

Meeting assembles at 6:45 – begins 7:00pm – ends 8:30pm

**Sherwood Elementary PSO General Meeting**  
**Sherwood Library – Edmonds, WA**  
**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

Attendance:

**Principal** Christi Kessler (arrived at 7:30pm)

**Board Members** Suzanne Campbell, Co-President; Carrie Hulbert, VP of Events, Heather Alschuler, Secretary; Vanessa Knowles, VP Fundraising; Liz Morgan, VP Volunteers; Lauren Timpe, VP Communications; Melissa Johansson, VP Hospitality  
*Unable to attend:* Leslie Wilke, Co-President; Jessica Allende, Co-Treasurer; Molly Reeves, Co-Treasurer; Auditor, Diana Gray; Kelly Jain, VP Community Relations; Kelly Oliver, VP Fundraiser; Sarah Lewis, VP Volunteers;

**Parents/Teacher in attendance**

Brooke Morris, Martin Valeri, Patrick Campbell, Vanessa Knowles, Maggie Dean, Arem Zaleharcheiko, Irena Urbaska, Libby LeCompte

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**1. Welcome and intro to Agenda – Suzanne**

**2. Approval of last general meeting minutes – all were in favor**

**3. PSO Board Introductions**

- a. Co-Presidents: Leslie Wilke and Suzanne Campbell
- b. Co-Treasurers: Jessica Allende and Molly Reeves
- c. Auditor – Diana Gray
- d. Secretary – Heather Alschuler
- e. VP Events – Carrie Hulbert
- f. VP Fundraising – Vanessa Knowles and Kelly Oliver
- g. VP Volunteers – Liz Morgan and Sarah Lewis
- h. VP Communications – Lauren Timpe
- i. VP Hospitality – Melissa Johansson
- j. VP Community – Kelly Jain

**4. What is PSO**

We are a Parent Staff Organization. Our contributions effect students directly, we are non-profit 5013c organization and most donations are tax deductible. We are managed by a volunteer board voted in each year. Financial contributions made to the Sherwood PSO benefit Sherwood students. Projects we pay for include;

- Teacher discretionary funds
- Student scholarships
- Assemblies
- Field trip transportation

- Crossing patrol
- Community activities
- Awards
- Other school needs as they arise, voted by the board and the community
- Students/Families in need

Focus on community building

Supporting teachers

Help fund needs within school community

## 5. Mission Vision and Goals

**Mission** – We are committed to making the school a better place to learn; providing enrichment opportunities for all children; building school community; and influencing legislature on behalf of all children.

**Vision** – Our vision is to continue with staff and volunteer appreciation, building community with a focus on streamlining communications with Sherwood families via the PSO website and social media, and encouraging everyone to get involved.

**Goals** – Our goal is to make it possible for everyone in the Sherwood community to contribute, whether it be with time, donations, resources or talents/skills/ideas.

## 6. Volunteer Opportunities 2017/2018

Contact Liz know if you would like to volunteer

- Walkathon* – Chair: Joan Emery - October
- Book Fair* – Chair: Liz Morgan -pushing it to December. Will receive more money by moving to a 'less desirable date'.  
We will have teacher book baskets this year. Each teacher will have a basket of books that they would like for their classroom and parents can gift these books to the teacher. Bookfair will be one week long.
- Bingo night* – Chair: Teresa Kotwis – happens in November
- Craft night* – Chair: Melissa Johansson/Sarah Lewis – will host the same week of the book fair (book fair will be open that night)
- Artist in Residence*– Chair: Needed.  
Mrs. Mint would love to see an Art walk with a piece of art from every student. Potentially could be the lead up to the Edmonds Art Festival.
- Skate night* – Chair: Laura Meyer and Vanessa Knowles.  
Discount advance tickets for a community night out at the Bowl and Skate.
- Family dance* – Chair: Lindsey Knuth
- Cookie Dough* – Chair: Vanessa Knowles and Kelly O
- Talent Show* – Chair: TBD
- Box Tops* – Chair: Jennifer Powell
- Movie Nights* – Approx. once per month. Free community building activity. Donations (packaged snacks) asked to help local charity WA Kids in Transition. Could use more volunteers to help run. Please contact Liz if you are interested in helping.

