



**PTO Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 17, 2020  
6:00 pm via Zoom**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Judy Linares  
Shannon Schroeder  
Kelly Milazzo  
Michael Paskin  
Anne-Marie Matthews  
Elizabeth Wagner  
Lilia Hine  
Cari Menchaca  
Shelley Eschelman  
Susan Dunton  
Kim Eubank  
Timothy Lee  
Kristie Chapman

**Staff Members in Attendance:**

Denise Granger, Principal  
Arielle Curry, Assistant Principal  
Michael Riley, Teacher  
Kaye Cantu, Teacher  
Frida Blum, Spanish Interpreter  
Jesse Aguilar, Spanish Interpreter

**Parents in Attendance:**

Bee Saunders  
Erika Adler  
Lisa Remorenko  
Iliana Orozco  
Austin Rodriguez  
Madison Jaimes  
Marielle Morais  
Flor Moreno  
Amy iPhone  
Brad iPhone  
Carolyn

**Special Guests in Attendance:**

Kim Stanley, COAST Safe Routes to School  
Christine Borgeois, SB Bike Coalition

6:03 interpreters introduced; interpretation instructions given.

Judy called the meeting to order 6:05pm

First order of business – Elizabeth Wagner and Kim Eubank have volunteered to fill the vacant President role as a Co-Presidency. Judy Linares made the motion, Michael Paskin seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Communications Chair position vacated by Elizabeth Wagner, Susan Dunton volunteered. Michael Paskin made the motion to appoint Susan to the position, Anne-Marie Matthews seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Gratitude expressed for everyone willing to shift into vacated positions.

Denise Granger, Principal

General updates: Third and final cohort started on campus last week; total of 35 students supervised by 7 adults. Now that Santa Barbara County is back in the Purple tier, we need to be extra cautions with protocols, and can't add more students/cohorts at this time. We have two new playground supervisors, Ashley and Jessica, and they will stay on when we shift to hybrid learning model.

Finished ELPAC testing of approximately 20 students, and will get results in January.



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Conferences are ongoing this week.

Team of five staff (Denise Granger, Heather McBurnie, Cathy Neushel, Whitney Alegria, Jaclyn Kangold) will begin a training through Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence the week of November 30. Goal is to learn how to best support students emotionally and socially. It is a PK-12 curriculum, so there is a long-term aspect to it. Gratitude to Gillette Hall for sourcing a scholarship for the program through a local donor.

Hybrid planning update: families have chosen their plan for hybrid vs. distance learning. Confirmation letters have been sent with an opportunity to change. Now working on building the groups and schedules. 87% of the 93% responders chose to come back in hybrid. Other 13% chose distance learning. Washington is on the high side within the district for choosing distance learning. School site will receive the data of who / which cohort request after Thanksgiving break. Working to accommodate siblings, special needs, split classes, etc. The week of December 14 parents will get confirmation of students' schedules and teachers. When we return from winter break, we will start small group on-campus orientations. Now that we're back in the purple tier, on December 1 the school board will consider applying for waiver to go back January 19 as planned. Teachers are ready to start working on the physical aspects (desk placement, reconfiguring classroom space, etc.) of getting back on campus.

Q: Do we know percentage of Washington teachers who want to come back?

A: That is still being worked on through District HR.

Q: Any parents want children on campus on opposite days?

A: There has been one with parents at different school; those requests will try to be accommodated.

Q: What if we are told if SBUSD will apply for waiver and some campuses aren't ready yet? Does that slow us all down?

A: If SBUSD applies for waiver, all schools must guarantee that they are adequately prepared. Attestation by facilities department for each campus is part of the application.

Q: What if we apply for waiver, open in hybrid, have some cases then we could be shut down. But without waiver we would not? Is this still true?

A: Not sure, things continue to shift.

Q: Based on hybrid model, are we guaranteed same teacher or could students be reassigned?

A: Still fluid based on ongoing HR processes.

Q: Can elementary schools apply individually for the waiver if approved / submitted by Superintendent Maldonado?

A: At SBUSD, the waiver application process happens only at the district level.

Comment: Schools who have started in-person, waiver or not, can stay open if we are in purple tier.

Mrs. Granger suggested that everyone see FAQ on district website.

<https://sites.google.com/sbunified.org/returntoschool/home-english/frequently-asked-questions>

Judy Linares, Vice President

Masks are finished and look great. They are available for purchase on webstore for \$5 each.



Tara King, Treasurer

Kim Eubank reported on behalf of Tara. PRIDE money came in for funding of Mr. Mack's position. No further expenses now until/unless teachers come back on campus and express needs to Mrs. Granger. Mrs. Granger has started gathering an informal list of needs. Some ideas so far, but need to think through the most efficient way for the PTO to make a broader plan together for the whole school. Village Properties Teachers Funds may be available / reallocated if we don't go back.

Q: Are the needs supplies, cleaning materials? They each had an amount back in the day for such things, but there's no budget for that right now.

A: K. Cantu – District has done a good job providing PPE. Her particular need is for small bins (2 different colors) to be used as cubbies to eliminate cross-contamination. Mrs. Granger added: chargers, walking ropes for little students to keep distanced, air purifiers already been purchased, and HVAC system been well-maintained. Each teacher's needs may be different.

