



PARKVIEW PTO

**General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 13, 2018**

Handouts

- Meeting Agenda
- Treasurer's Report 08/01/2018 - 07/31/2019
- Draft PTO General Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2018

Agenda

- Welcome
- Update from Mylo
- Fundraising Update
- Carnival update
- Thanksgiving Food Boxes
- Trina Hall, Social Emotional Learning

6:30

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 Trina Hall who will speak about the Social Emotional Learning curriculum and how it impacts Parkview.

If you have a suggestion for a speaker or topic of interest to school families we could feature in an upcoming meeting, please let us know!

Approval of Minutes

Each table had a couple copies of the minutes from our last meeting in October. One person motioned to approve the document, and it was seconded. Passed with a unanimous "aye" vote.

Update from Mylo

Mylo recently sent out a brief email update about the school construction. The summary is that the designers will be spending a bit more time to get a draft design for review.

The school doesn't own the whole grassy field. While most of it belongs to the school district, some is park land. It was originally thought that it would be a simple matter to buy or swap some of the land from Parks, however, this is not the case. The District has spoken with the family that donated the land and it looks very unlikely that it will be possible to use the park land — the property deed is written very specifically that the land must stay as park land. This is not a dire situation, however, as the problem is likely fixed by just changing the orientation of the new school design. Before winter break, Mylo hopes to have a couple designs produced and to schedule a community meeting in January to look it over and get input and feedback.

There is no change to the plan to use the current building while construction is underway on the new building.

In addition, Mylo recognizes that Superintendent Baker must not overpromise, so he uses the phrase that "all 3 schools will be done by 2022." But Mylo says our school is on a faster track, and even with this recent challenge, our timeline remains unchanged with a new building slated to open in autumn 2020 for the beginning of the school year.

Fundraising Update

VP of fundraising, Justine, reminded everyone the **Fairhaven Night Out** is happening tomorrow. 10% of the proceeds from lunch and dinner service at the Filling Station will be donated back to Parkview, and 20% of purchases at Village Books will be donated to our library. A short form went home in Panda Pockets, but the store will also have copies. Forms are required for the Village Books donation. Mr. Hayden will have a story time at 6 pm.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be December 3-7. We will need volunteers for staffing. Look for information on Facebook and coming home about how to signup to help.

Scrip cards are available tonight and to order each month with the form that goes home in Panda Pockets.

Panda Wear is available for purchase tonight.

Both scrip cards and Panda Wear will likely end available to buy during the family Movie Night at the school on 12/13, 6-8pm. The movie may be Inside Out, but that hasn't yet been finalized.

Carnival Update

Levi and Lil are taking on the lead organizer position for the Carnival. It is scheduled for January 24. Information will be coming home this week in Panda Pockets asking for volunteers. It's a fun event and very labor-intensive. There are all sorts of ways to volunteer, both before and during the event. We'll need at least 15 adults and lots of middle schoolers on the day of the event. Julie Peterson has offered to coordinate the middle schoolers, so if you know of a Panda alum that would like to help, please get in touch with her. There should be a Signup Genius in the next week or so on Facebook. The event will be similar to past years in terms of what is offered. We'll need lots of pre-event help — volunteers to set up, pick up food, etc. Someone is already working on collecting boxes for the box maze (always a popular part of the event). Ticket sales prior to the event have been well received, and we'll do that again this year.

Cindy mentioned that since our Board position of Social is unfilled this year, some activities are at risk, like the Carnival. A big thank you to Levi and Lil for taking this on!

Thanksgiving Food Boxes & Winter Wishes

Kendra spoke about our program to provide a little help for school families that could use a little extra support during the winter holiday season. 14 families have indicated that they could use help with the Thanksgiving meal. Kendra asked for volunteers to meet at the Bellingham Food Bank on Tuesday, November 20 at 1:15 to pick up boxes for delivery. The boxes are large, so only a couple deliveries will fit in each car. It could be challenging with the 2:30 school pickup time, but hopefully there will be lots of help.

23 families have signed up so far for holiday gift support for their kids. A Signup Genius will come out soon. For people not on Facebook, the same information will come out over email.

Trina Hall, Bellingham Schools

Social Emotional Learning Curriculum

Trina is one of the Directors of Teaching and Learning at the district office. Last year the district formed a committee (with teachers, parents, etc.) to advance SEL. Last year, the committee found a specific SEL curriculum it liked and elementary schools have started using it this year.

SEL encompasses a lot, and she likes to use a definition from CASEL that features 5 main competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. We are concerned about anxiety and depression in students, but SEL is meant to not just address deficits, but also to build skills for students and the greater community.

Some people have asked why we add this on top of what teachers are expected to do. Don't kids just learn this stuff naturally? But research shows that if SEL is explicitly taught there are better outcomes, including higher academic achievement.

