



Final General Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Welcome

PTO president, Jennifer Seltz, started the meeting by introducing the board members. Each person in the room also introduced themselves. Approximately 27 people were in attendance. Nic Castona, Physical Education Teacher at Parkview, introduced himself. He has been at Parkview for 7 years.

The board members this year are:

- President: Jennifer Seltz
- Treasurer: Margo Gillaspay
- Secretary: Alison Schepper
- VP Fundraising: Justine Waymire
- VP Enrichment: Jessyca Arthur-Cameselle
- VP Communication: Gina Gobo Austin
- VP Community Engagement : Emily Frazier

Jennifer summarized the role of the PTO, which includes supporting the school and community building, among other things. A big part of the PTO is fundraising to enhance the school experience for all students. PTO fundraising events generate around \$40,000 to support programs such as the Mt Baker Theater field trip, Whole Child, 4th grade Salish Sea trip, Science on Wheels, and social events such as the end-of-year BBQ and school carnival. Jennifer also mentioned that PTO events and volunteer opportunities are dynamic; We're always open to new ideas or new ways of doing things.

Gina Austin, VP of Communications, talked about her role in the PTO including developing the Student Directory, moderating Facebook, sending informational emails, managing the PTO website, and distributing the Panda Press newsletter.

Justine, VP of Fundraising, talked about the upcoming Jogathon event on October 4th, Family Fun Night and Auction in March, Panda Wear, SCRIP, and Box Tops. SCRIP includes purchasing pre-paid gift cards from the PTO. These cards are used just like cash at many local retailers and grocers – there is no loss in face value. 4%-10% of SCRIP purchases is donated back to the PTO by local businesses. This money helps fund school events, field trips, and other funding needs at the school.

Volunteer opportunities

Jessyca Arthur-Cameselle, VP of Enrichment, talked about opportunities to help at Parkview. Some of the big needs include caring for and, eventually, preparing to move the school garden, Other volunteering needs include helping with Art Walk, Science Fair, and Science on Wheels. Packing up and moving the garden will be a big task that needs many hands. Some items need to be prepped for storage. Hannah Mead with Common Threads will help coordinate the move.

Jennifer Seltz requested a volunteer, or two, to attend the Bellingham School District Parent Advisory Committee. Meetings are held once a month on Thursdays at 930 AM. These meetings provide a forum for feedback to the central administration and superintendent. Attendees learn all about the school administration and can hear from others throughout the district. Having two parent volunteers from Parkview would allow each person to trade off on attending meetings.

Volunteers are also needed for the Parkview yearbook. Tasks include sharing pictures and learning the logistics of organizing and publishing the yearbook.

Our teach appreciation lead, Jeannette Short, also needs help with teacher celebration lunches, which typically occur 3 to 4 times a year.

The PTO and event leaders typically use Signup Genius to coordinate volunteers. Links to volunteer signups will be emailed and also posted on Facebook. Most school events occur during the evenings and tentative dates for all events are currently posted on the PTO website. PTO emails will go out to all families after the school directory is complete, which should occur the last week of September.

Gina encouraged everyone to email contact@parkviewpto.org if they are able to help with any task, big or small.

Equity

Jennifer noted that Parkview is typically a high-dollar fundraising school, compared to others in the district. Some schools are not able to fund field trips and community events. The Bellingham Public Schools Foundation launched a pilot project in which 10 of the 14 schools are participating. This pilot project includes contributions from each school that are redistributed to all schools based on a formula using the percent of students receiving free or reduced lunch. For Parkview, this means a contribution of approximately \$1,500, which shouldn't impact the overall PTO budget. This program is intended to build a broader sense of community across all schools and provide equal access to all opportunities for enrichment. A group of school and community members attends the Foundation meetings and is responsible for the redistribution.

Update from the principal

Principal Mylo Allen introduced himself and encouraged everyone to reach out to office staff with questions or concerns. The office has an open-door policy and is willing to help. Principal Allen has been at Parkview for 6 years and has worked in the district for 10 years. He started at Cordata Elementary School and taught at Northern Heights Elementary. Principal Allen is from Bellingham and went to school here.

Principal Allen stated that there are currently 345 students at Parkview. The school currently has 3 teachers per grade K, 1st and 2nd. New school construction at Parkview should start in the Spring and is about a year behind the original schedule. Part of the school open field area is located on City of Bellingham property and discussions about how the property could be used helped form decisions on the new school site plan. All students will attend school on site during construction. The new school will be constructed next to the old building, then the old building will be demolished. The new school should be open by the Fall of 2021. At that time, the school should expand to 3 teachers per grade level. More information about the new school is available on the district website and design information is also available at the front office. Cindy Scott, current Parkview Parent, and Nic Castona, Physical Education Teacher, were on the design committee.

Principal Allen also talked about the Social and Emotional Learning curriculum at Parkview. Parkview students are currently in the 2nd year of this program. Some components of the program include starting the school day with an all-class meeting. Other parts of the program include discussions on bullying, teasing, and how to work out conflicts with friends.

Principal Allen provided details on how Parkview is using technology to enhance learning and how technology in the schools is fostering collaboration. He stated that the digital environment ramps up in middle school and high school. Technology in the schools is funded by the technology levy.

Principal Allen encouraged families to get involved in PTO and in the classrooms. There are numerous volunteering opportunities and attending PTO meetings is a great way to start.

Upcoming events

Jennifer Seltz summarized upcoming events at Parkview, which include Jogathon on October 4 and the next PTO general meeting on October 15th.

Meeting adjourned.