

Sherwood Elementary PSO

January 17, 2016

6:45 – 9:00 P.M.

Meeting starts at 7:09 p.m. Meeting ends at 9:25 p.m.

Board Members In Attendance - Leslie Wilke, Co-President; Vanessa Knowles, VP of Fundraising and Volunteers; Sarah Lewis, Co-VP of Hospitality; Liz Morgan, VP of Volunteers; Suzanne Campbell, Secretary; Melissa Johansson, Co-VP of Hospitality;

Not In Attendance - Carrie Hulbert, Co-President; Kristin Haverlock, VP of Communications; Jessica Meyer, VP of Family & Community Relations; Jessica Allende, Co-Treasurer, Diana Gray Co-Treasurer

Welcome

Leslie

Principal's Report

Christi

New Chrome books have arrived this year! They were distributed to 3rd through 6th grade at a 1:1 ratio. 2nd grade is a 2:1 ratio. Eventually we'll have more and closer to 1:1 for all. The exception is kindergarten and 1st grade. They are scheduled to have new technology next year. Christi has been talking to the teachers about the different options and what their preferences are. They have had ipads in the past which is primarily used for taking photos. Would they want Video camera or flip phones or Age appropriate tablets (touch screen chrome books are working perfectly for the other grades).

This led to a discussion on technology and how good kids tends to be adapting to it. We discussed the value of handwriting as a result of all the new forms of technology these days. Ms. Kessler believes all children must know how to sign signature and write legibly but eventually will be less of an issue (as it was for parents generation). Writing is communication – the purpose is communication. If it isn't legible it doesn't work which is why it remains a focus for teachers.

It has been in the news that Washington state is having a difficult situation with their budgeting for the coming year. Christi is preparing for difficult budgeting sessions this coming year. Depending on how things go later in the spring, it may be helpful to have a General PSO meeting dedicated to the issues of how the budgeting process works within the state and this school district. The process involves many different timelines and there are a lot of mandates as to how the money needs to be spent. Only a part of the general budget has discretion on how it is spent. Dollars follow kids and that helps when making decisions. Christi gets her budget in the spring – based on a formula for how many children are expected to come in. She works from that in her requests but the process is not finalized formally until October.

We then discussed what some of the state issues currently are with education. Will WA legislators want to pass another bandaid on their current issues (being in contempt of court for not funding education) or will they want to fully fund education. What does it mean to fully fund? The Mcleary case is a great reference, however but Democrats and Republicans define this different. There isn't a standard and funding is attached to it. You will be hearing about something called the Levy Cliff. Local levies are another way that districts fund schools. We couldn't run the school based entirely off the state budget.

We have a local funding via the levvy – some districts have trouble getting levvys passed. They are at a huge disparity from communities that do get extra funding through the levvys. (like Edmonds does) We are hoping they will extend the levvy cliff or restructure it. Education budget typically goes in first month of the year. Legislative session ends in May but we predict they will go long and through the summer. We may not have a lot of answers for a while.

Please let Christi know if we are hearing any concerns circulating about this in the coming year.

Finally - Feb 13th 6p.m. there will be a kindergarten night at the school and it would be nice to have 2 PSO board members in attendance to talk to new parents about the school, what to expect and what the PSO does.

Gaga Ball Update

Vanessa/Christi

We discussed the possibility of getting Gaga Ball on the playground again. Christi reported in that the district will provide maintenance to build Gaga Ball (including a roof), so long as we can supply the funding for building materials. She has an idea of where she'd like to have this set up in an area near the bars on the edge of where soccer is played. We will consider different sourcing options for the wood and materials or possible donations of materials) There was discussion about exactly how much was left over from our budgeting this year to allocate to Gaga Ball. Vanessa would like to use this as an incentive to fund raise this spring so the children can picture what their hard work will go to. We will investigate renting a gaga ball pit for a week in Mrs. Thain's classroom so everyone can understand better how to play and see why this would add a richer playground experience.

We asked the question if we would ever be able to improve the playfield by adding a track to it. Christi explained that we'd need to write a capital partnership grant with the district. Typically if we can pay for half, the district will pay for the other half. There have been attempts to do this in the past but it is lengthy and can take many years. It is very time consuming and Christi has learned she can't be involved with the process. She fully supports the concept but she needs one person to spearhead and see it through.

Event Coordination – discuss who does what

Leslie

This process has been a little messy this year and a few items fell through the cracks. Going forward, scheduling an event should look like this:

Pick a date w/o conflicts on the Sherwood calendar.

Propose to president to check with the school dudes calendar (Leslie has volunteered to manage)

Fill out an event request form and give to Joni to get on the calendar, secure custodial or other support needed from the school.

If a request for volunteers is needed, please contact the VP of Volunteers to help coordinate FB and newsletter requests

We believe we need someone on the PSO board who has access to school dudes to take the lead on confirming schedules. They would be the liaison with event heads and Joni. Leslie will take this on for this year and we would like to have an Event Coordinator designated next year. Keep in mind, Joni does her best to put everything on the calendar but she does sometimes get last minute requests from teachers she really tries to accommodate them.

Dick's Sporting Goods Coupon Fundraiser

Vanessa

We discussed a few ideas for additional fundraising this year to help with general PSO budget and also as a possible incentive to improve our playground. Vanessa reported that Dicks sells coupon books – we could set up a sale for this at the Family Dance. We need to buy 50. Do we have too much going on or

could this be another successful fundraising option? Is the cost worth the time? We feel fairly confident we could sell 50 books as they are a good value for those that use it. We would like to get Jessica and Carrie's thoughts on this before proceeding.

Volunteer Mixer Planning

All

Liz and Vanessa have volunteered to co-plan this year. We discussed venue options and pricing. We have some prizes set aside and need a new place this year.

Sherwood Bracelets for Field Day

Vanessa

Mrs. Thain asked Vanessa to reorder bracelets for the kids to wear when they go on field trips. This was \$226 in previous years. We agree to fund this.

Comedy night

Leslie

We had an opportunity to receive proceeds from the Comedy Night coming up in town. Families who order tickets need to say they are with Sherwood for us to get the proceeds.

Movie Nights through EOY

Vanessa

The best thing to do for future scheduling of these is to plan every one out for the rest of the year. These are a huge hit and we need to keep to them once they are confirmed on Joni's schedule.

Possible dates that Leslie will confirm on Schooldudes – February 16th, March 3/9 or 3/10, April 19, May 19

Upcoming Events

- Cookie Dough Fundraiser 1/25 – 2/8

Vanessa

Vanessa discussed different prize options for selling tubs of cookie dough. PSO agrees that we'd like to offer an incentive to the kids to sell more tubs. Vanessa has talked to a few businesses - Edmonds Movie Theatre, Revelations Yogurt, Lynnwood skate & Bowl and would also like to have pencils as awards.

- Skate Night 1/30

Vanessa

- Staff Appreciation for 4th grade - Liz and Melissa will do this
- Family Dance 2/24

Will have a raffle at the family dance for another fundraising opportunity. Liz to arrange volunteers and we would ideally like someone from 5th to shadow the 6th grade

- Talent Show

Liz

We don't have a date set for this event but Angie Oliver and Erin Ornes are working on this and it looks like it will be May. We will wait to hear what they settle on.