

We realize that not every parent can attend the PTA meetings held in the evening, and so we strive to provide the entire TM community with the meeting minutes. We hope this will provide transparency, and simply keep you informed! If you have questions or concerns, we would love to hear from you! Email us at: [president@tmlink.org](mailto:president@tmlink.org).

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## Thurgood Marshall PTA, General Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

The general membership will vote whether to approve these draft minutes at the next PTA meeting on May 29.

March 27, 2014, 6:30 - 8:30pm

In attendance - Katy Ransom, Sharmila Williams, Jen Hobbs, Julia Janak, Trinia Washington, Tasha Irvine, Casey Sommers, Scott Engan, Annette Sherr, Brindy Bundesmann, Lauri Nakamoto, Birgit McShane, Natalie Zheng, Jinna Kim, Angie Jenkins, Donna Dugan, Stacey Joanovic, Ben Kim

The meeting began with an introduction to Dr. Stephan Blanford of the Seattle Public School Board. Dr. Blanford gave a brief description of what motivated him to join the SPS Board. He joined the board four months ago when he saw an opportunity to apply some of what he has studied and strongly believes in to the SPS. With work, he believes SPS should be the best district in the nation - we have the support of a generous community, polls says we are one of most literate cities, and we value education so highly, to name just three of many reasons. Our current challenges are largely a result of having leaders on different sides of issues opposing one another. We need to find common ground and collaboration. He believes we can get there and he feels very confident in being held accountable.

Q and A period followed:

- 1. What does the next phase of growth boundaries look like? When?** He thinks next year. They will continue to talk about boundaries and see how changing numbers/buildings affect things. High schools will be the focus of the next round of changes with some clean up of elementary and middle school changes that do not make sense - like sending kids out of their neighborhoods for school.
- 2. How will Advanced Learning change in the coming years?** Not sure - Special Education will change first as it is a bigger issue at this point.
- 3. How do the math curriculums among elementary, middle and high schools connect?** The big challenge right now is aligning everything with Common Core. The current focus is replacing Elementary text books. A team is reviewing the various options right now - once the curriculum for Elementary has been decided, Middle and High school will follow.
- 4. When you need to slash, how you do decide what to slash?** There is a very thorough budgetary scrub to eliminate anything that doesn't make sense. The board has made a conscious decision to preserve the classroom student/teacher dynamic. The McCleary decision requires the state to put A LOT more money into public schools.
- 5. Does the SPS raise additional funds?** Yes, through various non-profits such as Alliance for Education. The SPS has a contract lobbyist advocating for SPS and increased funds.
- 6. How do you deal with the criticism that the SPS is doing a very bad job of managing money?** He understands how people can be critical - it is our job to advocate for our kids. We need to look at the best evidence-based strategy to get us to the place that we want to be. Some people just undermine the process at every turn. They want to see SPS fail. We need to work together to succeed. SPS should have the best public education system. And we can get there with a lot of work.
- 7. Now that you are four months in, how do you feel about your campaign promises?** It is more work than he realized - more time away from his family. His family comes from generational poverty. He is the first high school grad, first college grad, first home owner, perhaps first voter. He was real on the trail and he wants the schools to be successful.
- 8. Why not test every kindergarten child for advanced learning opportunities?** Wouldn't it help the inequitable demographics? Part of his strategy is to ask the board and staff those hard questions. We are a very segregated city yet we are one of the most progressive cities. How is that possible? His hope is that the superintendent can start to push some of those boundaries. He would like to encourage his colleagues to give Jose Banda the support he needs for that change.

Regular meeting agenda resumed...

1/16 Minutes were approved

Parking Lot Update - Ms. McShane is very happy to be at TM. She looks forward to creating a safe and efficient parking lot over the next few weeks. Please take note and ABIDE BY the new markings as well as any cones directing traffic. Thank you!

Principal Hiring committee Update - We will find out in the next two to three weeks what the superintendent has decided regarding our incoming Principal.

Volunteer Chair Update - Wendy Eckert

We are looking for volunteers for various events including Teacher Appreciation Week, Bingo and Field Day. Please consider lending a few hours of your time to make these events a success! Your time is very appreciated.

Principal's Report - Christine Helm

A few budget iterations have taken place. Enrollment projections are a little too fluid at this point. We want to keep staffing as it is this year, and not down one teacher as the district had suggested. It was avoided that with a mitigation submission. So at this point we have voted yes on budget and staffing for next year and staffing numbers will remain the same. Staffing changes will occur - five teachers are leaving TM for Fairmount Park and Vosti is still out on medical leave - at a minimum there will be five hiring committees - those jobs will be posted on april 15th for internal applicants only.

Treasurer's Report - Brindy Bundesmann

Brindy explained that the TM PTA works in parallel with the school to supplement staffing budget - the process requires working with staff, principal and BLT to commit to supplementary staffing in line with the district's deadline, earlier than the PTA deadline. Budget materials can be found online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) under "About Us - What the PTA Supports."

2014/15 PTA staff funding is as follows – PTA will fund a total of 1.1 FTE (same as 2013/2014). The breakdown is .5 Librarian and .6 Counselor. The PTA was asked to commit same FTE with slightly higher dollar amount due to yearly salary increases. Our dollar commitment has gone up to \$84,984 from \$82,565. The goal was to maintain consistent staffing and support the current programs so that there is no loss of programs next year. The board has approved the proposal. Brindy moved to approve the grant proposal. Tasha seconded the motion. The 2014/2015 supplemental staff portion of the budget was approved.

We are very much on target with revenue and expenditures - no areas of concern. The next step in the PTA budgeting process is for the Budget Committee to meet to determine how the rest of the funds will be allocated. Input from teachers and families are welcome. If you have ideas of how the PTA should spend funds or if you would like to be involved in the decision-making process, please let Brindy know.

Fundraising Update - Casey Sommers

We have over 120k at this point. We are 93% of the way to our financial goal. We have 9k yet to go. We will push to accomplish that during the May Give Big campaign. We are currently at 46% participation. We would like to reach 60% by end of year. We are still looking for a Fundraising accounting manager and various other volunteer opportunities within the Fundraising committee. Please see Casey if you are interested.

Meeting adjourned.