

Sherwood Elementary PSO

October 13th, 2016

Meeting begins at 7:05, ends at 9:37

Board Members In attendance: Leslie Wilke, Co-President; Carrie Hulbert, Co-President; Vanessa Knowles, VP of Fundraising and Volunteers; Sarah Lewis, Co-VP of Hospitality; Kristin Haverlock, VP of Communications; Suzanne Campbell, Secretary; Jessica Allende, Co-Treasurer; Christi Kessler, Principal

Not in attendance: Diana Gray Co-Treasurer; Liz Morgan, VP of Volunteers; Jessica Meyer, VP of Family & Community Relations; Melissa Johansson, Co-VP of Hospitality;

Welcome

Leslie/Carrie

Principal's Report

Christi

Christi shared her thoughts on this year's school improvement plan. Annually, she comes up with a theory of action by discussing with teachers all previous year the needs and seeing what rises as the most important topic. Last year they focused on writing, encouraging kids to write from their own person. Her belief this year is that we don't have enough assessments in the Edmonds school district to determine how much a child is actually learning. She isn't interested in standardized assessments, she is simply looking at common assessments that could be applied at each grade level within our school. Her plan is for each grade to come up with an assessment plan by level. The focus will be on assessment and determining what tasks we want to give kids to do.

There are 3 pieces to the theory of action - tasks, teaming and assessment. When you look at our SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessment) scores, the overall focus is on our gap of learning within the school. There's a gap between those who qualify for free and reduced lunch and those who do not. 71% of our students are meeting the standard in math (Looking at SBA results as a whole from 3rd through 6th grade.) However, of the group within our school that qualify for free lunch, only 44% meet the standard in math. She'd like to look at defining what is a real assessment – i.e. how do you know a student has accomplished fractions. While, we did see a small gain last year, our goal is that next year we will have a total of 74% of students meeting the standard in math, and the group that qualify for the free and reduced lunches will be brought up to 50%.

Her plan is to spend some time during the professional development days focusing on some permeation of this.

There was a discussion of Sherwood's recognition for improvement in a recent study. Sherwood has received the 2016 School of Distinction Award for our combined improvement in math & English language arts sustained over a 5 year period.

This raises the question - does this really matter? Conglomerate scores gives us information as a whole about how we are doing and what the big gaps are and there is value in that. Individually however, it is just one assessment and we look at that differently on the student level and consider it one piece of

information in a larger picture. There are no repercussions involved and a positive thing is that kids will get used to taking tests. We want them to understand the task they are doing and apply it in more than one context. We will go through SBA assessments by grade levels. Each have chunked out times when they will do smaller parts of the SBA assessment.

We will be discussing homework more in depth later throughout the year. Christi would like to see an evolution of our homework practices. It becomes complicated because there are so many different perspectives. Parents have one idea of what they should do, kids another and how to avoid the power struggle. If school is about learning, it's not as much about finishing the homework, it's more about how hard you are working and what you've learned in the process. It matters more that the content is right vs. the amount that is done. We will look at how we are going about homework.

At Sherwood, we don't grade on homework. It serves the purpose to give teachers a sense of where they are struggling. Parents aren't expected to teach homework. It is ok to say as a parent we don't understand pieces of the homework brought home. You have to allow children to deal with the consequence of not getting homework done so it is less about the power dynamic and more what they are learning on their own. There will be more discussion of this in the year. If you need homework modified or changed, please communicate to your child's teacher.

Discussion of communication between teachers varying and not having consistent way of knowing expectations. There's an overall Sherwood philosophy and then the individual teachers style. Parents need to realize there is a huge range of homework that is being asking for from teachers.

Walkathon Update

Carrie

We surpassed our goal this year! Kristin will be working on a communication piece to make sure we have thanked all the sponsors involved and the community knows who they are. Vanessa and Jessica A will coordinate with the Walkathon committee to make sure that we have the full list for recognition.

Kindergarten Kits

Carrie

We discussed the kits we have given to kids preparing for kindergarten and a desire to update what is included. We currently include paper handouts, crayons and playdough. Sarah expressed an interest in updating to be more relevant. We are not sure if it is as needed now that we have Jumpstart to prepare for kindergarten. We agreed it was nice to still pass out something. Sarah was going to work on ordering branded pencils and consider anything else to include (i.e. flashcards or other)

Add/Drops to Account

Jessica A/Leslie

As was moved last meeting, we need to drop Melissa and Dawn from the Sherwood bank account and add Diana Gray to have visibility to the online account. We will be adding Jessica A and Leslie for signature on the account.

Family Directory

Leslie

We would like to get as many classroom liaisons as possible involved to encourage their classrooms to have families make their updates in the Family Directory. Leslie will work to print the reminder and sort it by classrooms to distribute.

Beautiful Soles Discussion

JessicaM/Liz

Anna Shumway has had specific requests in the past for help with certain families and we would like to continue to support her (ie, Woodway walkers, conflict management training) We will not opt to work with Beautiful Soles at this time and investigate needs further.

Budget Items for Discussion:

All

- Budget meeting 11/6 (Carrie, Leslie, Christi, Diana and Jessica will fine tune and put the budget together. 85% of it will be static, the remainder is established based on what we want to put into it.)
- Mr. Chu Buddy Bench
Mr. Chu will be retiring and we need to recognize him. Teachers and school will brainstorm different ideas to celebrate. Dedicating a bench to him was just one thought, should we get a gift card or other?
- Water coolers for portables
The portable classrooms do not have water and we are investigating adding coolers for those rooms.
- Other items? We want to provide a more interesting playground experience and so we want to present a few ideas that can make recess more enriching.

Jessica and Diana met with Scott earlier this evening to download transfer of knowledge regarding how to do taxes, manage QuickBooks etc. The big piece is how they will put numbers into the budget. Diana and Jessica will now work with Christi and Libby for specific asks and start to build that out. As discussed, the walkathon income came in higher than expected. We are looking good for the budget and there will be room for special items. Scot always advises that we set a goal and try to spend down to a point.

Examples of initiatives we spent on last year include square dancing instruction, one time grant for chess club, teacher development, copier needs, water cooler. Because we have additional classrooms we may need more assessment kits. We discussed adding Gaga Ball to the playground and had a discussion of what the PSO would like to do for the playground. The PSO is a general budget – not slated to any one specific thing and we want to be sure that each year it is going to the most important things. What can we do to make the field more interesting. The team brainstormed a few ideas including - building blocks, chess and checker board tables and bringing out music.

Upcoming Events

All

- Oct Staff Lunch all set
- Movie Night—schedule & movie
October 27th movie night – Viewing *Transylvania 2*
- Next PSO Board Meeting on 11/10 at Leslie's house
- Book Fair 11/14 – 18
 - Propose 11/16 and 11/17
- Bingo Night 11/16
- Nov General Meeting—11/17
- Nov Movie night – 11/22 - Viewing *Finding Dory*
- Craft Night— December (likely on the 5 – 9)
- Science on Wheels 12/15-16
- Skate Night in Jan – propose the 24th
Propose charging \$6 for advance tickets TBD.