

Meeting assembles at 6:45 – begins at 7:00p.m. Ends at 8:40 p.m.

Sherwood Elementary PSO General Meeting | Sherwood Library - Edmonds, WA

March 23, 2017

Asst. Principal Katie Shook

PE Teacher Pamela Thain

Board Members Leslie Wilke, Co-President; Carrie Hulbert, Co-President; Suzanne Campbell, Secretary; Sarah Lewis, Co-VP of Hospitality; Melissa Johansson, Co-VP of Hospitality Liz Morgan, VP of Volunteers; Kristin Haverlock, VP of Communications; Jessica Allende, Co-Treasurer

Unable to Attend: Jessica Meyer, VP of Family & Community Relations; Diana Gray, Co-Treasurer; Vanessa Knowles, VP of Fundraising; Christi Kessler, Principal

3 Parents in attendance:

Marci Villanueva
Michelle Becker
Joan Emery

=====
Intro to Agenda by Carrie

- 1. **Approval of last general meeting minutes** - all were in favor.
- 2. **Cookie Dough Fundraiser Recess Project**

The cookie dough fundraiser was a huge success and we raised more than anticipated. The PSO indicated at the beginning of the sale that we'd like to put \$2,000 towards a recess project if the sale was successful. We can now proceed with finalizing a plan for this.

Finding ways to enrich the playground has been a discussion for the board the entire year. We'd like to consider a multi-year approach to planning out improvements. We will send out a survey in the future that will incorporate ideas from parents, children and recess teachers. After much discussion, the first step we'd like to do this year is move forward with installing a Gaga ball pit. There has been a lot of interest in Gaga Ball and Mrs. Thain would love to be able to offer this to the children. She is here tonight to discuss a few things she would like the PSO to consider.

Mrs. Thain has a lot of ideas of how to enrich the playground – she'd like to spend roughly \$400 to replenish activity balls, jump ropes, phlat balls, Frisbees, swing hops (swing n go), scored (free to all the 5th graders). She had received funds from the PSO at the beginning of the year but the equipment has since gotten really worn out.

Someone asked if she would be willing to consider used equipment and she said that would be great. We discussed making an announcement soliciting donations of gently used equipment that kids could enjoy on the playground. The board will determine what additional funds we have available.

She would love to see Sherwood install a Gaga Ball Pit. Several schools in the area have a Gaga Ball Pit including Maplewood who got one in June of last year. The 5th graders did a camp on it last year and they loved it.

Break to watch gaga ball demo video.

Mrs. Thain explained the rules and concept to us – Gaga Ball has no throwing involved, up to 25 kids can step into the pit. You may use one hand to hit the ball – if you are hit below the knees you are out. The game goes to 4 kids and then they need to restart and everyone jumps back in. It is for any age. You can make different rules – if the ball hits you waist down vs. knees down. Mrs. Thain wants to be in charge of it for the remainder of this year but would meet with recess teachers and get them up to speed for how to handle it for next year. As an example - Maplewood has a sign in sheet for how they share it (6th grade one day, 5th grade the next)

Pamela is a stickler for following rules. She will be training all the children to play it correctly. If rules aren't being followed the kids are talking about it with the principal and school office.

Next steps - We are required to use a particular Gaga Ball pit (Coach Cliff's model). The district needs to purchase it. We need to have a door and a pad on top of it. We'd ideally like to have some pea gravel and/or woodchips to cover the ground or have the pit slightly raised so the ground isn't too soggy during winter months. The school district's Capital projects team will look and advise on the best place and location for Sherwood and handle the installation. Ideally, it would replace the bleachers on the playground. These bleachers are a problem for the recess teachers and not in good shape.

(The removal of the small play structure is a school district decision and they have not been able to prioritize it financially yet. It's not broken, just too small for its intended purpose.)

Mrs. Thain really appreciates all the support she receives from the Sherwood community particularly for field days (this year June 16th) and outside activities like the recent Silvertips game. She would like to do a Sounders or a Mariner's game in the future.

Pricing for Gaga Ball is going to be \$1700 plus \$500 shipping and more for installation. Christie is still researching what the costs (if any) would be for installation.

3. SBA – Smarter Balanced Assessment – Assistant Principal, Katie Shook

The smarter balanced assessment is the state test that children 3rd – 6th grade will take. This entails one large summative assessment. It also includes smaller interim assessments taken throughout the year.

The Summative is taken in the last 12 weeks of the school year. It is computer adaptive. If someone is doing really well, the test gets harder and the software will adapt the questions for how the student performs. There are two tests – ELA (English language assessment) and a Mathematics application piece.

The Schedule this year will be different. There are studies that show kids do better based on different times of day. ELA will be during the time usually used for the literacy block. The Math component will be during Math time. It takes place over many days and we hope this gives kids more time and will help relieve anxiety. We don't want kids to worry about it – we know this is just one piece of information and we use a lot of pieces to analyze how a child is doing. There are many opportunities to take a break.

