

## **PTSA General Meeting**

**January 19, 2021**

**Attendees:** Lily St. Leger, Alyssa Hays, Patricia Milillo, Meg Gayman, Mary McDaniel, Mariana Zantop, Marisa Coluccio, Sharon Hamill, Megan Hochstatter, Amanda Bagsby, Jamie Prins, Tre Matthews, Genet Omar, Trina, Isabella Hashimoto, Nathan Hoerschelmann

### **Review of PTSA P.A.T.H. Agreement**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Principal's Report and Questions – Mary McDaniel**

- Results of District's In-Person Learning Survey for K-1<sup>st</sup> graders: 23 opted to continue remote learning; 10 opted for in-person learning (5 K and 5 1<sup>st</sup>); 24 families did not respond.
- Mary will have to personally contact all families that did not respond.
- Parents can change their mind at any time.
- Next step will be at the direction of the District. Planning Meeting will take place next week.
- Madrona will move forward with in-person learning for those 10 families starting March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Each class will have its own classroom. Class sizes must be less than 15.
- Will have a developmental preschool student starting this week.
- All teachers have received training on safety measures and will be wearing PPE.
- Staff is working on figuring out lunch and recess to comply with state guidelines.
- No information is available for grades 2-5<sup>th</sup> grade at this time.

### **Questions Regarding Back in Person**

Lily asked whether in-person teachers will be different from remote learning teachers.

- Students coming in to school are not guaranteed to have the same teacher they have for remote learning. The Teachers Union is still not in support of teachers returning to in-person teaching. Mary may not ask a teacher whether they are willing to come into the school, and cannot ask a teacher to come into the school. The Union has to initiate this discussion.

Patricia asked whether it would be possible to do weekly outdoor story time for a small group of students.

- The District, in collaboration with the Union, would have to make a decision to do outdoor learning. Mary suggested outdoor learning to her supervisor in March and was denied. Barriers include hardship for parents who have to work, students who are logging in from other parts of the country, teachers who don't feel safe doing in-person teaching, and the difficulty of maintaining social distance with younger students.

Megan asked whether students that stay remote could also have a different teacher.

- Students that stay in remote learning will have their same teachers.

Lily noted that many families are not responding to the survey because they don't have enough information about what in-person learning might look like.

- Principals don't have all the answers either.

Meg Gayman asked whether the return to school is contingent on what phase we're in.

- Nothing has been mentioned about Phase I or II. Teachers are on schedule to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations in February.

Meg noted that there is a process by which teachers can submit proposals to principals. Only 4 proposals were submitted by teachers in the last round. Could parents team up with teachers to help them move a small idea such as Patricia's forward?

- None of the teachers had been interested in completing the paperwork. Perhaps they would be interested if they knew parents would help them.

#### **FRC Update – Sharon (Co-Chair)**

- Grab & Go Pantry in the library every Friday 11am-2pm and 3pm-6pm.
- No more than 6 people in the library (including one staff person and two volunteers) and time limit of 10 minutes per family due to Covid precautions.
- \$25 gift cards, food and hygiene items available to all families with students at Madrona.
- Holiday fundraising initiative raised \$17,000, enough to fund the FRC through mid-February.
- Working with Nebiat, Madrona's Family Support Worker, to create systems to support families.
- Moving forward, we have to address how we can make the FRC sustainable.
- Planning a Zoom meeting to pull volunteers together to strategize about how to address corporate sponsorship, item donation (especially hygiene and household items), etc.

#### **Treasurer Update Regarding Funding Options - Marisa**

Lily asked how much money we need to run the FRC every month. The PTSA is critical to the functioning and funding of the FRC. What can we do as a community to support the FRC?

- The FRC serves 40-50 families every week with \$25 grocery cards (\$1,250/week); household supplies (\$300/week); and diapers (\$800/week), averaging out to around \$2,000 per week .
- Fresh fruits and veggies and non-perishables are all donated.
- The FRC has received \$48,000 in donations since July, including the \$17,000 holiday push.
- Expenditures over the past 6 months have totaled \$37,000, for a remaining budget of \$11,000.
- This will cover about 5 weeks of expenses.
- Thinking of holding a fundraising march to celebrate our achievements and raise money.

