

PTSA MEETING MINUTES

Bryant Elementary PTSA

March 9th, 2021

Time	Item	Owner
7:00	<p>Welcome & Approve October Minutes</p> <p>Minutes from October 2020 general meeting approved, although a link needs to be updated.</p>	Ann Sonnen/ Ash Ganapathiraju
7:10	<p>LASER Update</p> <p>We are planning to be open for after school care when the school reopens, as well as we will continue to be open for remote learning care.</p> <p>Summer camp will be run again this summer, COVID style. Camps will be available all summer.</p>	LASER Leadership
7:15	<p>Principal's Report</p> <p>Preliminary budget update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All elementary schools are facing some impact and reductions• Proposed reductions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Assistant principal position reduced from 1.0 to .5○ Librarian funded at .5, which is typical, but we usually we are able to add .5 back. Not sure this year.○ Teachers reduced from 25 to 22 (however, one teacher will be remaining on maternity leave)○ Special education reduced from 1.5 to 1 (although numbers are adjusted in the fall);○ Music (.5), Arts (1), PE (2) reduced by .5.• Projection of 486 students, which is significantly lower than historical numbers	Charmaine Marshall

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These numbers are based on remote instruction. This is legally required because the union has not voted to return to in person instruction. • Staff will be voting on the classroom staffing scenarios based on the estimated number of positions. 	
7:25	<p>General Forum</p> <p>This is an opportunity to discuss general topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of frustration around the lack of movement and transparency from the district. Encourage parents to enroll for the fall, which puts pressure on the district to support school. • Q: Why are we adhering to establishing these numbers now when the reality is we don't know what the fall will look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A: Teacher contracts are done in May, so this process has to start now to keep that window. • The current process for allocating funding based on current tiers is particularly problematic during the pandemic, where fund raising is reduced 	Ash Ganapathiraju
7:35	<p>Enrollment Stabilization</p> <p>This is about keeping teachers in the building. Enrollment fluctuations (which happen every year) result in changes to our staffing. This means every year we have to determine again staffing, which creates a lot of churn in our community. Our number 1 advocacy goal right now is to advocate for more funding. There are two places where we are seeing reductions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enrollment stabilization (Bill 1476) 2. Transportation (yellow buses and Orca cards). <p>Both bills have passed house of origin. But they have amendments that require schools to provide some kind of in person education (minimum 40 hrs per month). We should like to discuss, amend, and approve a letter. Discussion was around removing the suggestions to fund with capital gains tax. Motion was made to remove this language from the letter; there were 4 nays and the remainder eyes. Motion to approve the letter as revised passed.</p>	Sam Fogg

Here is the full text of the approved letter:

Dear Legislators, Representative Ormsby, Senator Rolfes, Senator Wilson, and Senator Frockt,

Bryant Elementary PTSA, located in the Ravenna neighborhood of Seattle, is a PTSA with a current paid membership of 122 (2019-2020 year we had 311 paid members) who advocates on behalf of the families of 507 students (2019-2020 we advocated on behalf of 583 students). We held a vote of our General Membership on March 9, 2021 to approve this letter.

We ask that you fully address enrollment stabilization in the budget without relying on ESSR 1 or 2 funds, as those that are meant to address learning loss. We ask that you pass HB1476 which provides levy stabilization and includes language around intent to address enrollment stabilization in the budget.

Current enrollment projections mean that Bryant Elementary will be losing three teachers. This means that we'll be losing 1.5 FTE additional staff. At the same time, we have heard from multiple community members that they intend to return when we are safely able to be in person - even if that is mid-year. This means that our school will likely lose positions, only to have them added back when these families return. We know from previous experience, that this means that we lose a person who knows our students and their parents, who is an integral part of our school's professional learning communities, and, often, when the position is restored, we do not get back the same person.

It takes time for a new teacher to build relationships and trust, both with families and also with their professional learning community. At this moment in time, with all the various ways in which our children are being bombarded with trauma, we need to look for ways to minimize disruption. Our school does not have a counselor, a family support worker, or a full-time nurse. What we have are excellent teachers and staff who have established relationships with many of our families and are working every day to support social emotional learning in the classroom, our principal and administration who are firmly rooted in our community, our PTSA volunteers and parents

	<p>supporting remote learning.</p> <p>This is a temporary situation born of an emergency. We need to maintain consistent systems to support our families. Disrupting the staffing of public schools is the wrong answer for a successful return to in-person learning for Washington's kids.</p> <p>Further, our teachers and staff need to maintain their jobs. There is a benefit to our economy to keep these people employed and to avoid the very real costs of hiring and firing people.</p> <p>We had no choice about entering the pandemic, but we do have a choice about how we come out of it.</p> <p>Will you commit to supporting and advocating for enrollment stabilization that does not rely on districts using federal funds? Seattle public schools used all of their ESSR 1 money by the beginning of October, and the ESSR 2 money is supposed to be to address learning loss and other expenses directly related to COVID.</p> <p>Bryant PTSA ptsaxec@bryantschool.org 3311 NE 60th Street Seattle 98115</p>	
7:25	<p>Advocacy Update</p> <p>Several bill to advocate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Bill 1139: To text and fix lead in school drinking water. • Senate Bill 5038: Ban weapons from Capitol campus in Olympia. 	Sam Fogg & Adele Kulisewa
7:35	<p>In-person learning advocacy</p> <p>Would like to start a group to push SPS, local and state government to reopen schools to in person learning. Sara will</p>	Sara Fenzl

	<p>make a Google form that will be sent out for people to get their voices heard.</p>	
<p>7:45</p>	<p>Treasury Update</p> <p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received \$7600 for Annual Campaign. Total \$115k of anticipated \$120k • SPS check refund \$2700 + \$1880 back from Read-A-Thon Matching • Amazon Smiles + BoxTop \$280 <p>Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPS Q1 grant payment \$39k <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading specialist \$17k ○ Tech lab/Library \$10k ○ Instrumental music \$7600 ○ Volunteer coordinator \$2800 ○ Tutors: \$1800 • \$2700 FIN Feb Grocery Cards • \$720 Donation to Read a thon \$5 x 144 kids <p>Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board approved to allocate \$7100 from unallocated to FIN budget • Unallocated now \$3141 • FIN total annual budget is \$17k, \$10k spent, \$7k remaining. <p>Calls to action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer needed for budget committee. We would love to get a K/1 parent! • March budget survey is out 	<p>Nelly Goodnoe</p>
<p>7:55</p>	<p>Nominating & Budgeting Committee Call</p> <p>Forming nominating and budgeting committee. These committees will shape what funding looks like at school next year. These are also an opportunity to rebuild what the culture of Bryant looks like after school returns in person. Please let us</p>	<p>Ann Sonnen</p>

	<p>know if you want to be part of these committees. Reach out to Ann or ptsalexec@bryantschool.org.</p> <p>More budget information here, as well as sign up for small group discussions: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1c2CN8LUY6sB8BS9ysi0PkBJpB4fF_5KcyYCeP2VenO4/edit</p>	
8:00	<p>Equity Committee</p> <p>Met last week with community to understand priorities. Also shared what had been done so far. Our hope is have ongoing meetings to continue this conversation. Budget equity at a district level was a common topic of interest.</p>	Co-chairs