* No. Our existing portables will be removed. The school will have additional capacity and they should not be necessary. It is standard for architects to be asked to have in mind a spot for 1-2 portables when doing a site design, just in case they are necessary at some point in the future.

Mylo said that emphasizing the connection to Cornwall Park has been a stated goal in our design. The plans do this. The school will be sited parallel to the student pickup area. This both opens the back of the school so that it faces the park and maximizes playground space.

The front of the new school will be at the site of the existing bus loop. It is likely that the street address will change from a Coolidge address to a Cornwall address. The new construction will link into our existing building (cafeteria, gym and music room). It will also provide greater visibility of our school.

The pick up area will be quite different from what we have now. There will be a double lane which can serve 25-30 cars at a time. Happy Valley and other schools have this. One lane is used for parking and one for queuing. Of course there will be a need to educate drivers, but this has been a good solution at other schools and should be safer than our current system. There will be significantly more parking. We currently have 31 spaces but the new design includes 100 parking spaces in total.

*Question: Will this impact safety things provided by the city — signage at the stoplight, bike lanes, etc.?*

*Answer:* Mylo doesn't have a definite answer right now, but it is likely that signage at the Cornwall intersection would be improved. There could be other improvements as well. There are City of Bellingham staff on the Ed Spec committee, so there is a connection there already.

*Question: What else has been proposed for bikes and bike safety?*

*Answer:* We don't know whether the city will make changes to bike lanes near the school. We do not yet know where the bike parking at school will be located.

*Question: What is the plan for the park land area that can't be built on?*

*Answer:* It will be grass, as it is now, and we will continue to be able to use it as open space. The city has indicated that they would also like to keep the school connected to the park, likely with a trail.

*Question: Will there be any other grassy play space?*

*Answer:* Yes. Much of the new playground will be blacktop. However, the area currently occupied by our primary wing will be empty and flat. It will be removed and replanted with grass in our plan.

We do not know when we will break ground on the new construction. Mylo is hoping we can line up the framing with the summer of 2020 as it will be most impactful in terms of noise.

*Question: Where will recess be during construction?*

*Answer:* Our open space will be greatly reduced during the construction year. Mylo will spread out the schedule so that only one grade level has recess at a time. It's possible that the covered play space may be moved first which would provide some safe play area.

The new school will include PreK classrooms. The school will have 24 classrooms with 3 classrooms at each grade level. It will be 2 stories. All the classrooms will be about the same size. There will also be an "extended learning space" attached to classrooms at each grade level. This will be a shared space that can be used differently by each grade level. Mylo toured Fisher Elementary in Lynden. It was built recently and includes some elements that will be used in our school. He was very impressed with the extended learning spaces and how the teachers were able to use them.

The gym will be extended to be able to accommodate a wider array of community needs, as is the new standard. It will be available for community rentals.

Our new school will be bigger. With 3 classrooms at each grade level, we will require new staff. The current projection is to have around 400 students from K-5 (we currently have around 350). Our area is growing and we expect that boundary changes may wind up increasing our catchment area slightly. The school will be designed for about 425 students and we don't want to open over capacity. (The PreK is in addition to the numbers mentioned above. The Bridges program students are included in the above numbers.). The PreK will be new for Parkview. It will have a designated exterior playground.

There will be a design phase for the playground and the garden space.

*Question: With 3 classes at each grade level, that will impact the team teaching model currently used by grades 3-5. How will that work?*

*Answer:* We are working to figure that out. This teaching model has ebbed and flowed and we are the only school doing it for grades 3, 4 and 5. This model has worked well for us - it allows the teachers to get much more into the subject matter and provide a deeper experience in content areas. As a result, Parkview students receive more science and social studies instruction than other 3rd - 5th graders in the district.

There will be a community meeting toward the end of April or early May. This information will be shared again, along with a conceptual illustration of the exterior of the building. The architect will be there to provide additional information and much of the Ed Spec group will also be there. When the date is set, he will share it in his Monday email. He encourages everyone to attend and stay involved in the process. He's very excited about our new school and hopes that stakeholders continue to bring ideas so that we have the best school possible.

**7:35**

**Adjourn**

**Upcoming Dates:**

May 14 — Last PTO meeting of the year

June 6 — End of Year BBQ