

## PTSA Meeting December 16, 2020

**Attendees:** Sarah Kent, Mariana Zantop, Sharon Hamill, Meg Viera, Meg Gayman, Katey Ricker, Michele Andrasik, Tashia Horton, Vyanessa Stephan, Mary McDaniel, Alyssa Hays

### **Welcome – Alyssa Hays**

Introductions

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

#### Chat and Chew

- Principal McDaniel will chat and eat lunch with students, starting with K-1 on Monday and ending with 5<sup>th</sup> on Friday. At 12:00pm the class will switch to recess. Recess ends at 12:20pm.
- Attendance is optional.
- There will be chat themes for younger kids.
- During recess students can join Free Choice with Ms. Pleasant, Move and Dance with Mr. Mark, or Game Room with Ms. Tammy.
- The school got input from students on what they'd like to do.

#### SPA Interim Assessments (IA)

- Required by Washington State for all 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> students.
- SPA IA is to help guide and support learning.
- Very different from SBA Summative Assessments (high stakes, end of year test).
- Calling it "Interim Assessment," not SBA, because of the negative connotation of the SBA.
- Not planning to administer Summative Assessments this year.
- The interim reading, math and writing assessments will help teachers develop small groups for targeted interventions based on student mastery of the skills.
- The IA is online. This will create tech challenges for some. The school is also aware that some students will receive adult support during the assessment.

#### Discussion

Alyssa noted that there has been a lot of pushback against the IA. The Seattle PTSA took a stand against them. She asked whether the students will be able to ask for help if they get stuck.

- Mary said that the teachers at Madrona all agreed to administer the test. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will do the IA in January. Levy schools need data to support instructional practice and student growth.

Meg Viera is a fan of the assessments. She said she was interested in seeing the results of the IA and asked whether they would be available to parents.

- Mary said that parents can ask teachers to see their child's IA results. Teachers use the information over time as part of progress reports.

Sarah noted that opposition seems to skew towards middle and high school. Why is this? It didn't seem like a big deal for her third grader.

- Mary was not sure why there is greater opposition in the higher grades. What is different is that it is now online. Teachers constantly evaluate kids throughout the school day. Some people don't feel that assessment will work well online because of tech issues and the limitations of the learning environment. Mary wants to limit the learning gap when students come back to school. The school needs to know which kids need intervention. For those who are excelling, she wants them to continue their growth. Mary will go to some students' homes to do in-person assessments for kids who cannot do the assessment online. Mary does not support the Summative Assessment.

Sharon thanked Mary for her clarity. She noted that there was not a lot of preparation for the IA. The test happened before parents really knew about it, but the students didn't seem very stressed about it.

- Mary said a letter went out to parents about the SBA. The school tries not to make a big deal of it so people won't get stressed. Ms. Bea asked students how they felt about taking the test online. Some students sailed through, some found it hard. Some were stressed, some weren't. She recognizes that online learning is a very challenging experience and is trying to keep it positive. SBA assessments may not continue in the future.
- Mary noted that the school wants the best for the students and their families and thanked the PTSA for all of its hard work.

Katey asked whether school pictures will be done this year.

- Mary said it was not in the plans, but she will look into it.

Vyanessa commented on the student assignment volume. While the teachers expect the third graders to be able to work independently, this is not the reality. Will there be another survey about the amount of work being given? Parents need the opportunity to give feedback. How much control do teachers have over this?

- Mary said that a survey is not being planned at the District level, but that Madrona could create a school-level survey. There are some expectations from the District and the Union that the school has to abide by. She will check in with teachers about the number of assignments.

Sarah asked whether parents are going to have chance to meet with incoming Third Grade substitute Ms. Anderson.

- Mary said the school will have a meet and greet for parents to meet her.

Michele asked if there are any updates on returning to schools.

- Mary has been informed that they are considering a return to school in March for K-1. K-2 will be discussed tomorrow. SEA (Union) will have to approve the final decision.

Alyssa said there are links in the PDF with updates on a special board meeting on reopening schools.

