

## Friends of Hawthorne Meeting - minutes - APPROVED

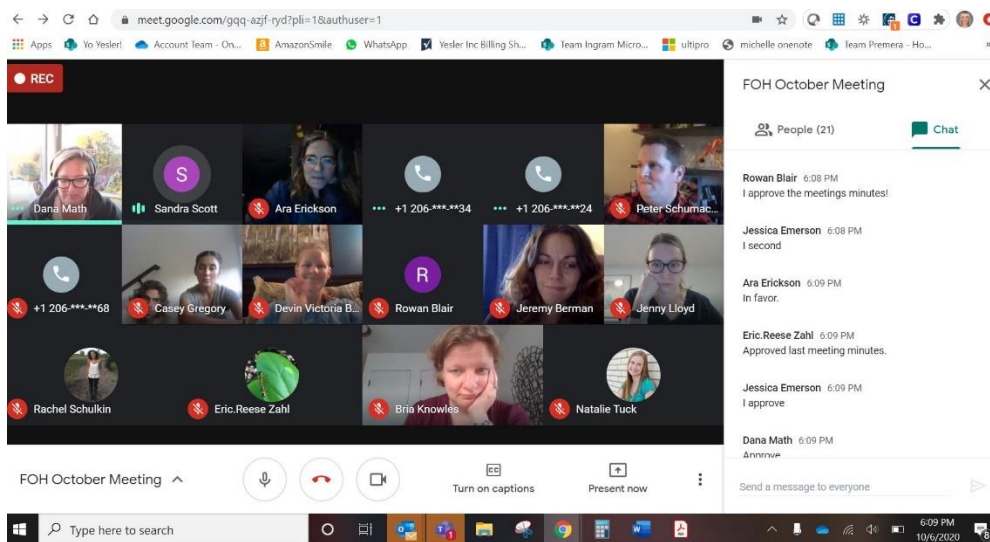
10/6/20 6pm – 7:30pm via Google Meet

**Attendees:** Dana Math – President; Casey Gregory & Tommy Gregory – co-vice-presidents, Ara Erickson & Josie Clark – co-Treasurers; Corin Lianides - Secretary, Gabe Sheffer & Peter Schumacher – members-at-large. Plus 15 community/PTA members

**Dana** welcomes people to meeting. We have Principal Scott here joining us.

**Ara makes announcement** that we will be recording the meeting in order to share the meeting with other community members unable to attend.

**Corin** reviewed minutes from last meeting, minutes are voted and then **Minutes are approved** (screenshot of approval in writing below).



**Hand over to Ms. Scott** to answer some questions that FOH had lined up. Around Oct 18, district is putting out remote learning survey. Students will take in class, and then parents will provide feedback as well. It's important to provide honest feedback in order to make real impact and change. Administration wants to do their best with what they have at this time. People are going full speed ahead to make things work.

**Dana** thanking Ms Scott for the way that Hawthorne has handled remote learning, and teachers positivity and energy.

**Ms Scott** was so happy to get to see the students at the pickups to provide some sense of normalcy to the kids.

**Question 1: any news on reopening?** Ms. Scott: As of right now, there is no news of reopening, lots of work to do still, including re-bargaining, training, building set up – they want to do it right so they don't have to do it twice. No timeline as of right now; if it was her she would say January. Particularly if we were to bring everyone back. We would start with hybrid model, A/B, not all 400 kids. Then they would

roll back to the whole school model. Original plan was that we made sure families/timing were accommodated, common care situations, in the same track. They had already divided the kids up in the summer to meet these needs prior to full close, would need to be reset. Priority to do this in an equitable manner. If we come back on an A/B – classrooms are already set up for 15 total students (that is the max) – this is why there is 4 K classes now (kept that structure for relationship purposes). We would follow whatever protocols come from CDC. Students eat in rooms, recess rather controlled, not a lot of movement in the building to keep impact low if there was a COVID issue.

**Question 2: some districts are talking about reinstating standardized testing, etc. Is SPS?** Ms. Scott: For standardized testing, that is a state call – haven't heard either way from the state yet. Likely answer is yes until we hear no. Advanced learning, you can nominate your child, or the teacher can nominate, but you can contact the advanced learning office for the date. Application is on the website.

**Question 3: what are impressions of remote learning from the school/teachers/staff, challenges/support etc.?** Ms. Scott: If she polled a teacher today, they would rather have the kids back in. They are trying to move mountains to ensure people are online, engaged, or in touch with some way. Internet has been an issue at times due to unforeseen circumstances like construction, storms. Teachers have been working hard to make this engaging enough to keep kids involved and learning. Yes, it can be helpful to leave the kids be during school – helpful in the beginning to help them get online, but now we need the kids to work to be more independent. Kids can tend to rely on parents more because they are there, but if you're able to ease away and allow them more independence, that is helpful. Also, try to log in on time, keep the routine steady, so they learn their schedules to enable kids to access things with less noise (easier links). We designed the schedule we have to be sure to get the max subjects in the morning so that after lunch there is less focus, so we can get the most out of them in the AM.