Lilia Hine / Kelly Milazzo, PRIDE final update campaign

Lilia: approx. \$68k that will cover Mr. Mack's position, but possibly not much else at this point. We need a specific update as needs are going to start coming in soon as teachers enter back into the classroom. Need detailed reporting on collections / balances to review at the next meeting. Still have \$50k in reserves, and with PRIDE money left after Mr. Mack contribution, we have a little bit of wiggle room but needs will be forthcoming.

Q: Are we going to be able to hire Curriculum Specialists for hybrid learning?

A: Mrs. Granger is trying to hire one with site funds, but having a hard time finding someone. It is possible that there will be intervention support hired at the district level. Undergrads from UCSB (3) are volunteering for teacher-support, not in quite a student-teacher role, but more as teaching assistants.

Playground supervisor needs: we got 2 to replace the 2 have resigned since the beginning of this school year. For a normal year we are fully staffed, and they are shifting their roles to assist with cohort management. District is trying to hire more for hybrid learning because we will need more help with transitions, moving around campus, etc.

Dustin Todd, IT Chair

Unable to join

Discussion on calendaring PTO Board Meetings: Kim and Elizabeth to schedule the meetings for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Grainger to set up Zoom link with interpretation and send links to Anne-Marie to be included in future agendas, and update Washington School calendar. Anne-Marie to update PTO Google calendar.

Should we have meeting in December? Normally we take December off, but with this year's situation, the more communication the better, as things are changing rapidly. There will likely be much to discuss after SBUSD meeting on December 1.

Kim Eubank, Fundraising

\$450 in wrapping paper sales.



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Idea for family photography school fundraiser. Erika Adler volunteered to help organize that. Can we we make traditional school photos a fundraiser? Maybe but could be detriment to some families. Some schools have facilitated school photos remotely; school photos are a tradition shouldn't be missed.

Idea for a special project to create a mosaic banner with Washington logo, and compiling parent photos of all the students during remote learning. Even though we're apart we're still together.

We should organize some sort of welcome back interface for when students come back...Erika is happy to facilitate cardboard cutouts, or something of that nature.

A few people have bought bricks but they aren't up...can that happen before we're back in January? Some bricks have fallen off? Brick company charges a lot if the order is small, so individual bricks aren't getting produced. Production is quick though. Three pending orders currently, but cost to make 3 is great. Brick campaign was (intentionally) not pushed too hard recently, so orders are slow to come in.

Mrs. Granger commented that families are curious about the new gate being put in at the parking lot entrance. It is being installed in order to minimize traffic on campus during Covid and when school is not in session. Parking lot will be blocked during non-school hours. Installation to happen during Thanksgiving break.

Kim Stanley (COAST Safe Routes to School) and Christine Borgeois (SB Bike Coalition)

Kim Stanley: Walk and Bike to school have been really fun! SBUSD has shared some maps of student neighborhoods that will allow her organization to make safe routes to walk/bike to school, to encourage other options besides driving.

Christine Borgeois: Trying to build community in a safe way while kids are missing the social aspect of school.

Biking / walking are the new PE, as PE won't be available at school. Goal is to help parents realize it is often faster to walk than drive. Encourages bike trains (groups of students from same area biking together, with an parent leader as necessary). Next step is to get parent feedback on the routes. Julie Hewitt is our school contact. PTO/school staff/everyone can help make this an exciting and fun habit-forming activity for the long-term.

Q: Can things like bike trains be done during Covid with special health-checks, as well as different drop locations?

A: The hope is for parents to be with their child at drop-off, but parent who is chaperoning a bike train could be added to emergency contacts in Aeries so that parent could escort any sick child back home. Drop-off location will not be planned by grade level, but rather by how people are getting to school, and family choice.

Q: What about helmets? Haven't they done low-cost helmet distribution in the past?

A: Yes! Thursday they will be on State St. selling helmets and bike lights. COAST / SB Bike / BiciCentro has everything too. They are happy to help families who have bikes needing maintenance.

Request for update on CIMI

Anne-Marie informed board that the date for the deposit has passed, and we no longer have a secure date for 2021. We will try for a 2022 date so that the current 5<sup>th</sup> grade class



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would go in 6<sup>th</sup> grade instead, and the change would continue moving forward. Concern that the district may no longer allow overnight trips and the deposit is non-refundable. Mr. Riley commented that LCAP funding requires equity across schools. District has to agree that we can go only if all schools can go. Washington's trips to CIMI have always been self-funded, through fundraising and parent-paid tuition, and has always included scholarships where needed. How the trip is funded / whether students go or not is part of the broader conversation.

A loan of approximately \$2400 from the PTO would be needed in order to pay the deposit and secure a date for 2022. Comments that it is worth the risk of losing the deposit (in the event that district won't allow us to go) because the educational opportunity is so important. Also comments to the opposite: while it may be a small percentage of our annual budget, we need to be careful how we allocate funds.

CIMI was a non-agenda item so board needs to be given time to consider, and re-visit at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, December 16, 2020, via Zoom.