## 7. Staff appreciation lunches

Monthly lunches to recognize the Sherwood staff. Each grade hosts a lunch. Monthly lineup:

October: 6<sup>th</sup> grade

November: 5<sup>th</sup> grade

*Skip December*

January: 4<sup>th</sup> grade (need a coordinator)

February: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
March: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
April: 1<sup>st</sup> grade  
May: Kindergarten

## **8. Playground Enrichment**

- a. The need to help engage and encourage play during recess has been recognized as a need at Sherwood.
  - i. 2016/17 - Gaga ball court installed this past summer
- b. There is a survey that is out to get feedback from parents and teachers. We need more responses (only 11 parents, 1 teacher have completed it up to this point).
  - i. Preliminary results have soon:
    1. Landscape, art, and mental stimulation were popular additions
    2. Most wanted some type of change
    3. New ideas included:
      - a. Huge Chess
      - b. Obstacle Course
      - c. Watch Dogs
      - d. Swings
      - e. Sand with digging tools
      - f. Soccer goals
      - g. Structured group play

## **9. Thank you Volunteers!**

- a. Thank you Karie Dire – Kindergarten play dates
- b. Melissa Johansson and everyone who brought a dish to share! – Back to School BBQ
- c. Sarah Lewis, Liz Morgan, Melissa Johansson and everyone who brought a treat to share! – Welcome Back Coffee
- d. Nikki Wiley, Jennifer Powell – Hearing Testing  
Thank you! We appreciate you!

## **10. Raffle**

### **11. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sherwood Walkathon**

- a. Walkathon will be on October 13<sup>th</sup>. School walk at 2:30-3:30 and Community walk 5:30-6:30 and free pizza and salad dinner 6:30-7:0.
- b. Sherwood's biggest fundraiser of the year – PSO doesn't set year's budget until after this fundraiser
- c. Students collect donations (flat donations, not based on laps) and bring to school for daily raffle entries. Student receives a water bottle with first donation entry. Daily Raffles 10/9-10/12
- d. Students receive a water bottle when they submit their first donation
- e. All students will receive a tshirt for the event
- f. Awards Assembly for Walkathon will be 10/19
- g. Many prizes and being donated including the Grand Prize of a Great Wolf Lodge package (valued at \$720).
- h. Golden shoe competition – primary and intermediate award for the class with most completed laps. Also awards for individuals who complete the most laps.
- i. Volunteer at the Walkathon

Contact your grade's Walkathon rep:

Kindergarten: OPEN  
1<sup>st</sup> grade: Kelly Oliver  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Kelly Jain  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Kelli Archie  
4<sup>th</sup> grade: Eli Fuller  
5<sup>th</sup> grade: Shealan Arneson  
6<sup>th</sup> grade: OPEN

## 12. Earn for Sherwood All Year

- a. Amazon Smile
- b. Box Tops

## 13. Upcoming events

- a. Early release – Sept 29<sup>th</sup>
- b. Move 60! Begins Oct  
[http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu/programs/move\\_60\\_/move\\_60\\_registration\\_packets/](http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu/programs/move_60_/move_60_registration_packets/)
- c. Square Dancing Week - Sep 18 – 21 (Show from Grades 3&5 Oct 4)
- d. Movie Night - Sept 22 – Rock Dog
- e. Art Wizards begins 9/25 for 10 weeks
- f. Cross Country (K-2) – Tuesdays starting 9/26
- g. Chess Club – Wednesdays starting 9/27
- h. Cross Country (3-6) – Thursdays starting 9/27
- i. Picture Day - Sept 27
- j. Early Release Sept 29
- k. Bricks 4 Kidz – classes begin Oct 5 register at [www.bricks4kidz.com/edmonds](http://www.bricks4kidz.com/edmonds)
- l. Foreign Language Classes – register by 9/30, classes begin week of Oct 16  
<https://www.foreignlanguageforyouth.org/schools/sherwood/>
- m. No school - Oct 20
- n. Parent/Teacher Conferences - Oct 23 – 27 (Early Release)

## 14. Contact information

- Parents should join Sherwood Facebook PSO Group for up to date information
- Website – [www.sherwoodpsa.com](http://www.sherwoodpsa.com)
- Family Director \*\*New contact form. Easy and fast!\*\* link on website  
[www.sherwoodpsa.com/directory/](http://www.sherwoodpsa.com/directory/)
  - Asked about rolling family information from year to year
  - Please send feedback to Liz if you'd like to see changes.
- Questions? [sherwoodpsa@gmail.com](mailto:sherwoodpsa@gmail.com)

