

4.25.2017

## Spencer Butte Middle School PTO Notes

There was no meeting held in March due to Spring Break  
The meeting was called to order at 8:00 by Tara Sloan. Introductions were made around the table.

### **Getting Ready for Next Year**

We need a list of all of the things that happen during the year as a map to follow for next year

We believe Edgewood parents would like a more structured group.

We need to meet directly with parent leaders from Camas and Edgewood parent leaders coming to SBMS next year. The decision was made to focus the May meeting around meeting with the Camas parents. Charlie will facilitate.

### **PTO Bank Account**

Dorna reported that the PTO account had a deposit of \$302 from the Track Town and Dickie Jo's/Yo's Fundraiser. The account now has a balance of \$633.82.

Dorna also asked for the EIN number and the official address on the account for the purpose of filing the taxes.

### **Teacher Appreciation**

Amy Lash will organize the teacher appreciation lunch. Tara suggested that we do some fun little teacher appreciation gifts for other days like plants that say, "Thanks for helping our kids grow". We decided we would spend \$100 in PTO funds for this. Charlie also contributed \$40 to this effort. Tara will buy the gifts and deliver them.

### **Walk the Amazon**

Is walk the Amazon something we want to do again next year. Tasha has some other suggestions that included students working with businesses to get sponsorships. The group decided this sounded like a lot of work to get off the ground and that Walk the Amazon was generally a good fundraiser and we should do it again next year.

Charlie brought up that WTA could be a bigger learning experience for the students since fundraising is a useful skill. Could we structure to develop these skills more? Partner with non-profits to help coach the kids. 6th graders would get more coaching and 7th graders a little less, and 8th graders a little less. Could we get graduate students from the UO to help? Lia K-W questioned our abilities due to current lack of parent leadership to facilitate this effort.

We discussed the timing of the event. Is it too early? We decided that any later and it would run into Direct Donation Drive and the weather would be bad.

respectfully submitted,

Tara Sloan

Update: It proved difficult to connect with parent leaders directly. Tara sent to Edgewood and Camas parents to invite them to the next meeting. We will brainstorm what the group will look like next year and answer questions for parents

*“In the blink of an eye your kids go from entering kindergarten to starting middle school. If you thought those last six years went fast, think how quickly middle school will go. By the time you figure it out, it’s time for high school. That’s why, if you have a student headed to Spencer Butte Middle School next year, it’s important to get in the loop early.*

*We are dedicating our last PTO/Parent Group meeting of the year to meeting you, the incoming parents, to talk about the future of the SBMS PTO/Parent Group and how you want it to function for you and your students. We also hope to give incoming parents an opportunity to ask questions of “experienced” SBMS parents.*

*PTO/Parent Group is a fantastic way to feel plugged in to the school and with other families. Historically, we have worked on fundraisers that support students, organized teacher appreciation and facilitated parent information nights, among other things. But really, the future of what this group does is up to you! We welcome your input!*

*There are a lot of outgoing 8th grade parents this year, which opens up opportunities in parent leadership that we hope you will embrace! It is a great opportunity for incoming parents to help shape the SBMS PTO/Parent Group and decide how it interacts with and serves the school for the next few years.*

*We hope you join us on Tuesday, May 30th, 7pm at Spencer Butte Middle School for coffee and dessert to learn about our parent group and to plan for next year. If you have questions, feel free to email Tara Sloan [sloan\\_jets@q.com](mailto:sloan_jets@q.com). Hope to see you there!”*