PARKVIEW PTO

DRAFT General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Handouts

- Meeting Agenda
- Treasurer's Report 08/01/2018 - 07/31/2019
- Draft PTO General Meeting Minutes, April 9, 2019
- Parkview Parent Teacher Organization Bylaws (Revised April 2019)
- Youth Pride Parade and Festival Flyer

Agenda

- Welcome & Approval of Minutes
- End of the Year BBQ & 5th Grade Celebration Update
- Elections
- 2019-2020 Budget
- Speaker: Bethany Barrett, Equity Diversity and Inclusion

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

At our monthly meetings we typically quickly take care of PTO business and then have a guest speaker on a topic of interest. Tonight we have Bethany Barrett, who will be speaking on equity, diversity and inclusion.

6:30

Mylo Update

Mylo is attending a Whatcom Middle School boundary meeting tonight, so he won't be here for our meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes & Bylaws Revisions

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

Cindy also drew attention to copies of our organizational bylaws. Our board recently approved a draft of our bylaws with minor revisions. The changes were:
- Cleaning up some formatting and editing a few paragraphs for clarity,
- Reducing the number of required board members from 8 to 7 (which is helpful since it can be challenging to fill board positions), and
- Granting all Parkview parents, guardians and staff automatic membership to our PTO. (Right now membership is officially granted when someone signs the sign in sheet at the start of a PTO meeting). Membership is still free, we just want to be as inclusive as possible.)

Bylaw changes require a vote of members at a meeting, so after a couple minutes review, Katie moved to approve the revised bylaws and Justine seconded. The bylaws were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

End of Year BBQ Update

On June 6 from 5-7pm we will host our free school-wide end-of-year BBQ. Everyone's invited!

In previous years, we have had business donations to cover much of the food costs. This year, that is not the case, so we are increasing the budget for this event.

Ms. Mann will be overseeing bubbles and chalk art. We have also contacted Mr. C about whether he will bring the parachute for play in the grassy field. Forty-four new kinder families will join Parkview in the fall, and they are also invited. Invitations will be given to them at the kinder open house later this week.

5th Grade Celebration

The Celebration will be Wednesday, June 12. It is a luncheon at school, where the 4th grade parents set up and serve and the 5th students have lunch with their classmates and families. The 5th graders also receive their yearbooks before the rest of the school and there is a desert and slideshow.

2019-2020 Budget

We aren't going to discuss the budget right now. Susan is still receiving information and getting answers to questions.

Board Elections

For the last few months, we've been putting the word out about open board positions for next school year. Board terms are for 2 years, with half the positions retiring each year. We have a slate of candidates who have expressed interest:

President — Jen Seltz
Treasurer — Margo Gillaspy
Secretary — Alison Schepper
VP of Enrichment — Jessyca Arthur-Cameselle
VP of Community Engagement — Emily Frazier
VP of Fundraising — Justine Waymire
VP of Communications — Gina Austin

Although some of these are continuing for their second year, we voted on the entire slate as a whole. Susan moved to approve the above list and Crispin seconded. The 2019-20 board list was approved with a unanimous voice vote.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Bethany Barrett from the district office came to talk about her work with diversity, equity and inclusion (EDI). She is a Director of Teaching and Learning and has been with the district 21 years. She has 2 kids in the district. Bethany has a background in ELL (English Language Learners) and has worked the last 4 years in administration at the district office. Much of her work is collaborative, and she has done a great deal of work with LGBTQ issues and trainings in the district.

A new draft of the Bellingham Promise is incorporating EDI principles.

Bethany read a book to the group: Jacqueline Woodson's The Day You Begin. (Woodson is an award-winning poet and author.) Bethany gave the group a chance to discuss the themes, which focused largely on feeling different from everyone else, but reaching out and then learning how we do have things in common.

Bethany wanted to talk about culture. She shared a diagram the district has used as a way to think about "culture." The center is "Who I Am" surrounded by a circle with "race" surrounding it. Surrounding that are many other factors — lenses — through which we view culture: language, migration or non-migration patterns, gender, family history, sexual orientation, religion, cultural practices, social class structure, geography, ethnicity, disability.

Our school district has Project Free Education which reduces or eliminates costs to families for school supplies, course fees, participation in sports, and more. Despite this effort to reduce inequity, race is still a very good predictor of how a student will perform in our district.

An audience members asked how many people of color are administrators or teachers in our district. Bethany had to guess at this, she hasn't seen any data for a couple years, but it is a very low percentage, maybe 3% of teachers and 1% of administrators. These numbers may not be accurate, but they demonstrate that there are very few people of color working in our schools. This is yet another challenge to figuring out what EDI "looks like."

Bethany challenged us to think about culture. Often, we tend to step back and think of culture as something that other people have, with particular clothing, language, food, holidays, etc. But we all have culture. We spent a bit of time discussing: What might we be talking about when we talk about "culture"?, Who might we talk about when we talk about "culture"?, Where might our ideas about "culture" come from?, Why might we talk about "culture"?

The idea of a "cultural iceberg" was raised. It's easy to see the tip of the iceberg above the water, but the vast majority of the iceberg is hidden under the surface. Bethany also used a tree analogy to think about how we hold our cultural ideas. The leaves and blooms of a tree are visible "surface culture" and include things like clothing, hairstyles, language, etc. When questioned by others, these have a lower emotional impact on trust. There are "shallow culture" and "deep culture" elements as we move to the tree trunk and then the roots. These have high and intense emotional impacts, respectively, on trust. These deeper cultural elements include parenting practices, religious beliefs, understandings of gender, etc.

She encouraged us to think about our own culture, including our own "family culture." This is a big topic and she and the district are excited to be working on it.

Bethany shared information about an upcoming event: the Youth Pride Parade. The Bellingham School District and Northwest Youth Services are co-sponsors and it is shaping up to be a fun and supportive event. This is a parade for the youth. Unlike most pride parades, the youth of Whatcom county will be marching in the parade and the adults, organizations and businesses

that support them will be cheering on from the sidelines. It will be Sunday, June 9, from 10:30-2:00 starting and ending at Bellingham High School. After the parade all Whatcom County families and community are invited to a kid-friendly festival at BHS. For more information, please visit http://whatcomyouthpride.com.

7:35
Adjourn

Upcoming Dates:
June 6 — End of Year BBQ