



PTO Special Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 2020
4:00 pm via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance:

Michael Paskin

Anna Stump

Tara King

Anne-Marie Matthews

Shannon Schroeder

Dustin Todd

Elizabeth Wagner

Kelly Milazzo

Matt Genovese

Kim Eubank

Lilia Hine

Cari Menchaca

Kim Kotnik

Kristie Chapman

Judy Linares

Timothy Lee

Shelley Eschelman

Susan Dunton

1. Michael Paskin, President. On the agenda today: Board Consideration for Anna Stump as President and Judy Linares as Vice President of PTO Board for 2020-2021 school year. Recommendation that we consider Anna for president, wait until Judy can be present to vote her in. A motion and a vote will be necessary. Elizabeth Wagner motions to approve Anna Stump as PTO President for 2020-2021 school year. Kim Kotnik seconds. Motion carries unanimously. Remainder of board agrees to wait until Judy can be present to vote her in.
2. Open Discussion
 Michael has spoken to Principal Granger about what can we expect during remote learning in the fall. Teachers will be consulted re: what they will need / expect from PTO. Intervention work is one of the areas that she foresees needing support. May not be something PTO can manage, as it relates to a small portion of the student population. We should have some additional info from Denise / teachers on Friday. Our major focus is going to be financial forecasting / Curriculum Specialist hiring, etc. Six of our seven CS have been assigned to other schools as of this week. Staff has been notified that they shouldn't expect seven CS back in the classrooms. Historically PTO has re-upped with CS immediately upon termination of their contracts, but that couldn't happen this year, due to Covid and funding concerns. Dustin: does this get us "off the hook" for re-hiring same staff? Or could we consider options to use more economical online tutors, or something like that.
 Where can we help provide resources and where are they needed?
 Elizabeth: lots of talk about building "pods" of students learning with retired teachers, etc. Should we consider asking families to include students in need into their pods?
 Shannon: this is not our responsibility as parents or as a PTO. This is the district's responsibility.



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PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Judy Linares joined the meeting. Michael Paskin motions to approve Judy Linares as PTO Vice President for 2020-2021 school year. Anna Stump seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Back to pods: Anna mentioned that this is a valid concern, but since the district has not provided support in this area, it is falling onto parents to set up isolated small groups. We should bring this topic into our PTO retreat. (Majority is comfortable meeting in person, at an outdoor venue where we can socially distance and hammer out several important issues.) Michael indicated that the vast majority of student population at Washington will not have the option to utilize a paid tutor / pod leader / retired teacher. What can we do to close the gap between the “haves” and “have-nots?” How can we be inclusive of ALL students? Shannon reminds us that this is the district’s responsibility to address the inequities. Parents are encouraged to write to the school board. Lilia suggests that even though we likely won’t have CS, we need to invest in reaching out to the families of students who were already behind, now even further. Important for us as a PTO to agree on how we can help to level the playing field. Elizabeth: Is there any funding available to hire someone to do this liaison work? Anna suggested that re-appropriate energy previously used for planning party books, etc. (which likely won’t happen any time soon), to fill the voids with some families....but how do we do that within the construct of maintaining the privacy of students and families. Let’s not let the chasm widen. Tara: we don’t have any financial resources...starting at \$0 this year. Paying Mr. Mack will use up our reserves of \$50k...all that’s left is capital improvement funds. We will have to fundraise if we want a paid liaison position.

Matt: we have no money for CS, no fundraising, so what will it look like if / when we go back full time? Need to recognize both long and short-term problem. Will we have Pride campaign? We need to have it in some form...should be discussed / decided at retreat. Language needs to be careful in light of job loss / furloughs / inability to work / financial hardships, etc. Elizabeth commented that some non-profits have had success with virtual fundraising events: successful yet tasteful. Anna asked if we can meet next week, will send out meeting options, hope for majority participation. Hopefully district will give out more details after tomorrow’s meeting re: distance learning protocols. Anna: if we hit the 14-day mark as described by Gov. Newsom, teachers’ union still could prohibit schools from opening. There needs to be some consistency in remote learning. Kim K: this is a year we’re going to want to advocate for in-person learning as an option at least, default will be 100% remote, indefinitely. Matt: Our job to get kids back to school safely. Need to come up with a budget and a clear message going forward.

We as a board need to be dynamic and ready to act when / if we can fundraise / hire CS.

Email Anna with any agenda items for retreat. Principal and Vice Principal should be included.

Meeting adjourned 5:21pm