Lily asked whether there is money in our annual PTSA budget that can be redirected towards the FRC. Can we vote to move money that will not be used at this time towards the FRC?

- The PTSA budget was \$89,000 for the year. Total revenue for the general fund is \$36,500.
- The PTSA currently has money in the bank that could be reallocated.

Lily stated that we could focus on supporting families now, even if it's at the expense of future programming. There is no reason not to continue fundraising, even though there is money in the PTSA budget that could be reallocated. Let's fundraise as much as we can, and then reallocate as needed.

Alyssa noted that the mechanism for tapping into the PTSA emergency funds is a majority vote in a general PTSA meeting.

Sharon reminded us that the FRC is still looking for jackets, raincoats, boots, hats, and gloves.

Thank you to Sharon for her hard work and love creating this community space where people can access resources and support!

#### **Nominating Committee – Alyssa**

- The PTSA is required to have a nominating committee (NC) made up of non-executive board members. Meg Gayman has agreed to be a member of this committee. We need more people!
- The job of the NC is to find people who want to be a part of the leadership board.
- The PTSA will have openings for vice-president and secretary coming up next year.

#### **Multicultural Night (MCN) – Alyssa**

- MCN traditionally takes place in November, but was delayed due to conflicting demands.
- MCN involves a huge potluck, musical performances, fashion show, dance party, and art exhibit.
- PTSA needs an idea team and a leader to plan the event. The leader's job is to organize the effort, not to do all the work.
- Megan, Sharon, Isabella, Nathan and Amanda offered to be part of the idea team.
  - Alyssa will put a brainstorming meeting together.

#### **Building Leadership Team (BLT) Update – Nathan**

- BLT is made up of parents, teachers and administrative staff.
- The focus is to develop a racial equity team.
- The objective is to create a platform for parents and members of the community to have dialogues and build understanding of one another.
- While the idea of a Racial Equity Team comes from the District, it hasn't provided any leadership, so Madrona is moving ahead without District guidance.
- Nathan will organize a meeting this week with people interested in becoming involved.
- The meeting facilitator is yet to be determined.
- If anyone is interested in being involved, reach out to Nathan, Mary or Alyssa.

Lily stated that having parents of color on this committee is essential. There is a space for their voices to make an impact at the school. She also reiterated that the team does not have to include only families at Madrona Elementary, and encouraged everyone to reach out to their friends.

Alyssa stated that this group will have the support of the PTSA.

Amanda suggested we push the BLT meeting at the FRC, as well as partner with Launch families who might not use the FRC.

- Lily will put together a flyer about the racial equity team.

Meg asked for a talking point to engage people at the FRC.

Nathan suggested: “Are you interested in having meaningful dialogue about race to better our school and our community? We are part of one of the most diverse schools in Seattle. We have a racial equity team here, but it cannot be made up only of white people. More voices are essential. We’re committed to building community, but to be a community we need to know each other and understand each other. To grow we have to have hard conversations”.

Nathan gave the example of sharing his perspective that “we need to get children of color into the school to narrow the achievement gap.” Mary’s perspective, on the other hand, is “what are kids going to think if there are no white kids back in the school?” We need to have sincere dialogue and mutual understanding in a safe environment.

Sharon asked what level of commitment is expected of people who are interested in participating.

- We don’t know yet. Start small and expand from there. Become a part of something that is going to help shape what it might become.

Meg asked whether there would be translation services available. Are Nebiat and Kendra part of the team that is recruiting folks? They have access to a lot of voices in the community.

- Sharon has standing meeting with Nebiat and Kendra on Wednesday. She can share this information with them.

### **Miscellaneous**

- There will be another school supply pick-up session this Friday. Parents are also volunteering to do drop offs for parents who can’t come to the school.
- Pop and Paint, a create community event, will take place from 2:00pm-3:00pm next Wednesday. More information is in the packets.
  - Amanda will pass this information along to Launch so that the kids there can participate.
- Ms. Bennett had a baby recently. The PTSA had a motion to put \$40 from the budget towards a gift for Ms. Bennett. The motion carries.
  - Marisa will try to find a little panther onesie.