## 15. Principal Report – Christi Kessler

Let's talk about behavior at Sherwood

*"Everyone in the classroom has a story that leads to misbehavior or defiance. 9 times out of 10, the story behind the misbehavior won't make you angry. It will break your heart."* – Annette Breaux

You will hear stories about other children misbehaving in the classrooms but children often don't know the whole story about what is going on with the child/family. Let's talk about how we work with children at Sherwood – behavior is communication. Any child struggling has a reason. My hope is to work with students and families to find out what the reason is and help them deal with it effectively.

#### Be Kind, Be Safe, Be a Learner

I want kids to think about guidelines for behavior in a different way from focusing on the rules. The focus is on these 3 principles. Yes, there are consequences for bad behavior but it is not the focus.

#### Behavior; What to keep in mind

- All behavior is communication – all behavior has a purpose. Children typically express emotions in a different way than just discussing it. All kids want to be loved and to be heard (especially when they are pitching a fit)
- Children have ideas about themselves and the world that cause them to act in certain ways (self image begins very young). Important to think about how they are thinking about themselves in the moment.
- Punishment – how did you feel when you were punished when you were younger? How did you feel? Did it make you want to change? What did you think about yourself? We need to ask if there is a reason behind the student not doing something they are 'supposed' to.
- Punishment gets short term compliance, but any change in behavior is most often a result of fear, or shame
- Behavior is the hardest thing to change and we have the least tolerance for this learning process (with ourselves and children!)
- Children today are dealing with a lot of stress, particularly right now. Children pick up on adult stress even if they can't articulate it. Many families are under a great deal of stress and with emotional issues that children carry with them.

#### So, why be kind, be safe and be a learner?

- Our goal is to help students learn to be aware and responsible for their own behavior
- This takes time and lots of room for practice and mistakes
  - This is a learning process, and remember, they are still children! We often forget this in our own impatience!
- We need to teach behavior, just like we teach reading, writing and mathematics. Give/teach them the words to use in certain situations, so they don't just use impulsive behavior.
- We need adults to be good role models – children today see very few models of good problem solving behavior (media and we were not taught this either!)

#### Solutions:

- Even if the perception of your student is that a misbehaving student did not have consequences to their poor behavior, there is 99.9% of the time. There is always more to the story to why the behavior happened in the first place and how it is being responded to and that sometimes takes time.

#### Question – *Recess. Do you think there is a handle on what is happening at recess?*

- % of the time I think we really do. Children don't want to stop and tell adults during recess, but go home and remember in the evening and bring it up for the first time. Talk to your

children and ask if they talked to an adult about the situation at school, and what they told. Often the language kids are using to describe what is happening isn't always accurate to what is really happening. Need to be careful about the inflated language that is often used. However, things should not be minimized either, and the administration wants to know.

- Behavior is appropriate in different situations/places (ie wrestling with siblings vs on the playground with 100 other children)
- If you are worried about something students are talking about at home, email administration (Christi, Katie, Anna) to let them know if it really is a concern.

*Question – Does ESD have a standard discipline policy?*

- The district is in the process of adopting a new discipline policy. Once the School District passes it, it will most likely be sent out.
- This administration will not often suspend a student and send them home, but will suspend and keep them at school for a learning process in the office

*Question – What threshold will the parents be brought in on a situation with a child's poor behavior?*

- Each situation varies depending on the reason behind the behavior.
- Parents aren't always contacted if the problem isn't big enough or a consistent behavior that can be handled just at school and not made into a big concern or situation.
- Level of worry can vary differently between teachers and parents, since teachers see a lot of various situations within their context and parents sometimes don't have others to compare to.

Final notes from Christi:

- It's important to do something to give back to the community
- Modeling behavior and checking in with your children
- I often make decisions about how to handle a situation based on my relationship, knowledge of a child's circumstances and context of the situation
- Many problems can be solved by listening to a child's point of view and acknowledging their feelings

**16. Next PSO meeting** will be in November after the budget is passed.

**17. Questions?** [sherwoodpso@gmail.com](mailto:sherwoodpso@gmail.com) or check out the Sherwood PSO website: [www.sherwoodpso.com](http://www.sherwoodpso.com)