

# Westgate Elementary PSO Meeting Minutes

Date: September 24, 2024

## Introduce Board

Sarah - Co-Chair

Siri - Co-Chair

Mara - Treasurer

Natasha - Co-Chair, Fundraising

Tom - Co-Chair, Fundraising

Krysta - Secretary (not present, husband Sten filled in)

## Minutes Approval

Motion to approve minutes approved

## Principal Report

- Working on a secure campus - fences are part of that. Working on electronic gates as well, including panic button to lock all of them.
- Staying within fenced area during school hours.
- Has been in the works for a while, but happening now.
- Had back to school assembly for kids and families.
- Working right now on school improvement plan for next three years.
  - Every school in district has school improvement plan
  - 1<sup>st</sup> goal is related to literacy, choosing 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to measure. 2021-2024 increased from 45% - 70% based on i-Ready scores
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> goal - math. Using 4<sup>th</sup> grade, increased math standards from 20% to 55%, based on i-Ready scores.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> goal is connectedness of children. Increased 5% (50%-55%?) from 2021 - 2024
  - SBA scores have improved from 2022 - 2024.
  - Focus for this year on student data chats, sending information home with kids for conversations with parents.
  - School Improvement Plan (SIP) is on district website.
- Question: Will we receive SBA results if our children took it last year?
  - Answer: Will be in Skyward or mailed sometime this fall

## Teacher Liaison Lisa Hamilton

- Not present, due to daughter's birthday
- Normally the conduit between PSO and staff

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## Ms. Chang Update

- New education funding is not happening
- Funding dropped since McCleary decision from 50% to 44%
- Special Education costs Edmonds \$15M more than state has funding, so \$11M deficit
- There is a 24-credit requirement for graduation, state pays for 20 credits
- State funds only 4 sick days a year for teachers, and 60% of cost of subs
- Funding only for 1 paraeducator per 430 students, rest paid by local levy.
- Certified staff not funded on actual cost, only average cost. Districts have to make up salary.

Funding meeting at Edmonds-Woodway High School from 6:00 - 7:30 PM on October 23.

Request people attend funding meeting to show support of better school funding.

## Getting Involved in PSO

- Parents introduced themselves
- New board this year (with exception of Krysta)
- Typically, parents do two rotations on the board
- If you want to get involved, let the board know and shadow board members
- PSO will send newsletters home, with news and calls for volunteers for upcoming events
- There is a Facebook page and Instagram account for Westgate PSO
- Dawn has volunteered again for yearbook and needs people to help organize

## Board Position Open: Enrichment

- Responsible for Fall Festival in the fall, in spring another event (last year was science night) and a few assemblies.
- Not a heavy lift outside of those events.
- A lot of fun.

## Budget Approval

- This year the PSO is raising funds for next year
- Last year exceeded targets for fundraising
- Budget shows that we are running at a deficit, but have a higher-than-normal balance in account to cover for it due to exceeding fundraising goals from last year
- Teachers each also get \$250 in reimbursements for materials for their classrooms

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- Budget also covers school supplies so families do not need to purchase them for students
- Question: How can I donate to the school or for the auction?
  - Answer: Please go to westgatepsa.org, there is a PayPal link
- Question: What are the dates for the Fun Run and Fall Festival?
  - Answer: Oct. 10 and 25<sup>th</sup> (respectively)
- Question: Will we be able to see the budget and notes from this meeting?
  - Answer: Notes will be posted to website, but budget will not be until it is approved.
- Budget Vote received one nay, assume approved due to needing 2/3 vote, but will double check and provide confirmation at next meeting

## Fun Run October 10

- Happens in the afternoon, broken up by grades
  - Details available on ParentSquare
- Goal is to bring in \$35K
- Kids get marks on their hands for each lap, but that does not scale to how much funds the event raises - donations are a flat amount
- Will be a web page for your student and people can access that and donate for each child
- Will ask for some parent volunteers to help mark tallies, set up, take down, photos (some requirements for not sharing photos)
- Will get 6 boxes of t-shirts and will need people to help sort them
- Will be a slide show at the end of the assembly - need a volunteer to help with creating slide show
- Additional volunteer opportunity: passing out fliers at drop off or pickup (coming soon)
- Question: Will there be opportunities for students with mobility impairment to participate in a different way?
  - Answer: Will determine a way for them to participate no matter what. Plan to work with Mr. Walton to determine options. It is more of a festival than a run and the number of marks does not count for anything/it is not competitive.
- If weather is extremely bad, have a tentative make up date of Oct 17, but this would require extreme weather conditions - will still run if it is pretty wet outside

## Fall Festival

- Need committees for Fall Festival
- Need people to set up the games as well (a lot of opportunities for the night of)

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- Volunteer slots are 1-1.5 hours

## Questions, Comments

- Question: Is there going to be a make-up school beautification day since last year's was rained out?
  - Answer: Early spring may be a good opportunity, or before school starts for the year. No date on the calendar yet. Parent who was organizing it last year wants to help again.
- Question: When will Spirit Wear Sales happen?
  - Answer: The events calendar says September, but the company we are using is saying that the soonest they can do it is October. Will typically be another round of Spirit Wear Sales in spring.