

STEM PTSA General Membership Meeting **November 7, 2012, Sammamish Room, LWSD Resource Center**

Draft

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Hansford at 7:02 PM.

2. Determination of Quorum

A quorum was present; sign in sheets are attached.

3. Minutes/Correspondence

The minutes from the September 17, 2012 General Membership Meeting were approved as written.

4. Treasurer's Report – Natalie Allenspach

The ending balance as of November 7, 2012 is \$9,777.33. The Treasurer's report is attached. STEM PTSA currently has 134 members. Sixteen families paid the STEM PTSA Family Contribution in September, twenty in October. Inglewood Middle School donated \$300 to STEM PTSA, while Wilder Elementary, Kirkland Middle School, and Eastlake High donated \$100 each.

5. New Business

a) STEM PTSA Update – Elizabeth Hansford

April MacLennan chaired the PTSA Reflections program for STEM. Submitted were 11 entries in these categories: six in literature, four in visual arts, and one in photography. All entries are currently being judged by professionals in the area.

STEM PTSA is currently looking for volunteers to fill the Nominating Committee for the 2013/2014 STEM PTSA Executive Committee positions. No volunteers came forward at the meeting, but members were encouraged to spread the word.

The current elected and appointed officers were introduced to the membership, especially April MacLennan, STEM Community Education chair, as well as Amy Hansen and Christina Ferreira, the STEM Community Building chairs.

Co-Vice Presidents Lisa Oratz and Jon Clark gave a brief description of the committees they each oversee, which are STEM Community Education and Advocacy for Lisa, and Membership, STEM Community Building, Communications, and the Volunteer Coordinator for John Clark. Elisabeth Hansford acts as ASB Liaison.

All members were invited to visit the STEM PTSA website at www.stemptsa.org for more information about STEM PTSA activities. It was pointed out that Advocacy tab offers a lot of information about Legislative Assembly issues and allows you to subscribe to legislative news and alerts. Parents can also send email to info@stemptsa.org with any questions, suggestions or concerns.

b) Haiku Presentation – Arnie Lesley

There was no computer available in the meeting room. The presentation will be offered at another time.

c) Engineering Program at STEM – Arnie Lesley

Mr. Lesley became acquainted with the current Engineering curriculum during a National Science Teacher Association conference focused on STEM Education last winter. *Engineer Your World* is a one-year high school engineering curriculum developed by the Cockrell School of Engineering at University of Texas at Austin in collaboration with the National Science Foundation and NASA. At the STEM school this curriculum is available for freshmen and sophomores in cooperation with the Boeing Company as a mentoring partner. This hands-on, project-based course emphasizes the historic achievements and contemporary challenges of engineers, the engineering design process, and the skills and habits of mind that engineers find most essential in their work. The first unit focuses on establishing norms for all of our group interactions and for effective documentation of projects in Engineering Journals. The next five units all involve designing, building, and testing devices or systems of devices to accomplish specific tasks in response to customer needs. Each unit also emphasizes several specific aspects of the work of professional engineers. Mr. Lesley presented four outstanding samples of pinhole cameras (Discovering Design) which were built by students in his class. The remaining units are Windmills and Water Pumps (Data Acquisition and Analysis), Aerial Imaging (Systems), Robotics (Automation and Control), and Piggy Flashlights (Reverse Engineering and Redesign).

d) **STEM Update** – Cindy Duenas

- STEM school is doing quite well in spite of the various obstacles thrown at it. The latest obstacle is the computer virus that affects the entire school district. However, the virus has not affected instruction and learning at STEM. Experts outside the district are working day and night to remedy the situation. Updates on the virus situation will be sent via STEM Blast.
- Curriculum – the school is building pathways that will lead into STEM concentration labs in junior and senior year. The school is consulting with science and technology experts in the field to assess demand and to adjust the curriculum so that students leave STEM employable and marketable. Planning is full speed ahead, but is fluid and ongoing.
- Cindy Duenas will be meeting with the Superintendent and her cabinet to present curriculum pathways and budget.
- More STEM teachers are going to do Engineering Training. Language Arts teachers and other instructors will take a Writing for Science class.
- ASB is getting organized. ASB Leadership is going to do a presentation during the next STEM PTSA General Membership meeting. Computer Science teacher Melissa Wrenchey is the ASB Advisor. Several clubs are in the process of being organized.
- The Ski bus activity has been organized by parent volunteers Amy Hansen and Christina Ferreira.
- STEM Info Night will be held on January 16, 2013.
- The plan is to move into new building in January, even if construction is not quite complete. The new school building will feature a warming kitchen which will be used to heat the food provided by Sedaxo, as well as a Great Room for meetings and presentations of all sorts.
- The process of naming the school is being started. It is a formal process directed by the school district. After name suggestions have been submitted, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will make a decision.
- There are currently 14 faculty members, two office managers, one part-time IEP manager, and one part-time district psychologist working at the school.
- At present the school is searching a part-time music teacher. Two candidates need to be found. What kind of music program will be offered depends on the new teacher and on the interests expressed by the students. A student survey is going to be put on Haiku.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Anja Rettig

STEM PTSA Secretary 2012-13