The district researched and purchased two different SEL curriculums for this year: Caring School Community for elementary schools and RULER for middle schools.

Caring School Community has a classroom structure but is very flexible and is intended to fit into what teachers are already doing and mesh into the flow of the day.

- 1) Morning circle 3-5x/week. A time to gather the kids, greet them, and pass a hello across all the students and people in the room. Greetings include direct eye contact, using each person's name, and are passed from one person to the next around the circle.
- 2) Class meeting 1x/week. A time to talk about a sample issue or problem and how the class can deal with it. This is flexible, and after the class gets used to the format, it can be used to talk about real issues and work out solutions. It's meant to get into problem solving.
- 3) Closing circle 3-5x/week. A time to gather at the end of the day and reflect.

This format allows academic integration, explicit instruction, and creativity in problem solving. There is also a parent and community component.

There is a flexible schedule for teachers to begin using the SEL curriculum. At Parkview, all classrooms are doing the morning circle. There is a soft start for the other pieces and teachers can add them in as it best suits them. A couple of classrooms are doing the class meeting and some are also doing the closing circle. The first 10 weeks of the class meeting will be the same for everyone, but then topics diverge. There are suggested discussion topics on a variety of subjects. "Coming back to school after a vacation" was given as an example that some teachers have been looking forward to. There are school staff that are interested in joining in, including paraeducators (recess duty, reading teachers, etc.) and this is a great way to further build those relationships throughout the building. Classroom volunteers are encouraged to join in as well.

A few parents mentioned that they have either watched or participated in a morning meeting and their reactions were all positive.

Trina said they are trying to involve paraeducators in trainings for the Caring School Community curriculum and SEL trainings. Schools are starting either this year or next, with flexible timing for each school.

Mylo said that this provides a forum for conversation with kids every day. From his experience as a classroom teacher, if something came up during the school day, he would have to stop and address it. It was disruptive. This new curriculum provides a daily framework that is also integrated into routine. An example of another discussion topic: what happens and what the expectations are when a class has a substitute teacher.

A parent asked how the class meeting is structured. How do you call a kid out without shaming? The answer is to not use names but talk about the structure of the issue. If it's a

small problem, it might be dealt with in a small group, separate from a class meeting. The first class meetings have set discussion topics, and allow the teacher and students to get used to the format. Later teachers can add specific chosen topics (many come with the curriculum). There are opportunities for students to share, but it isn't required.

Aileen mentioned a student who volunteered some personal information during a classroom morning circle meeting and said he was feeling sad. Later that day the student visited with Aileen and reported that 5 students asked him to play at recess and it made him feel good. The meeting gave him an opportunity to ask for help and it worked - he felt empowered.

A parent asked how the district will assess the success of the program. The main tool will be feedback surveys, which are currently open and collecting responses. They ask families and students about a variety of topics including school belonging and the climate for emotional safety. The District is also looking at other assessment tools. Mylo mentioned that there are other measures that may be useful, such as absences, tardies, and specific behavior issues.

In middle school a different curriculum is being rolled out. It also has a soft start but all middle schools will begin using it within the next year or so.

It focuses on understanding and regulating one's own emotions and teaches 4 main "tools," one of which is a mood meter. Adults are also part of the curriculum.

Representatives from Shuksan and Kulshan middle schools went to the SEL trainings last year and are starting to use the curriculum this year. Whatcom went to the training recently and is planning to start rolling out the curriculum next year. Fairhaven is planning to do the training this spring. There are ways for the teachers to integrate these 4 tools into their teaching, but as with all schools, we are allowing for a lot of flexibility. Especially in middle school, there will be certain subjects and certain teachers that are better suited for parts of the curriculum.

The teams that do the trainings will be part of the oversight group and help roll the SEL curriculum out in each school.

A parent asked how this is being funded. Is it sustainable? Trina said that we have been lucky to start this when we did. Money was available, and has funded the purchase of the curriculums and trainings. The elementary school curriculum is both well suited to our needs and is a one-time expense, although the trainings do cost. Budget uncertainties exist but SEL is part of 9 out of the 14 outcomes included in the Bellingham Promise, so there is a great deal of support to continue this. There are also ongoing sources of funding through federal sources (Title 4).

Trina was asked what she can tell us about the parent communication piece. She said it is intended to include families, but it's hard to say exactly what we should expect, as each classroom will be using it differently. We may see 2-3 questions come home on paper or chats in SeeSaw about topics to discuss at home.

7:30

Adjourn

Reminders

- November 14 — PTO Village Books and Dine Out night
- No December PTO meeting
- December 3-7 — Book Fair
- January 8 — PTO meeting