### **FRC Giving Wreath – Sarah Kent**

- The virtual FRC Giving Wreath had a goal of \$10,000 and reached \$17,000 instead.
- Windermere's donation of approximately \$3000 was not included in the \$17,000 total.
- About half the student population (120 kids from 95 families) signed up for holiday assistance.
- Each family will receive a \$50 grocery card and \$75 per student to buy gifts or whatever is needed. Extra money will go towards the FRC in January and beyond.
- The FRC has distributed 2000 sets of groceries since March 2020, \$30,000 in gift/grocery cards, thousands of face masks and bottles of hand sanitizer.
- Partners/donors include Farmer Frog Farm (USDA partner with EW Food Rescue), Splash Fabric, Fair Start meals, Rainier Valley Food Bank, Green Plate Special, and Little Free Pantries.
- SPS holiday meal box pick-up will take place on December 21<sup>st</sup> of December at World School.
- Meg Gayman noted that daily lunch pick up has weekend bags as well.
- Meg Viera expressed her thanks to Sarah and Sharon for all of their hard work.
- Katey asked whether help was needed.
- Sarah said they were expecting 50 families to come by on Friday, but due to limitations on the number of people allowed in the library at a time volunteer slots will be limited. She will reach out if help is needed.
- The volunteer page is not updated beyond December. Since the FRC is spending about \$1000/week, it is possible that the Grab and Go will transition to once a week in the New Year.

### **Tech Grant Update-Alyssa Hays**

- Robert Wilson from Ace Hardware donated \$30,000 to help bridge the technology gap.
- A survey was sent to teachers to determine needs.
- Items will be purchased and distributed to teachers over break.
- Items requested include headphones and microphones for teachers and students, help with internet connection bills for families, second monitors for teachers, and help with extra expenses that teachers are incurring because they are reaching their data caps.

### **Staff Appreciation Update – Sarah (on behalf of Marisa Coluccio and Chris Tschirgi)**

- At the beginning of the school year a survey went out to teachers and staff to determine preferences.
- A plan was developed for procurement and distribution. Staff received \$5 coffee cards in October, treats in November for pre-k-1, treats in December for 2-5<sup>th</sup>, coffee cards in January, etc. Some were delivered to people's homes, others were delivered at school.
- Katey asked how students can get cards to teachers.

- Sarah said they can be sent to the school, keeping in mind that school will be closed for two weeks. Sarah can let you know what an individual teacher likes.

## **PTSA and SPS Updates**

### Feed Co. Fundraiser - Meg Viera

- On Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3-8pm, a percentage of the proceeds from orders placed at Feed Co. will go towards the PTSA.
- No delivery. Reference the fundraiser.
- Sam posted it on social media. Meg will repost on Madrona Moms.

### Membership Drive – Alyssa Hays

- The PTSA will do a membership drive starting in January.
- In the past, any school parent was considered a part of the PTSA. Now, the PTSA wants to make sure people feel included. We want everyone to have a voice and a vote.
- Alyssa will be rolling out a membership form (Megan Hochstatter put this together).
- A membership button will be added to the PTSA website.
- The WA PTA membership deadline was Halloween. We met our goal of 25 paying members.
- The WA PTA requires that non-executive team members be involved in the nomination committee. Need to reach out and find people interested in leadership positions and bring them before the current board. Anyone interested in being part of this committee?

Note: The PTSA is looking for people to join the virtual Multicultural Night planning committee.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Role Out – Michele Andrasik**

The FDA has approved emergency use authorization of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine uses messenger RNA (as does Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine). Michele is pretty sure Moderna's vaccine will receive emergency use authorization as well. MRNA gives the body the recipe to start creating a molecule that will recognize the spike protein that COVID-19 uses to attach itself to our immune cells. Both vaccines have side effects in 10% of people who get them. For people who have a history of anaphylaxis or reactions to other vaccines, it is recommended that you wait for one of the other vaccines still in development. The most common side effects from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are headaches and fever. Tylenol helps and is not contraindicated.

The greatest concern now is the 4 month period of vaccine scarcity. The US expects to have 40 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine available in December, another 30-40 million in January, and another 60 million in March/April. The US government just bought another 100 million doses from Moderna, but we do not know yet when it will be delivered. Frontline workers in hospitals will be the first to receive them. After that, congregate living facilities, then people with preexisting conditions, especially heart and lung conditions, diabetes, and people at greatest risk of death. Each state, territory and the District of Columbia are responsible for their own response. Michele is part of Durkins Vaccine Allocation Task

Force, which is working to make sure the vaccine distribution is done through a social justice lens here in WA. Michele is not sure what category teachers fall into, but they will not be targeted in Phase 1a (health workers and nursing homes) or Phase 1b (people with chronic conditions).

