

**Thurston PTO General Meeting
November 19, 2019
Thurston Library
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Vice Principal Callahan, Alisa Cox, Kelly Delp, Bruce Fields, Allison Jeter, Diane McIntyre, Jon Svoboda, Nadine Wong, Principal York

Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2019 Meeting

Margaret Svoboda moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Bruce Fields. The motion passes.

Principal's Report.

Vice Principal Callahan thanks everyone for their patience and cooperation as the school implements the new visitor management system and for helping in keeping the school safe. Ms. Callahan praises the amazing community and their support for Thurston. She introduces Mr. Roger Wild from Wealth Financial Strategy Group. Mr. Wild presents \$1,000 donation to the PTO to support the Ice Skating Field Trip. All in attendance thank Mr. Wild for his generous support.

Principal York conveys the Teachers thank you for the mini-appreciation week that coincided with common night conference week. The PTO provided dinner, treats, chair massages to the teachers and staff. A Thurston family also provided a coffee cart, which was very appreciated by everyone.

Ms. York also discusses how the school is helping families who need assistance for the holiday season. These families will be receiving baskets for Thanksgiving and have also submitted a holiday wishlist. A letter will be shared soon to explain the holiday wishlist. Items will be collected at the front office and should be wrapped in holiday neutral wrapping paper. can be included in the newsletter.

Teachers' Rep(s) Report. No items to report

Committee Reports

Thurston Community Players. No items to report.

Fundraising. Fundraising co-chair Kelly Delps thanks everyone for making the Fun Run a big success. The children really enjoyed the new Heron mascot. The final number is not available yet but the event brought in close to \$30,000. Pizza prizes will be organized soon.

Winter Bazaar is coming up on Dec. 7. About 40 vendors are expected and the Fundraising committee would love to see the Thurston community come to the Bazaar.

If anyone has any other ideas for fundraising, please contact Kelly Delp.

Turkey Trot. A separate email will be sent to remind families of the upcoming Turkey Trot and the need for volunteers.

Treasurer's Report. Co-Treasurer Jon Svoboda presents the Treasurer's report for October. The Fun Run is estimated to have raised roughly \$30,000, which is about \$4,000 more than the previous year. With the expenses approved at the October PTO Meeting for the Book Room and the Halloween Candy Drive mailing expenses, the projected year end account balance is \$32,430. This balance would be about \$581 less than the minimum PTOC recommended year end balance. [The Treasurer's report presented at the meeting can be found here.](#)

There is no projected expenses to organize the Winter Bazaar. Kelly Williams can provide more details on expected revenues from the rental fees.

Co-Treasurer Bruce Fields clarifies changes to the Field Trips that were discussed at the October meeting. The PTO has increased the amount of support for field trips and has stopped soliciting donations from parents. This would result in a larger difference in the field trip income/expense for this year's budget. This will need to be re-evaluated for next year's budget.

Thurston Nature Center. No items to report.

Safe Routes/Safety. Safe Routes Chair Alisa Cox discusses the upcoming events with Safe Kids of Huron Valley that will occur for grades K-2 in late winter and early spring on pedestrian, bus and passenger safety. Books have been donated for the classrooms that will be given after the presentations to K and 1st grade class. There will be a Quiz activity that will be sent home in December with Grades 3-5 to encourage family conversation around safety. Students who returned the signed quiz will get a small prize. Thank you to Thurston parent Alisa Shelton for creating the quiz and Elizabeth Morehead also helping in the mornings.

Thurston Directory. Caroline Stout presents the plan for this year's Thurston Directory. In previous years, the "My School Anywhere" platform was used. This required parents to log into a separate system and cost money. AAPS already holds information about family preferences on information sharing information for the directory. This year, the Thurston Directory will use the AAPS information and be organized by grade, class, students names, nicknames, address, parents information. The format and platform used for sharing the directory with Thurston families are discussed. Using Google or Dropbox as a sharing platform would allow for updates to be made. New families can be added to the directory upon their arrival at Thurston. Families who elected "Do Not List" in their AAPS registration will not be listed in the directory. There will be a Google Form created so that families can submit any changes to their listing.

The Directory will be shared via a Google Form. Printed copies will also be available.

Other Reports/Updates

Spelling City. Allison Jeter reports on the Spelling City subscription renewal that was approved unanimously by the Board Officers after the October meeting. The subscription will be considered as a line item for the next year's budget.

Proposed PTO Bylaws. Allison Jeter and Nadine Wong recap some of the discussion at the October meeting about the proposed bylaws. The proposed bylaws were edited to address these discussion items, including board officer roles and composition. The edits were shared via the newsletter and directly with community members who had questions.

Margaret Svoboda moves to approve the amended PTO bylaws, seconded by Emily Bellile. The motion passes. 3 abstentions.

The new bylaws will be uploaded to the PTO site.

Black Tie Blue Jeans (BTBJ) debrief. BTBJ Event Co-Chair Kevin Cox provides an update on the event. There were 105 tickets sold (200 original goal) with a total sales of \$3180. [The powerpoint presentation can be found here.](#)

A lot of local and business supporters donated auction items for the online and live auctions. Everything that was not bid on was returned. Live auction items, including sport jerseys and trip/experiences were big hits

Skosh Catering was very flexible in working with the committee to adjust headcount so that the catering expenses could be decreased. Family and business donated towards the purchase alcoholic beverages

The BTBJ revenues were \$10,388.50 and BTBJ expenses were \$2,925. The total profit from the BTBJ event was \$7,463.20

Several considerations for future events include:

- How to increase ticket sales - what is the right price point?
- What is the right time in the calendar? to solicit donations for prizes/auction items - October might be a better month
- Have an organizing committee and assign specific roles
- Promotion and marketing.
- Organize new games

Overall the event was a great success. Attendees really enjoyed the games. Kevin Cox would like to plan the BTBJ event next year. Maisha Ostergren has also agreed to help run next year's event.

Kevin Cox moved to approve the organization of the BTBJ event again next year. This motion was tabled until the December PTO meeting to allow for more discussions.

New business.

Volunteers: Allison Jeter issue a call for volunteers for various upcoming events and roles including:

- Turkey Trot - really need volunteers on the course
- All School Ice Skating - More info to come
- PTOC Rep
- Member at large

There is now an online PTO suggestion box to solicit feedback and comments from the entire Thurston community. The suggestion box can be found [here](#).

Adjournment.

Margaret Svoboda moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alisa Cox.

The meeting adjourns at 7:41 pm