

## Sherwood Elementary PSO

September 15th, 2016

6:45 – 9:30 P.M.

**Board Members** Leslie Wilke, Co-President; Carrie Hulbert, Co-President; Vanessa Knowles, VP of Fundraising and Volunteers; Sarah Lewis, Co-VP of Hospitality; Liz Morgan, VP of Volunteers; Jessica Meyer, VP of Family & Community Relations, Suzanne Campbell, Secretary; Melissa Johansson, Co-VP of Hospitality; Jessica Allende, Co-Treasurer, Diana Gray Co-Treasurer  
Not in attendance: Kristin Haverlock, VP of Communications;

### Actions

- Jessica A to update access for bank account. Add Leslie, remove those who don't need it.
- Vanessa to research estimates for Gagaball
- Leslie to reach out to classroom rooms to encourage participation in Family Directory
- Leslie to research babysitters for the general meeting
- Liz to ask a Boyscout troop if any interest for assisting with a Buddy Bench
- Liz to ask front office if volunteers will be getting photos for badges this year.
- Someone to spearhead a retirement party for Mr. Steve Chu
- Someone to ask Theresa Kotwis to do Bingo night

### Budget Review (Add/Drops to Bank Account)

Jessica A/Diana Gray

Jessica A. gave background on the budget process. The budget is to be set right after the walkathon so we can see what we have to work with. Teacher discretionary has increased each year with \$340 per teacher in 2015/16. The budget will be reviewed and set by Presidents, Treasures, Christi Kessler and one teacher and then it goes to General Meeting to get ratified.

We need two people involved in the treasury role. Last year this was Jessica and Scott (who would like to step back) Diana will now take over for Scott to review the numbers/backup and balance against bank statement. Scott has been doing this for Jessica and has reviewed everything through fiscal year. We should have it balanced soon and will then send to taxes for review. We had budgeted to get down to our target funding. We have a goal for the account but are not penalized if we are over or under. We are currently over - Do we want to try to spend this down or do we anticipate unknown costs or special projects that are going to come up?

Big fundraiser is the Walkathon – the last year brought in just around \$29,000. This was the best year we've ever had which allowed us to do extra activities. Other fundraising efforts include BoxTops and Cookie Dough

Community events are more to bring families together than fundraisers - Craft nights, Family nights, etc are all just events we put on – usually lose a little money for them.

The funds we get go to scholarships for field trips for families that can't afford to send children. It has filled a gap for the holiday mittens, allotment for each teacher for them to utilize what they feel is needed for classrooms. We have a book fair and that money goes directly to library purchases. We have in previous years allotted an extra amount. We've helped the office with thermometers and covers and siren/horns for managing recess. Field Trips are a huge piece – covering buses, admission for teachers entry (pac sci center) books for some first and second graders that they can practice reading on. The Day at the Science Center Square Dance week, funding going to Chess Club for celebration of 25<sup>th</sup> year.

Always looking to earmark funds towards special activities as well as standard admin needs such as internet programs, quickbook.

We would like to budget each year to send the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to Olympia.

Fridays we send food home for children whose families could use it over the weekend (via Nourishing Network) Look into other agencies that we could partner with for summer time efforts – perhaps Washington Kids in Transition or Beautiful Souls

Would be great to have a buddy bench on the playground

Does the music program, PE, Library etc need anything more above and beyond of the discretionary amount?

We anticipate getting requests from Teachers and Christi closer to setting the budget for the year.

### **Principal's Report**

### **Christi**

Christi had just come from interviews - Sherwood is hiring! We have 2 open positions we hope to finalize a decision on soon. 1 4<sup>th</sup> grade teaching positions and 1 2<sup>nd</sup> grade position. We hope to have resolved by curriculum night. (September 22<sup>nd</sup>)

It has been a great start to the year – kids are happy – positive interactions. Jumpstart went really well this year – we think it made a difference in the first day for kindergarteners. No one cried!

We have approximately 482 children this year which is what we were projected for. We got to FTE at end of year to go with this. Last year we were at about 467 so not too many more children, though all kindergarteners are there all day.

Portables have been doing ok so far – noise doesn't seem to be an issue.

Test results came back today for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This is a national test for 2015/16 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and above. This can be accessed via skyward / family access.

Christi appreciates the PSO for parent input – wants to know what you're thinking about and appreciates the PSO as a sounding board. If someone is having a problem please come talk to her about it. Schools are funky and they work in different ways and they don't work as you'd imagine in the business world. There is always a reason and a procedure where or why something is at a certain phase. IE. questions about staffing or spending money or how the school district spends on technology.

PSO asked her if she has suggestions about what she'd like to have extra \$\$ spent on. Christi prefers to spend extra money on professional development for the teachers. Lab days in the school are important to her. Very hard to get grants for professional development. Time, \$\$ and professional development is how to support teachers.

PSO asked if new teachers need iPads? PSO helped to buy these as well as Chrome books in previous years – great for both teachers and children to look at different uses of technology for education.

Christi says Ipads served the purpose that she wanted it to serve but we will eventually be going 1:1 with Chrome books so she wasn't sure if it was something that we really need. The biggest benefit is with the intensive support rooms. Ipads are excellent for these rooms for communication pieces. Is there

anything more that we can provide for the intensive support rooms from the PSO level? There are 12 children in primary and 9 in intermediate. Would be nice to add 4 or 5.

### **Walk-a-thon Update (Ga Ga Ball)**

**Leslie, Vanessa**

Walk-a-thon is well underway and on track.

The Walkathon committee did not want to include this in the incentives for kids to fundraise so we will keep it as an initiative we do outside of walk-a-thon.

Vanessa is calling around to get estimates for both the Gagaball pit and a roof to cover it so we have a target to raise funds for. Maplewood has an example of Gagaball for those interested to check out.

### **Family Directory**

**Leslie**

Try to make progress via class room moms who will likely have people's contact info and can encourage. Only 259 people on Sherwood PSO, must find a way to communicate to more people to sign on and share their information on the Family Directory.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Movie Night 9/16
- Curriculum Night 9/22
- General Meeting 9/29
- Walkathon 10/7
- Book Fair – Liz to reach out to Mr. Sonnen to see what he needs to prepare for Book Fair. Carrie/Leslie to help out with the Book Fair
- Bingo Night – we will ask Theresa Kotwis to help with this
- Craft Night – crafting on track!
- Talent Show – We need a new chair for this and will keep looking. We want to make sure tryouts are established early on.
- Family Dance – PSO hopes that the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take a lead with 5<sup>th</sup> parents to shadow.
- Retirement Celebration for Mr. Chu is in order – retiring in November. What would he appreciate the most?

**Jessica Allende/Vanessa**

### **Movie License Renewal - approved by board**

**Vanessa**

### **Other Fundraising Opportunities**

**Vanessa**

- "Shop for Sherwood" section of website (<http://www.sherwoodpso.com/community/fundraising/>)
  - We will not be doing Shoparoo
  - We will not be doing Target (link broken)
  - <http://mightynest.com/shop/kitchen/food-storage> - one more option