

## December 2018 PTSA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

1. Meeting called to order at 10:08am.
2. November minutes were approved as written (Samar Herrmann).
3. Site Council recap (Nina Scoffone):
  - a. Meeting was held December 10 in the Cougar Ridge library; discussed recent lockdown situation; next meeting on January 7 will be opened up to the community as a forum
4. Treasurer's Financial Report (Nina Scoffone on behalf of Paula Hobbs, who was sick):
  - a. Reviewed certain details such as corporate matching donations
5. Committee Reports:
  - a. Outreach:
    - i. Caring Through Sharing (Nina Scoffone on behalf of Deena Cook): ended up being a success
    - ii. Family Bingo Night (Nina Scoffone on behalf of Amy Finholm and Lesli Sager): profit of \$1100; will purchase the bingo machine that Mr. Terry would prefer (he borrowed this year's from another school)
    - iii. Student Council (Karissa Mobilia and Samar Herrmann): there will be a "spirit week" during the 3-day week before the winter break; also holding a food drive "contest" between UW Huskies and WA State Cougars; meeting dates have been changed back to Wednesdays instead of Thursdays; there was discussion about random "fun spirit days," such as Wednesday "bobcat day" or Friday "Seahawks day," so will likely designate Fridays as "Cougar Ridge Bobcats Day" after the new year
  - b. Programs:
    - i. Reflections (Danielle Kolesnikov): all went well, and only a couple submissions were disqualified; Art Fair will be on Tuesday, February 12 at 6pm
    - ii. Science Fair/Invention Convention (Nina Scoffone): a parent proposed to combine Engineering Night with Science Fair/Invention Convention, but after some discussion, it might end up being too much, logistically, as engineering stations would be spread throughout the entire school and would take a significant amount of time for students to go through
6. President's Report (Nina Scoffone):
  - a. Two grant requests:
    - i. Kelso's Choice: primarily for kindergarteners for problem solving, being honest, and so on; Karissa Mobilia moved to discuss the kindergarten Kelso's Choice grant; Mrs. Hembree seconded; asking for \$749 to cover posters, stuffed animals, puppets, and other supplies that will primarily benefit K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, but ultimately the entire school will benefit; PTSA voted and approved with no abstentions
    - ii. School Mascot/Full-Body Costume (Ms. Fields): Karissa Mobilia motioned to discuss the purchase of a school mascot; Danielle Kolesnikov seconded; asking for \$197.49 to purchase a full-body bobcat costume/mascot primarily to help promote the "Bobcat Way" during various events; PTSA voted and approved with no abstentions

7. Principal's Report (Mr. Terry):

- a. School Staffing/Teachers: Ms. Zaslow (1<sup>st</sup> grade) asked for a full leave for entire year and it was approved by the district; Andrea Pereya will replace her with a "leave replacement contract" that will enable her to fill in for Ms. Zaslow until next year; there will be an opportunity to meet the new teacher on Wednesday from 5-6pm, then a 2-day transition on Thursday and Friday, then she will begin on Monday
- b. School Staffing/Other: having difficulty hiring qualified para-professionals; have tried five times but are striking out because of the state-specific requirements to even *apply* for the position as a new-applicant; there are currently two people subbing half-time each in LRC II but neither are able to commit full-time at this time; also, Ms. Rosso will be leaving after the new year but will sub when she can
- c. Second Language: dual language program starting in our district; will be a half-English/half-Spanish language immersion program beginning in kindergarten; if our school doesn't fill, will open invitation to other schools (IVE and Clark); there will be two teachers for kindergarten at first, with hopes to build from there; considering Mandarin language immersion program as well
- d. Assessment Season: 13 kindergarten students qualified for the next stage of testing that will occur this week; if qualify from there, they will begin program in January 2019, in which they will be pulled out of their classroom for the supplemental program for 30 minutes per week; older students' testing will occur between end of January and early March; if they qualify for the program, students in grade 2 will be pulled out for 1 hour per week, while students in grades 3-4 will be pulled out for 2 hours per week; Smarter Balance testing will happen after Spring Break
- e. Parent/Teacher Conferences: concern was expressed that the message hadn't gone out about progress reports being posted to the web; please note that the dates of the progress reports have already been posted as (1) Tuesday, March 19 and (2) the last day of school
- f. Intervention Program: this new program has been approved; it's a reading and math "free tutoring" program for grades 3, 4 and 5 that will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8-9am running from the first Thursday in after Winter Break through Spring Break; one group per grade for each of the two subject areas, as well as an ELL group; specifically, there will be a total of 8 groups of students this year with 5 students in each group (41 students total, consisting of one reading group for grade 3, two reading groups for grade 4, one reading group for grade 5, one math group for each grade 3-5, and one ELL group with 6 students); the staff will provide the instruction to the students, while the district will provide the training to the staff; this program will aggressively help students in need and has shown success through actual state assessment test results; last year had results!
- g. Watch Dogs (new program): stands for Dads Of Great Students; inviting dads, grandpas, uncles, etc. to become involved at school; asking that they attend training/pizza dinner on Thursday, January 24 at 6pm and commit to one full day at school; will get to wear a "Bobcat Buddies" t-shirt and will help where needed; would have some time with their own children and might go to other grades/classes if have extra time; hoping to have 20 people commit so that there would be an helper each week through the end of the school year; this program is vendor-supported

