



STEM PTSA General Membership Meeting January 23, 2013, Board Room, LWSD Resource Center

Draft

1. Welcome and Introductions – Elizabeth Hansford

The meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Hansford at 7:00 PM. A quorum was present. Sign-in sheets are attached.

2. Minutes – Anja Rettig

Motion by Byron Shutz to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2012 General Membership Meeting as written; seconded by Lisa Oratz. Motion passed with no nays and no abstains.

4. Treasurer's Report – Natalie Allenspach

The ending balance as of January 23, 2013 is \$10,542.24. The Treasurer's report is attached. STEM PTSA currently has 144 members. No expenses were recorded in the month of December. In January, STEM PTSA paid for the Founders Day Luncheon and expensed \$404.54 for the First Day of School BBQ. Membership dues and Family Contributions accounted for the \$1865.00 in income recorded for December and January.

5. New Business

- a) **Budget Amendments** – Natalie Allenspach proposed to add a Service Awards line item in the amount of \$140.00 to the budget. So motioned by Mary von Sheliha. Motion passed with no nays and no abstains. Elizabeth Hansford proposed to increase the amount for the PTSA Unit Filing Fees line item under Administration Expenses from \$150.00 to \$1000.00 (by \$850) for filing the 501(c)3 application with the Internal Revenue Service of the United States government. So motioned by Rebecca (?); seconded by Jeff Holzhauser. Motion passed with no nays and no abstains.
- b) **Nominating Committee** – Elizabeth Hansford
Lisa Oratz nominated Denise Wells as a candidate for the Nominating Committee. Janitzia Pizarro and Katja May nominated themselves. Elizabeth Hansford moved to elect Denise Wells, Janitzia Pizarro and Katja May as members of the STEM PTSA Nominating Committee. Motion passed with no nays and no abstains. Training opportunities for Nominating Committee members is available on January 28, 2013 at the LWSD Resource Center and on February 9, 2013 during the LWPTSA Region 2 Spring Conference.
- c) **PTSA Update** – Elizabeth Hansford
Currently, STEM PTSA is focused on getting established, on opening communication channels, and on just-in-time events. Committee chairs have taken up planning activities for the current and the next year. STEM PTSA will also support the ASB.
When STEM PTSA was formed in June 2012, LWSD PTSA had applied for an umbrella 501(c)3 coverage, which would have allowed underlying PTSA organizations to obtain their 501(c)3 status much easier and cheaper. The IRS has since refused to consider the umbrella application, leaving no means of appeal. This is why STEM PTSA has begun to prepare an individual 501(c)3 application with the IRS. It is hoped that this application will be approved before the end of the year in order to allow for any donations already made to be tax-deductible and/or employer matched retroactively. The one-time fee for filing the 501(c)3 application is \$850.00. The budget was amended accordingly (see a) Budget Amendments).
- d) **Committee Updates**
STEM Community Education - Lisa Oratz
The Community Education Committee concentrates on the following five areas:
 1. College Admissions Panels: A series of programs about the college application process. A College Admissions 101 panel is scheduled for March 5th, 2013.

- SAT Prep: PTSA is in contact with Prep Northwest to offer onsite SAT preparation classes at STEM next year. Discounts for off-site SAT prep classes, individual lessons and sample tests are also being discussed.
2. Providing information about and collection of materials about STEM careers, possibly in the form of a career fair. PTSA is cooperating with TSA (Technology Student Association) to get a STEM speaker series off the ground.
 3. Speaker series on scientific issues, summer programs
 4. Information sharing platform
 5. Graduation night (next year)

STEM Community Building, Communications, and Membership – John Clark

The Community Building Co-Chairs have been very active organizing just-in-time activities. The members of the Communications team and the Membership chair will be brought up to speed soon to fill their roles.

- e) **STEM Guest Speaker** – Kathy Wright, Computer Science
Ms. Kathy Wright gave a brief overview of the curriculum and goals of the Computer Science classes at STEM.
- f) **STEM Update** – Cindy Duenas
Construction at STEM in two construction shifts is ongoing, but slated to be finished on April 30th. Staff and students will be planning a celebration for parents, students and community members after construction in late spring.
On the evening of February 4th, the Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Traci Pierce, will be hosting a reception for the LWSD Board of Directors and city officials from Sammamish, Redmond and Kirkland and host a tour of the STEM School as well as new construction at Eastlake and Redmond High Schools. STEM will not see as many social and onsite activities during the first year, especially during construction. Club events and other onsite activities should be picking up after the construction is finished.
A number of students expressed that they never had real semester finals. Cindy will collect information from students to see how they approached preparation for the final exams to make sure every student gets well prepared for these tests in the future.
- g) **Questions and Answers**
- Q: Where are students eating lunch?
A: Students are free to eat their lunches wherever they choose on the school premises. Some choose to sit on the floor or stairs. More tables to sit down during lunch hours will be provided soon.
- Q: When will Spanish classes be moved to a proper classroom?
A: Spanish classes, currently taught in the Commons, will move into the Presentation Hall once it is finished, presumably around March 13th.
- Q: What is STEM planning to do about the lunch menu?
A: The LWSD school lunch menu is being served. Menu choices are more limited in comparison to Eastlake High School due to the lower number of students.
- Q: Will the music program be held before or after school?
A: The thinking is that the music program will be held on Wednesdays after school.
- Q: Why are student backpacks so heavy? Doesn't the laptop alleviate students' need to carry textbooks?
A: Parents concerned about the weight of their student's backpack can email Cindy for further investigation. There is no budget to purchase a class set of books for every classroom. Not all text books are available online.
- Q: Is there going to be a National Honors Society at STEM?
A: Yes, Mrs. Burt agreed to be advisor for the NHS.

Q: What is going on with the Civics program?

A: The Civics class was supposed to be held in the - as yet - unfinished Presentation Hall. As of next semester, the format will change slightly. Groups of 25 students will meet for one period each on Wednesdays in a proper classroom. Also, Civics grades are not available through StandardScore because the school district has not yet entered the code for Civics into the system. This will change next semester.

Q: Does the ASB need some extra help to get activities off the ground faster?

A: Cindy will take parent feedback back to the staff to see if they can spearhead a couple of activities.

Q: Is the school hiring at the moment?

A: The hiring of teachers for the next school year is being started, following the district process. Email inquiries have started to come in.

Q: Will there be a College Counselor at STEM next year?

A: Yes. STEM will support students and families to prepare them well for college and scholarship applications. Planned are individual counseling meetings for juniors and their parents for starters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Anja Rettig

STEM PTSA Secretary 2012-13