

**Thurston PTO General Meeting
February 18, 2020
Thurston Library
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Vice Principal Callahan, Corentin Cras-Meneur, Bruce Fields, Anne Geidner, Allison Jeter, Diane McIntyre, Mary Manthey, Jon Svoboda, Nadine Wong, Principal York.

Action since January 14, 2020 Meeting: The PTO Board approved unanimously the appointment of Corentin Cras-Meneur to the vacant position for the second Member at Large position on the Thurston PTO Board for the remainder of this Fiscal Year. The position will be open for election at the next round of election.

Welcome: Allison Jeter welcomes Corentin Cras-Meneur to the Board. Allison thanks everyone for participating in the Science Enrichment Night. A quick reminder of upcoming events including Kindergarten Round Up, Winter Carnival and Book Fair and a general call for volunteers.

Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2020 Meeting

Bruce Fields moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Mary Manthey. The motion passes.

Teachers' Rep(s) Report. No report.

Principal's Report. Principal York has received requests for more clarity on the budget. This item was discussed further as part of the Treasurer's Report portion of the meeting.

Committee Reports

Thurston Community Players. No report.

Fundraising. No report.

Treasurer's Report. Jon Svoboda presents the budget report. There was a general discussion on Dedicated Funds within the PTO budget. Currently there are two dedicated Funds within the budget: (1) the Library Fund (\$2,500) and (2) Thurston Pantry Fund (\$2,500). The purpose and operation of the Dedicated Fund versus the General Fund was clarified. Any unspent balance in a Fund at the end of the Fiscal Year (FY) remains in the Fund and carries over to the following FY. On the other hand, any unspent balance for a budget line item at the end of the FY is directed back to the General Fund.

There was also a general agreement that General Funds offer more flexibility for fiscal operations and that Dedicated Funds should be considered only for activities that are well established at Thurston. Mary Manthey would like a Dedicated Fund to be established for the Robotics Program since it is an ongoing club at the school that is supported partially by donations by families. Currently, support for the Robotics program is a line item in the budget and any additional support will have to be approved a special grant request. The request to establish a Robotics Dedicated Fund will be considered in the budget meeting for the next FY.

There was general agreement that clearer processes need to be developed by the PTO for donations, specifically in cases where a donor might request that the donation be allocated for a specific purpose or event.

To address Ms. York's request for budget clarity, ways to present a clear status of the current PTO accounts and budget was discussed. Such status would be shared with the broader community outside of the PTO meetings and specifically would be helpful when such requests are made directly to Ms. York. The group considered several suggestions about various ways to present the data. The co-treasurers will be working on preparing such a report.

Bruce Fields discusses the field trip expenses for 4th graders which has amounted to \$2,190. The original allocation in the budget was \$1,300. The difference is due to the fact that there are currently 4-4th grade classes, as opposed to 3 in previous years.

Bruce Fields motion to raise the 4th grade bussing budget to \$2,190, seconded by Jon Svoboda. 2 abstentions. The motion passes.

Thurston Nature Center. No report

Safe Routes/Safety. No report.

Other Reports/Updates

Bruce Fields moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jon Svoboda. The motion passes.

Meeting adjourns at 7:34pm