Practice test – any parent can go in and see samples of the tests. You can find this on our districts website, there's a smarter balance link – look for practice tests and OSPI page – many avenues to find it on line.

This is the only official state testing aside from Grade 5 also has a science test. The tests are typing tests which is why we focus on their computer skills ahead of time so they can get through this.

The results will not influence the schools funding. We want all to take the assessment, there is an OSPI report card that indicates if we are making growth over time. Sherwood was recognized for this from last year's results.

What you can do as a parent – tell your children to show what you know, it's a part of your learning. Eat well, sleep well, add time for play. Make sure your child is at school during this time. Expect your child to do their best, but do not stress about it.

4. Treasurer's Report

Walkathon and Cookie Dough Sales went well – we still have matching funds coming in from Walkathon. It's the most we've ever raised as far as Jessica has seen in her time as Treasurer. We are over \$32,000 at this point. We will see a few trickle out expenses with some year-end activities.

As discussed earlier, Cookie Dough fundraiser was more than we had budgeted for and that gives us extra money to spend down.

New items we rolled out this year were –

- Monthly water bottle rental for 3 portables (need could go up if we have more portables installed)
- Allotted \$500 for PE recess equipment fund
- Supplies for the 6th grade musical and the 5th grade trip to Olympia
- We streamlined the reimbursement process for Christi and Joni to make decisions and know exactly what funds are left – we give the funds in a lump sum (for all planned activities) ahead of time as a grant to the school district and all expenses are run through with the code attached to this lump sum paid in at the beginning of year. If we have a surplus at the end of the year, amounts leftover will go towards office supplies needed for the school.
- Other things we supported - Teacher discretionary fund, early reader books, literacy assessment kits, assemblies, community service grants, scholarships, miscellaneous grants ex: Mr. Chu's bench, chess club items
- Movie nights and skate nights have paid for themselves – we are currently breaking even and anticipate we will have raised funds by the end of year.

5. Raffle Drawing

6. Join the Board!

Consider joining the board next year! We will have several positions open and the time commitment varies by position – please let us know if you or anyone you know is interested! We would ideally have a few people take on roles tag teaming with existing positions so that they can learn the ropes to carry forward for a few years. All positions have a maximum 2 year term, with the exception of the VP of Fundraising and the Treasurer roles which take more time getting up to speed. The board voted to allow these roles a maximum of 3 years.

Leslie Wilkie - Co-President, **Open** Co-president

Open - Vice President of Communication

Vice President of Fundraising – Vanessa Knowles, **Open** – Co-Vice President of Fundraising

Open - VP of Family & Community Relations (possible nominee)

Vice President of Hospitality – Melissa Johansson

Vice President of Volunteers – Liz Morgan

Treasurer, Jessica Allende, **Open** – Co-Treasurer (possible nominee)

Secretary – Suzanne Campbell

VP of Events – Carrie Hulbert (nominee)

There is also an opportunity to be a committee chair – Movie Night chair, Code Night, Cookie Dough. If you have any interest please reach out to us. There are so many ways to get involved based on your interest.

7. Schoolkidz School Supply Program – Marci Villanueva

We will be doing the school supply pre order program again this year. This is a company that is owned by Staples – that contracts with schools for an easier convenient way for parents to order supplies. It also decreases the amount of supplies teachers have to get on their own. The order process will take place in May/June. It can be just a convenience for parents, or a school fundraiser as it was last year. We raised \$250 for this which was used by Joni on office supplies last year. Pricing on boxes is very comparable to what you'd pay at Target. Marci will distribute flyers to go out to kids. There are wish lists for the school and we can ask Ana Shumway (school counselor) if she has specific requests of what she'd like to buy in excess for children who may need it. The kits come a week before school starts – kids find the boxes at their desks.

8. Box Tops Drive – May 1st – 5th

Bring in box tops in ziplock bags during this week. Bring them in ziplock bags with child's and teacher's name written on it. It is a competition and fundraiser for the school. There will be prizes to top individuals.

9. Upcoming events

4/3 – 4/7 Spring Break
4/18 – 4th Grade Recorder Concert
4/21 – PSO Movie Night
5/1 – 5/5 Box Tops Competition
5/8 – 10 5th Grade Camp
5/17 1st & 2nd Grade Music Concert
5/19 PSO Movie Night
5/25 Orchestra Spring Concert
May – TBD Talent Show
6/1 – PSO General Meeting

10. Thank you to all the volunteers so far this year!

11. **Next PSO meeting** will be in June 1.
12. **Questions?** SherwoodPSO@gmail.com or check out the Sherwood PSO website: www.sherwoodpso.com

Questions asked - How can we get more parents interested in coming to our events?

Do we know how many portables will likely be installed on the grounds next year and do parents have any say in where they are going to be installed? (Katie Shook answered – The school district determines the best location based on costs, fire truck access, etc. They will listen to recommendations from the school administration but they are the ones to make the final determination.)