

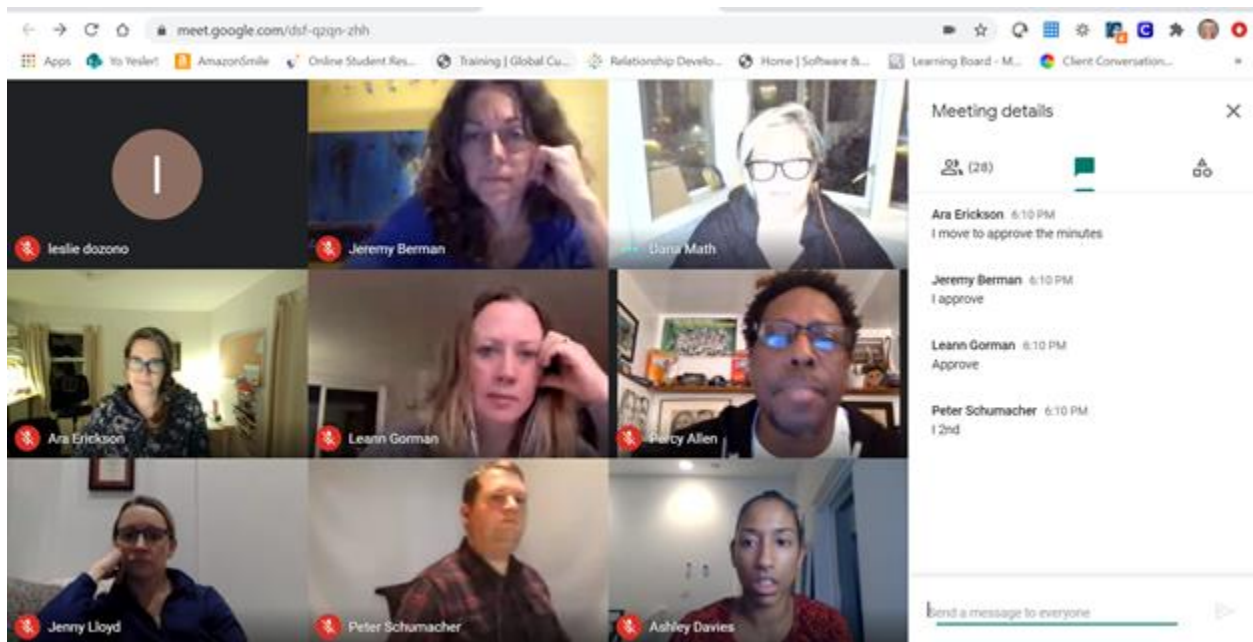
Friends of Hawthorne Meeting - final minutes

12/8/20 6pm – 7:30pm via Google Meet

Attendees: Dana Math & Percy Allen– President; Casey Gregory – co-vice-president, Ara Erickson & Josie Clark – co-Treasurers; Corin Lianides - Secretary, Gabe Sheffer and Peter Schumacher– member-at-large. +13 community members (including Ms. Scott, Ms. Mak, Ms. Tuck)

Dana Math: Welcomes all, we may move around some of the items on the agenda.

Corin Lianides: Meeting minutes reviewed and approved; verbally and in writing, via Google Meet chat (screenshot below).



Ashley Davies (Director of Enrollment Planning for SPS) is here to talk about redistricting for Mercer Middle school due to overcrowding issues. Highlighting overcrowding numbers, by a significant amount. Current capacity is 800 and currently has 1,200 students. School is planning to be rebuilt by 2025, in the meantime the students will relocate to old Van Asselt school. New building and old Van Asselt will cover 1,000 students max. That is currently the education spec for middle schools for educational, safety, administration case load standpoint. Building the school bigger is not an option due to these reasons. 6 schools feed into Mercer, vs 3 at Aki Kurose and 3 at Washington. Reviewing how they are currently addressing capacity issues for current year, and general solutions. Review of process and timeline for redistricting during this year for plan to implement in Fall 2021. Reviewing feedback they have heard from Hawthorne families – race and equity lens in making decision is top of list. Many pieces of feedback from the community. Review of SPS Boundary Principals normally used. Principals are not ranked – some may conflict with one another. We will also be asking families which priorities are most important to them, especially the ones that may conflict with each other. Ashley has been meeting with many different PTA's in the area and District 7 meetings (including the equity meeting last week) to share info