Michele has a cheat sheet that her team is putting together for people who are nervous about receiving the vaccine. Both Pfizer and Moderna have made their data publicly available, but the documents are very long. Michele's cheat sheet breaks it down in a way that is easier to understand. Many people with comorbidities were included in the studies. Pfizer has listed all adverse events; Moderna has not. Incidences of lymphadenopathy, appendicitis, and Bell's palsy (facial paralysis) are very rare. The benefits greatly outweigh the risks, but we need to know the risks. We don't yet know if vaccines work in people who are immunosuppressed, children, or pregnant and lactating women. Three people on the FDA panel voted against emergency authorization and one abstained because children under 18 were included in the group authorized to receive the vaccine. It is not yet known whether the vaccines will protect against side effects of COVID-19 such as damage to organs, etc. It will take another 2 years before these vaccines are officially licensed. Michele is recommending that people who are immunocompromised not take vaccine.

Pediatric trials will be starting in January, with 3,000 participants in each trial. Pfizer had almost 44,000 adult trial participants. Scientists are awaiting approval from the FDA for studies planned in 44 colleges across U.S. to observe trends in infectivity and transmission among college students.

For more information, go to the [PreventCOVID.org](https://www.PreventCOVID.org) FAQs and myths and facts page.

This information is also available in video format in English, Spanish and Portuguese so people can watch and not have to read.

**Please see the attached document, which includes the following information:**

Dates to Remember

Recent Madrona PTSA Blogs

Seattle Public School News

SBA Testing News

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12/17 7pm Seattle Council PTSA hosts a [Community Meeting about Student Abuse](#)
- 12/17 4pm Seattle Public School Special Board Meeting: Reopening Resolution, Plan, and Remote Learning Model meeting- [LIVE YouTube Streaming link](#) and [agenda](#)
- 12/18 [Feed and Co Fundraiser](#) – place your order online or call and mention Madrona PTSA. 20% of sales this day go to the PTSA
- 12/18 one-hour early release for Winter break
- 12/21 – 1/1 Winter Break

## RECENT MADRONA PTSA BLOGS

In case you missed them, here are links to blog posts:

- [Technology Grant update](#)
- [Grief Counseling and Mental Health resources](#)
- [Covid-19 Vaccine availability updates](#)

Have something you'd like to share with the community or would like more information about? Email [ptsa@madronapta.org](mailto:ptsa@madronapta.org)

## SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

### [SPS Policy No 0040 - Anti-Racism](#)

The above policy is under consideration for adoption by the school board.

Superintendent Denise Juneau announced that she will not seek to have her contract extended.

## SBA TESTING NEWS

Testing concerns – After hearing concerns from parents and teachers, the Seattle Council PTSA issued the following statement on 12/14 about SBA testing: [Statement of Opposition to SBA Interim Assessments](#)

These issues were raised frequently during the Town Hall meetings hosted by the SCPTSA with the different school board members.

Yesterday in response, SPS Superintendent Juneau issued the following statement to staff and building leaders:

*I've heard the concerns of our educators, students, and community regarding district-wide assessments during remote learning, i.e. using the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Interims. In response, I am asking the Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction department to suspend the required implementation of the Smarter Balanced Interims. I have also asked that the district's assessment committee, comprised of educators, building administrators, and district-level assessment experts reconvene in early 2021 to determine how SPS will measure student growth during remote learning. Additionally, I have asked that the assessment committee convene families and students to seek their input.*

*This was a challenging decision, because some families also want to know how their students are doing academically and many in our community want to know how our district is performing overall. Knowing where our students are doing well and where we need to develop interventions and provide support is important. I am certain that the assessment committee will determine a strong, student-centered path forward.*

*Schools that want to administer the SBA Interims can continue to do so. In the meantime, leaders and teachers should refer to the assessment frameworks for available assessment options for math and English Language Arts. For more information, please contact the CAI Department at [caiprogrammanagers@seattleschools.org](mailto:caiprogrammanagers@seattleschools.org)*