Meeting Minutes

Welcome – Roll Call

Present: Jen Emrich (Co-President), Lara Kreyenhagen (Co-President), Karen Axtell (Co-Treasurer), Joy Rothrock (Co-Treasurer), Dan Washburn (Communications Chair), Linda Moy (Community Building Chair), Gilia Angell (Special Ed Parent Liaison), Vivian van Gelder (Equity & Outreach Co-Chair and 6th Grade BLT Rep), Linda Mullen (7th Grade BLT Rep), Elizabeth Geri (Elementary School Liaison)

Not Present: Eric Pedersen (Vice-President), Molly Wyman (Co-Secretary), Joe Wyman (Co-Secretary), Meghan Dort Lackey (Events Chair), Anna Finkenzeller (8th Grade BLT Rep), Andy Jensen (Legislative Chair), Meher Antia (Equity & Outreach Co-Chair)

Board Business

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from PTSA board meeting on 1/21/20; motion seconded, approved.

Treasurer Report

Karen went over the current PTSA financial report which was sent to the board via email.

- Annual Fund – we are in pretty good shape; to date we have received $43,000 in donations (goal: $50,000). It seems like it would be a good idea to run one more message in the newsletter promoting it. Breakdown of donations: matching was $19,000, donations $24,000.
- We still have $5000 remaining for special projects.
- $2,000 available for PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports)
- Classroom Grants – some teachers have classroom funds left (1/3 have used); reminders have been sent out.
- Department Grants – Science department has used all of their department grant money; most other department still have funds available. The Art department grant money spent is actually a carryover from last year (reimbursement was turned in late).
- 8th grade cruise money spent is also a carryover from last year.
• Theater expenses are higher than budgeted because we had to true up from the last fiscal year based on the them becoming an ASB club, so now any money raised goes directly through the ASB, not through the PTSA.

**Notes from 2/25/20 General Meeting**

The board finalized minor edits to the notes from the meeting. Motion to approve the notes; motion seconded, approved. Jen will send a copy of the notes to Ms. Oatis; Dan will include a link to the notes in the next PTSA newsletter and post it on the PTSA website.

**Next steps/follow-up after the meeting with Ms. Swan**

Last week Andy Jensen communicated that Seattle Council PTSA leadership was planning to meet with Rainey Swan (Principals Union Rep) to talk about next steps following her meetings with the Meany PTSA and the Washington Middle School PTSA. Jen, Lara and Eric were invited to attend, but with not much notice (learned about it late Thursday evening – meeting was on Friday at 1:00pm) and they weren’t available. Andy was not able to attend the meeting either. Andy asked the SCPTSA to share the notes, but we have not seen anything yet. Suggestion that if they really want community input, they should provide more notice for meetings.

Discussion amongst the board on next steps. Conclusion that what needs to happen now is action from the district. The HR department has said that it plans to hit the “reset button”. We need to know what hitting the reset button means – what changes are being made. Families need to hear that these changes are going into effect now. The district should communicate the new expectations to staff and the community, so that there is some understanding of what the rules are – expectations for all levels of staff. We need a clear understanding of that. PASS and SEA are also waiting to hear what the new rules are.

Karen pointed out that if anyone wants to submit a public records request from the district, there is an FAQ on the district website. She shared the link: https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/Legal_Department/faq

It seems like there should be a follow-up from those who were on the stage at the Listen & Learn session held at Garfield. The community should hear from Superintendent Juneau, the Seattle School Board Reps and the district HR department, and perhaps Seattle Council PTSA should meet with them instead of just Rainey Swan (PASS).

Linda Mullen proposed that we work with Seattle Council PTSA to push the district to define what the “HR reset” is, when it is going to happen and what it is going to be, and that they communicate that clearly with communities and stakeholders. Linda volunteered to write up a draft of bullet points outlining the requests and will share it with the rest of the board. The
PTSA can decide at that point if we want to reach out to the district directly or to go through Seattle Council PTSA.

Elizabeth Geri volunteered to go through the general meeting notes from 2/25/20 and come up with a list of things we would like to follow-up on with Ms. Oatis. There are a number of things that aren’t specific to the investigation that Ms. Oatis should be able to address like protocols for reporting things, improving communication, etc. Linda Moy commented that we also need some closure on students bullying other students and protocols for that. Earlier in the year Lara and Jen posted information in the Meany Facebook group after meeting with Ms. Oatis (discipline matrix, how to report things, etc.), but we haven’t shared that information more broadly. Suggestion that maybe that information could be posted on the website somewhere. We could also highlight it in the newsletter.

**Nominating Committee**

It is time to start recruiting PTSA board members for next year. Jen and Lara (Co-Chairs) have kids who will be graduating. Dan and Jill (Annual Fund Co-Chairs) also have a child who is graduating. Eric had originally expressed interested in taking on a Co-Chair role next year, but he has since realized that he can’t commit to the time investment.

We need to recruit new people, but it will be challenging in the current climate with the school closures due to coronavirus. Ideally, we should also be reaching out to the feeder schools to get some of those families involved, but it is difficult without knowing who is planning to come to Meany. The decisions for enrollment – public and private – will come out pretty soon, so we should work on this following those decisions.