- h. New Construction: ISD has bought 9 acres of property for a new middle school that will be built at the base of Talus in Issaquah and will open in fall of 2021 so that our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be the first class to attend (other area of consideration was near Dodd Fields, but Talus was chosen instead); concern was brought up about landslides in that area, particularly since they stopped building in Talus due to potential landslide issues; Elementary #16 is also already in the works in which 13 acres was purchased, but it's mostly wetlands, so the school will be a 3-story building and will be complete by fall 2020; eventually, there will also be Elementary #17 and a new high school, but details are TBD; this all means that boundaries will be changed this spring with a group of about 80 people consisting of the 24 school Principals, 24 parents (a representative from each school), and the district representatives; the District Administrative Building will be saved because of the Talus campus, although it might be turned into a preschool site
- i. Cultural Connections: next meeting is on Tuesday, a week from today at 9:45am; all cultures are welcome and have come; it's a great opportunity for people from other cultures to gather and discuss their experiences and how they feel
- j. Lockdown: mistakes were made on Bellevue Police Department's end, and district-level folks have since met with the PD to clarify some concerns; one is that Cougar Ridge was called instead of Spirit Ridge; also, the PD uses different terminology than the school, such as "lockdown" versus "modified lockdown"; they said "lockout," so Cougar Ridge took the most drastic measure; plus it was 8:50am on a Friday, so News Crew and Safety Patrol were already there, but it was hard to know for certain exactly who was dropped off; this led to a lot of confusion; gates were locked and parents were all over; Mr. Terry went out to help navigate the parents in cars, but then staff shouldn't have been outside and shouldn't have been answering phones; big picture plan; it turned out that information and communication were coming from the district, not Cougar Ridge, leading to parents being confused, concerned and worried; district folks are working on smoothing out this system; plus Bellevue PD really messed up (they even asked Mr. Terry where he was sending the buses!); once all were inside, Mr. Terry was able to see everything from the outside cameras since the new construction
- k. Academic Goal: 3-year school plan to school board each year; was math (our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders had the highest scores in the district), so now will focus on reading; currently, our grades 3-4 are at 87-88% on the state test assessment, and our goal is to grow 5%, which is tough at that level; other part of our goal is to shrink the performance gap between the kids; program will focus on 40-50 students at a time who will be monitored over the next few years with the goal of either exiting the program or else raise the level for 75% of those students by the end of the year; the reading specialist Ms. Daily needs more funding so we can work with more students; early intervention is best (kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, etc.); not sure how much money will be needed yet, but funding will be needed for the 3-year duration of the program; 10 hours per week at para-professional pay; known as a year-to-year thing; PTSA could potentially fund a grant that would help pay for the role

8. PTSA meeting was adjourned at 11:19am.