and get feedback as much as possible. Ashley has spoken with the Washington Principal and [STEM by TAF](#) meeting on the 16th from 6-7pm, she will then share that out to all relevant communities.

Dana questions: are you following up the with the Hawthorne community with more targeted questions? AD: she is looking to understand what is most important to the community in order to be taken into consideration – if there is additional feedback or considerations on top of what she presented. Best way to communicate these is via email or via the link to “Let’s Talk” portal (checked daily: https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/customer_service). Please reiterate on topics even if they already exist, that will show further focus on that specific issue or topic. She will share the presentation with us. We will connect Ashley to Ms. Mak, as Ms. Mak has connections to other diverse communities within Hawthorne.

Family support resources – Dana Math. We sent out email to community last week regarding the urgent need to family support. Thought about how we might be able to support families, including the idea of a giving garland – because of COVID, Ms Mak suggested gift cards for one stop shopping for families for gifts and needs. We have already raised almost 8K since email went on Saturday, exceeded goal of 5k. This money will help keep things flowing.

Angela Schumacher – question about how we are using the \$6500 budget that we had originally put aside, is the need that much greater? Dana: we are not super crisp on the actual needs quite yet. Now that we have so much budget, we will now be able to roll over any budget that is non utilized into other needs? Traditionally we raise money in one year for the next, and don’t do immediate fund raising, but this is a special need/request.

Katie Berman – Advocacy Rep for FOH

Big meeting about Mercer last week. Also had a meeting with SPS nutrition services, big takeaway is that anyone who is not getting food that needs it, happy to adjust routes, times, any needs of community. We need to communicate that need for services. Katie is happy to facilitate that communication. There is also a meeting next Tuesday with Brandon Hersey, then one District 37 legislators.

Anti-Racism policy – guest Eddie Lin (advocacy for Seattle Council PTSA)

Background on policy – past president kicked off anti-racism policy due to amount of incidents occurring within system, and feelings that these things were not being addressed well enough by admin and principals – feeling that we need to have amore explicit policy to address this and also a more cohesive

SPS has an equity policy that gets cited a lot around policy decisions, but that its not specific enough and/or a bit outdated for incidents occurring now. The updated policy has been worked on for the past couple of years, mediator brought in to reconcile drafts between board and SCPTSA – goal is to have one policy to be brought before the school board on December 16th. Not positive if the policy will go up for discussion due to priorities on the agenda. They will push out information to us through social channels for updates. Question – Behnosh Najafi: Do you have any info on the proposed Washington Ethnic Studies programs that families have been advocating for? Where are we in the process? Believe this is directly tied to the incidences. EL: yes, this education would be helpful addressing issues. The work for

ethnic studies has likely sat idle since the person working on the business was fired by Superintendent. Last he has heard is district is hiring a new manager for this. If you are interested in learning more, email Eddie. Q Corin: what are the major differences in the new policy from the old? EL: stronger language in the new policy on audits of the incidents, stronger reporting requirements (privacy considered), good language on a host of things including the Ethnic Studies, healing center practices, a clearer process when incidents occur what families do, who to talk to, what response to expect, etc.

Angela Schumacher – Auction (temperature check)

We don't exactly have a framework for how to work on this during COVID. There is no world where we see an in-person auction as reality. Businesses who donate are struggling, people aren't going to gather, could feel very frivolous. The things-buying part is also a concern because we aren't using those same ideas such as restaurants, travel, etc. Is this the year that we begin the phase out of the auction – do a straight out ask for funding, could include more people and families. We need to be very communicative with families – people are asking why we may need to do the level of fundraising this year, because we don't use the funds in the same way.

Lots of discussion:

- Josie: we really don't know how much money we are going to spend, honestly, mostly reimbursing teachers and family support. If we stay remote, we WONT spend a lot of the budget, but if we do, we may spend a lot more. We know a basic idea of how much we need for the start of the school year...but we also need to think about a few years of planning regarding loss of title 1 funding.
- Do we want to partner with another school with a less mature PTA to show them the ropes?
- We need to do a lot more brainstorming about how to make this fundraising work remotely, different ideas on how to think about this – including the heartfelt video from teachers/admin.
- Natural next step is to put together a working group to start working this out as a team – need to do some initial groundwork. Perhaps do a survey to get a group together
- Q to MS Scott – what else we may need? She is not sure, but we know coming up there WILL be budget cuts. How do we figure out what we can fund with certain types of money “green dollars” – to support field trips, after school programs. Etc.
- Need to find out from Treasurer's and admin to get an idea of what the full scope of fundraising should be, and then we will figure out how to go about fundraising, the scope we have to get to.
- Percy – we need to have a board meeting to discuss some of these items in a smaller format.

Peter Schumacher – Playground Update – we have successfully completed installation of the playground! We had over 70 volunteers come out to help – this community shows up! We have finished PHASE 2 – we are on budget, waiting for reimbursement from King County. Huge accomplishment – king county and council members support in addition to community. Funding was dicey, and we are thankful we had supporters in the school district and county. Rest of year, one off projects – need volunteers. Working with Mr. Stewart for game line creation, need to raise a little money to get picnic tables installed. Question then becomes – where do we go from there with the playground? From the

community, what do we want to continue doing? Will be soliciting feedback and what's next – what's the most interesting. We have accomplished quite a bit of the master plan. Outdoor classroom, second stairway to 39th, Kindergarten Court update? Good time to check in to see what priorities are. There is an element of fundraising that has to occur to progress. There's a small chance there is a bit of budget left from grants, but likely all is spent. How do we jump to the front of the line with a shovel-ready project to get that grant?

When will the playground be opened? SPS policy is that playgrounds are closed. What are possibilities to get this opened up on weekends and afterschool hours? Waiting until 2021 to discuss that as COVID #'s shift.

Heidi Slater – school crossing grant application – she has recently met with traffic safety committee, went very well. They were shocked by the uncontrolled nature of the intersection. Likely get 2 way stop signs at one cross, and speed bumps on the other. Crosswalk flags – 4 different crosswalks for about \$500. We can apply for that under an emergency COVID grant – up to \$1000. The Phoenix mural – just the paint costs over \$1000, plus costs to rent items to barricade the street. She can apply for another 1000 grant but may need additional budget. Painting can't happen until July/august, when temp is over 70 degrees. Do we want to pursue? Yes, please. Need a signed letter from Sandra Scott to move forward. Another meeting with traffic committee this Friday, interested in how the traffic flows, can we share that with her to share with committee.

Treasurer update: Josie Clark

Mainly what we are paying out this month is classroom subscriptions Raz kids, learning A-Z, family support, grocery cards, eyeglasses, etc.

Question - Bria Knowles: After School Enrichment – are we still OK to offer limited amount of scholarships for families that reached out? We will need a board review since it was not part of the initial budget. Do you have a quantity you are thinking about, because then we can discuss and approve?

Dana Math closed the meeting.

Ara Erickson

Casey Gregory

Dana Math

Percy Allen

GF Sheffer

Type here to search

6:17 PM
12/17/2020

Meeting details ✕

People (6) Chat

Dana Math 6:13 PM
I move to approve the Dec 8 board minutes

Ara Erickson 6:14 PM
I second.

Send a message to everyone ▶