

**Thurston PTO Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2020**  
**Special Board Meeting via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Allison Jeter, Jon Svodoba, Bruce Fields, Corentin Cras-Meneur, Diane McIntyre, Kelly Williams, Kelly Delp, Principal York, Elizabeth Morehead, Alisa Cox, Mary Manthey, Nadine Wong

This special meeting of the PTO Board was carried out via Zoom.

The Board discussed ways in which the PTO could further support Thurston families and teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All the Board Members were in favor of finding ways to support the Thurston community during this time.

Suggestions include the following:

- Providing food support to families by leveraging the Thurston Pantry Fund. Any families who would like to request some support should contact Kelly Delp.
- Creating opportunities for families to get together online to build the community including forming study groups and strengthening socially distant engagement;

With the shortened school year, funds that were previously allocated to Field Trips and other school-based activities were left unspent. All the Board Members strongly favored reallocating these funds to support the Thurston communities. Suggestions include:

- Investing in summer enrichment kits and activities that would be distributed to all families;
- Providing books for students and facilitating an online book club.

The Board also expressed their thanks and gratitude to all of the Thurston teaching staff for adapting to the new teaching environment.

- Principal York provided an update on the framework for online instruction for the teachers.
- The Board would like to support teachers' needs to adapt to the new online environment and discussed several ways to provide that support. The Board settled on increasing the teacher grant spending limit.
  - Corentin Cras-Meneur moves to increase the amount of all teacher grants by an additional \$100, seconded by Alisa Cox. The motion passes unanimously.

PTO President Allison Jeter outlined various school events that had to be cancelled due to school closures. She thanked the planning committees/volunteers for these events for their ideas on how to celebrate our community despite the school closure. This includes the collection of messages/videos/pictures to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, a virtual celebration of International Night through an online passport to celebrate our multicultural community. The PTO will also be working with volunteers of other events to develop virtual options to celebrate these events including Bike Rodeo, Field Day.

The PTO is also working with the 5th grade parent volunteers and teachers to find a way(s) to celebrate the graduating 5th graders.

Thurston Nature Center (TNC) Chair Elizabeth Morehead gave an overview of the Thurston Nature Center. The TNC Board has openings and would encourage Thurston parents to consider joining their board. TNC projects are progressing and TNC has some activities to recognize Earth Day. Please visit the TNC website (<https://thurstonnaturecenter.info>) for more information.

The upcoming elections for open PTO Board positions would generally take place in June. Given the school closure, the Board discussed the possibility of holding online elections or of postponing the elections until after school resumes. Further discussions were tabled until the next General meeting. The Board is seeking nominations for following positions: Co-Treasurer, Secretary, and two Members at Large.

The PTO Board also encourages Thurston families to use the Scrip and Amazon Smile program to support the PTO.

Jon Svoboda moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kelly Delp. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.