At the last board meeting Andy Jensen agreed to lead the nominating committee, but we need a few more people. Vivian and Gilia volunteered to be on the nominating committee. Gilia said that she can think of a few people who she could approach. Vivian said that she will reach out to the Central District PTA group to see if anyone might have interest. It’s tough because folks are focusing on their current schools right now. Jen suggested that if each of us reach out to 3 people, we may be able to bring in some new folks. Jen will send an email to Andy (cc’ing Vivian and Gilia) to get the ball rolling.

**How can PTSA best support the school, staff, students and families right now?**

Jen asked Ms. Marshall if the school needs any more supplies – cleaning and hand sanitizer, etc. Ms. Marshall said that the district has actually provided what they need for now, but there may be a need to replenish supplies at some point. Jen met with Ms. Baker and Ms. Hayes on Tuesday morning to ask what we can do to support Meany families in need. Came up with a plan to do a gift card drive, asking for donations of $25 gift cards (Kroger/QFC/Fred Meyer or
Safeway). Goal is to collect 150 gift cards. Counselors will confidentially distribute the cards to Meany families in need.

[NOTE: in light of school closures, we will hold off on advertising the gift card drive until school is back in session.]

**BLT Update**

Vivian reported that they have been going over the budget/staffing plan for next year based on allocations from the district; the BLT has been discussing recently via email. Projected enrollment is lower for next year (this year enrollment is 519, projecting 487 for next year), which means losing some FTE, but they have discretionary funds ($200,000) that they will use to help mitigate, so there shouldn’t be any measurable changes.

Linda Mullen added that with the district allocations Meany lost 1.0 general ed teacher FTE which will be filled in by using discretionary funds; the school will also use funds to add an additional .3 FTE for general ed teaching and .1 FTE for nurse. Additional money will also be used for teacher stipends (teachers/staff receive stipends for after school clubs/activities, etc.); discussing adding stipends next year for ASB.

Linda said that there will be a slight loss in FTE for Special Ed and ELL, but Ms. Oatis explained that FTE for those are based on need using a district formula, so discretionary funds will not be used to mitigate in those areas.

Jen asked about the timeline for finalizing the school budget and when the PTSA will hear about what “asks” the school has for the PTSA for next year. Typically, the PTSA budget committee meets in April and early May (approximately 3 meetings) to compile a budget for the next school year; the budget committee will present the proposed budget at the May 12th board meeting; the membership will vote to approve the PTSA budget at the general meeting on May 26th. Vivian said that she will communicate with Ms. Oatis about the timeline for next year’s PTSA budget.

**Recap of Student/Parent Panel**

Elizabeth was really pleased with how many students (14) and parents participated on the panel and that a such a large number of families showed up to learn about Meany. Heard from many attendees that incoming families appreciated it. Hopes that this can be a regular thing that we do each year. She has started compiling a list of things to do differently in the future. If anyone has suggestions/feedback for next time, please send email to Elizabeth (emgeri@gmail.com). She spoke with Mr. Manriquez afterward and will be meeting with the ASB students to talk about how we could run it differently next year. Students want to lead
school tours and have a more active role. Idea to have a student body officer lead the questions for students. Agreement from other board members that it was a very positive experience and that Elizabeth did a great job moderating. Elizabeth gave student participants Hello Robin gift cards. She said she is willing to coordinate the panel event again next year.

**Special Ed Parent Liaison Update**

Gilia sent a message to Special Ed teachers that she will attend PTSA office hours on Wednesdays this month and offered to meet with any of them if they are available to stop by. She talked to Mr. Foyston and got a list of who does what in Special Ed. She said that it seems like a pretty solid staffing situation. A few parents have signed up for a Meany Special Ed parent mailing list; hoping to plan some more meetings in the coming months. Sadly, no one showed up to the last meeting. Hoping to be able to put more time into this role this spring. Goal is to create dialog between the Special Ed staff and families and the PTSA.

**Race & Equity Team Update**

Vivian said that she and Meher had to cancel the last meeting due to illness. They also have had trouble getting people to attend meetings. Recently they have been working with Mr. Garrett-Smalls to set up a student race and equity team, but he is really busy right now with Grad school. They talked with Ms. Oatis about possibly doing a student survey in the advisory classes, but she expressed concern that it might be too much with the climate surveys. Given all that is going on right now, they may just focus on making this a goal for next year.

**Budget Committee**

Treasurers (Karen and Joy) need a few people to volunteer to be on the budget planning committee (a few meetings in April). Jen and Lara (Co-Chairs) will be on the committee and will reach out to Ms. Oatis ahead of time to ask what the school needs are. Linda Moy also volunteered to be on the budget committee. If anyone else is interested in participating, please contact Karen (karenaxtell@gmail.com).

Jen will reach out to Dan and Jill to see if they have any ideas on who might be interested in taking over the Annual Fund next year. At the very least we should get their input on what would be a reasonable Annual Fund goal for next year. Lara said that given what is happening with the economy right now, we may need to be conservative with our goal for next year.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM**