

Garfield Elementary PTA Board Meeting

January 8, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Meeting started 6:32 PM

Attendees:

- Marianne McIntosh – Vice President
- Tiffany Kulseth – staff representative
- Megan Christopher – Bookkeeper
- Brendon Chertok – Principal
- Gina McCune - Treasurer
- Terra Sullivan - Secretary

Approval of Minutes – No corrections or objections – approved

Financials – Megan

Income via CheddarUp for winter giving, popcorn. Expenses for Winter Giving, etc. Expenses for Winter Giving exceeded contributions. Look at budget from last year, that would roll over.

If anyone has not signed up for PTA membership, please sign up, board members should all be members of PTA. Look at membership income/expense after December statement is received.

No corrections or objections – approved

School Updates – Tiffany Kulseth and Brendon Chertok

Winter MAP Testing this week and next.

MLK and Life Skill assembly next week, in person and zoom link (Brendon will share).

Staff training – 10-15 staff members doing book study together + 9 staff will do a 3 day offsite training in February. Author/trainer = Dr. Adeyemi Stenbridge. Books: Brilliant Teaching, Culturally Responsive Education in the Classroom.

Cispus coming up - March 13-15. Early in season, hoping for good weather and packing gloves and hats. Going with McKinney, Madison, Hanson.

Working on newsletter – confirm Community Meeting (1/18) and Movie Night (1/26) this month.

Equity workshop – lion dance troupe? Looking to connect with Vietnamese community members (a family at Garfield is active in this community). Funding available from PTA for this event? We have \$1800 in theater funds, could we repurpose some of these funds? Timing – February / near lunar new year? Cost would probably be several hundred dollars. Could be incorporated into an assembly or could be a stand alone event during school day. An evening performance might be cool as well – for families to attend.

December Events - Winter Giving & Community Night – Marianne & All

Winter giving – only Garfield students and younger siblings. Had one preschooler whose sibling attends a different elementary. 63 families participated (last year 56), 123 children (last year 152). Lots of support from community and local organizations. Pickup on south side of building (outside door off of gym) worked well. Hardest thing was planning – coordination with Evergreen Christian (sponsor 40 children). Communicated via phone and email. Only one gift card did not work.

Community Night – went great, people enjoyed getting t-shirts printed. Kids enjoyed choosing gifts from what used to be student store. Scarves were a big hit with the students – they were wearing them the next day. Families had a good time. Great part was to allow families to visit, hang out, talk with staff. Estimate was good – had about 160 dinners served. Activities were fun. Could do different/more relevant passport check option, could enhance this next year. Families got to meet other teachers, visit other pods and see other parts of the school. Older grade teachers would work on age appropriate activities for younger kids. Almost all staff were there, that was a great sign of success. Appreciation for the PTA work in the gym. Timing – talk about next year, could be earlier in year? Or similar timing, multiple events? Spring? Close to winter break is a busy time of year – consider before Thanksgiving? Could be an open house type event if earlier in year? Or do one also in the spring? Traditionally Garfield did a 'curriculum night' earlier in year where teachers did a presentation, but this moved more towards a more social event to welcome families into school. Have a chance to meet other families and staff. Could have a theme?

Action item: Plan PTA calendar out earlier for next year. PTA partner with Brendon to space out events and prepare for early in the school year events. Share draft calendars before end of prior school year – discuss in May at meeting.

Upcoming Events – All

Community Meeting – library. Get flyer out. Ideas -

Superintendent – planning for May meeting

Topic – spring fundraiser. Boosterthon/pledge-a-thon? Community meal & touch-a-truck? Sunday, 1-3 PM. Maybe get Olive Garden donation again? Suggested donation for meal? How do we find out about using kitchen facility? This is part of the facilities use process. Gina – reach out to Olive Garden & OSD facilities, find out about possible donation, requirements to use the kitchen. Partner with SPS culinary program? Touch a Truck – confirm date with our City of Olympia

Dedicated funds – how we plan to use designated funds (theater)

Fundraising -

Coffee sale –

Discussion – more direct ask for specific dollar amount? Would be interested in how other groups have done this (platform, messaging, etc.). Risk to switch to a direct ask rather than boosterthon type event. Open to any ideas, have thought about this type of approach before. Bring this up at the community meeting – get broad input. Boosterthon – we raised \$9-\$10K last year. Participation was about 26%-30%. All kids loved dancing – was a great way for everyone to participate. Slime event was

amazing, was super motivating for kids and fun. Would like to do something like this again. Could pair with another -thon type event (read a thon, kindness, etc.)

Other

Partnership with Javoen Byrd – African drumming. Working on setting that up for this year (similar to last year).

Action Item – half side flyer for community meeting. Terra will work on this, to go out this week.

Copies – PTA will need to start paying for copies – no limit/chargeback currently for copying. Use Brendon's code for PTA copying?

Meeting adjourned – 7:39 PM