**Jenny:** Should we put some of the information from Ms. Scott in the newsletter? We think so, yes. Ms. Scott said she is trying to think about how we communicate in the past with the Wednesday mail from school. She is working on that. We want to make sure everyone is getting the information (95% of Hawthorne kids are participating daily!!!) to make sure that updates that are Hawthorne specific are getting to families. Going to be a lot more diligent about the communication.

**Ms Tuck** provided feedback that it's important for the teachers to see the mistakes that kids are making so that they can have a good understanding of what the kids know and how to help them individually.

**Katie Berman – Advocacy Rep.** We now have 4 voting delegates that will go to the WSPTA legislative assembly at end of October. Katie would like feedback via the survey on how we should vote (survey link shared in chat). Survey closes on Friday, but people can send us feedback through end of month. Max number of delegates you can have is 4 unless you have more than 100 members. Information will help to provide direction for voting delegates.

**Jessica Emerson manages the membership database** – since we didn't have an opportunity to include a membership form in person this year, we are low on signed-up members. We need to have at least 25-30 members by end of October, which we are low on. We do need to push on this in order to remain in good standing. Let's put our heads together on how to grow the membership.

**Peter Schumacher – playground updates!** Big month at the playground, In a month we will have the new playground – new structures, services, completion of phase 2 of the project! Updating everyone shortly. We will need volunteers! Contractors will do heavy lifting, but we need families. All work will be socially distanced, 5 ppl at a time, staggered work. Next week SPS will be installing play structure they are funding. Oct 17 will be a big day of service – K-2 play structure and other end we will need to do more planting. SPS says that Oct is adult-only since there will be a lot of people to keep it most distant/safe. Last 2 weekends will be gruntwork, surfacing, woodchips outlay. Peter will be sending out sign up sheets. He needs 7 volunteers to be there for a whole day as the lead for the day so he doesn't need to be there for every single day. A couple volunteered in the chat.

**Treasurers Josie and Ara review the financial report:** it's a little weird. We have paid out the teachers on their classroom supplies. For kids school supplies, we have only brought in about 5K back, we need about 8K more. We need another push on that to recoup more. 10K was spent on "academic support" part of refund from YMCA. Paid contractor 60k for playground, will be reimbursed by grants. Administration needed hand sanitizer stations, part of emerging needs funds. Right now we have a lot of money, haven't needed to go outside expectations. Tax bill is coming up.

**Jenny Lloyd** – walk-a-thon normally brings in about \$15k, are we trying to do it virtually? Dana said maybe we are planning to push it out to the Spring when maybe kids may be back together and we can do it in person. Some "a-thon" will need to happen. Maybe for October newsletter lead with push for school fundraiser and let community know that we will still do some kind of walk a thon in the future. **Dana:** We designed the Walk-a-thon to be plug and play – how can we share with another school? This may be another benefit to pushing it out to Spring, to involve other schools that may have a smaller PTA, etc. Original goal for walk-a-thon was to make it a cross-south-side schools walk-a-thon, which would be really fantastic. Perhaps get a group together to do that.

**Dana moved** to start an open conversation amongst families/community on the line around remote learning, ideas, lessons learned, share experiences? Conversation occurred.

**Peter Schumacher and Rachel Schulkin** (works for Seattle Parks) are interested in taking the conversation about opening Hawthorne playgrounds to community once they are built – we think there is precedent to be able to get the OK to do so! Launch is already using it right now as well. Seems like we have an inroad there

**Communication chat:** does Hawthorne Admin send out any direct email communications? Not that anyone is aware of. FOH can help with community communications but can't be the schools communication channel to parents. What takes the place of the backpack mail? Are there other ways that we can communicate, or get together? There is interest in creating get-togethers to build community.

**Equity Committee – Kirsten** – how are we able to communicate about equity and cultural events, fundraisers, etc. There is a lack without the backpack mail. We need to take this issue back to Ms. Scott to discuss. Are we able to use the robo-calls? We can also send one-off newsletters ad hoc, if we need it. Heritage schedule with the school will be updated by next month, add her to the agenda for November! Also want to get considerations for home equity for students, barriers, technology, internet, paper, IEP. Also working alongside advocacy because there is always equity stuff that comes up with advocacy.

**Devin** mentioned that there is a way to get access to a Directory Public Records through SPS through a form and create a total directory of the school (does not include opt-outs). **Peter** says another tool is that we do have access to the robocalls through Ms Mak.

**Dana adjourned the meeting at 7:30.**