

# Pathfinder PTSA Meeting

9/25/2007

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Meeting began: 7:00

**Facilitator:** Eric Baer      **Secretary:** Jean Hamilton

## Agenda:

Announcements  
Update  
Goals of PTSA for the year  
Input on goals

## *Minutes*

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**Agenda item:** Announcements      **Presenter:** Eric

**Discussion:** Lashanna Williams is creating a school community cookbook. Submit recipes with stories by Nov 1 to be included in the book. Will be sold to raise funds for Pathfinder.

Dessert Social—Jean Hamilton and Celia Thomas are co-chairing the event to take place on November 9 at Tully's. Still need more volunteers.

Native Advisory Board--Sarah Kelly said meeting will take place Oct 11. On Oct 18 will combine Culture night with school Salmon Home Coming. Will be 4 Culture nights during the year.

Gift Wrap--Joey said Friday is the last day. Trying to sell \$13,000. Can make a direct donation if you don't want to buy gift-wrap.

Auction—Akemi said need parent help. Auction will take place March 22. Want to get other families involved. Meeting on Oct 2, 7:00, Uptown Espresso to talk about ideas. Last year had a profit of \$39,000.

Wreaths—Laurie introduced co-chairs Mary and Brent Morgan. Wreaths sell from Thanksgiving to 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Dec.

Clan coordinators—Jennifer said need an Owl clan coordinator and upper grade coordinators.

Seattle council—Lynette Martin is the West Seattle Area Director. Talked about 4204. November 6 will vote whether need to change from 60% to 50% to pass a school levy. Also will vote whether need 40% from the last election to pass a levy. Sarah Kelly moved to have Pathfinder PTSA endorse 4204, motion passed.

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**Agenda item:** Principal update    **Presenter:** David Dockendorf

**Discussion:** Welcomed the new staff. Linda Thompson new head secretary. Book fair next week. Goal to raise \$2,000.

First week very smooth. Lisa Clayton head teacher and David spending more time in classrooms.

Curriculum night 10/4, teacher will show parents what they are doing and communicate their expectations. PTSA will host a dinner 5:30-6:30, classroom presentations 6:30-7:30— while kids watch a movie in the gym, potluck dessert 7:30-8:00.

New superintendent wants every school to display their data (WASL & DRA) on front bulletin board. Ours says, “Pathfinder celebrates its academic success.” WASL is just one slice of the pie, but it is an important slice.

Enrollment numbers are down by 22 kids primarily because of low enrollment for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He will work on retaining 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

New school Initiative.

Writer’s workshop going very well. Hopes to take more teachers to New York this year to see writer’s workshop.

Pumpkin carving Oct 26.

For future PTSA meetings Heidi will be the contact person to coordinate childcare for those with kids under 5, to take place in Teacher Kelly’s room or other appropriate space when Teacher Kelly’s room is unavailable (such as on Curriculum Night). Parents can find her email address on the website or get her phone number from the office, or the phone book.

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**Agenda item:** Input                            **Presenter:** Eric

**Discussion:** Large sheets of paper were put around the room with titles: Advocate for Pathfinder, Support cohesive K-8/Facilities improvements, Inclusion, Student achievement. Audience was asked to write their comments on sticky notes and put them in the appropriate area. Asked to group them and come up with specific tasks to achieve results. One person from each group reported the main ideas.

**Conclusions:** Advocate for Pathfinder:

- Group of parents should go to school board meetings wearing Pathfinder t-shirts.
- Bigger presence at the Sunday market. Donate goods to sell.
- Team up with St Vincent’s nursing home. Have kids read to elders. St Vincent’s is also a daycare so it would be good for bringing new kids to Pathfinder.
- Work with West Seattle food bank and do a food drive
- Invite parents to do workshops
- Natalie Fobes volunteered to be press coordinator. Send any stories to her.

Support cohesive K-8/Facilities improvements

- Form a committee for upper grade building improvements
- Beginning of the year fun school events
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade fair to bring in 5<sup>th</sup> graders from other schools
- More events where the whole school comes together—like the Science Fair.
- Work with the School district to find out what we can and can't do. Find people to donate time. Involve the upper grades.

Inclusion:

- Create events to make parents more comfortable. Do more clan social events.
- Parents of pre-school kids can swap childcare to get into the classroom.
- Create a buddy system where someone from the PTSA will contact a new parent and invite them to a meeting.
- Create safety net for families in need. Offer transportation to meetings.

Student Achievement:

- Put students writing in a writing newsletter
- Create Art cards with student work
- Peer tutoring
- Garden curriculum
- Create a health and wellness committee

Eric encouraged people to take ownership on an idea. The great ideas will not happen unless there is follow-through.

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Meeting adjourned: 9:00

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## *Pathfinder PTSA General Meeting*

*September 25, 2007*

# **Ideas for achieving Goals grouped by Focus Area**

## **Inclusion**

- 1) More (specifically) Clan/Hall events
- 2) Clan family socializing, i.e., potluck dinner away from school
- 3) Events for single parents
- 4) Single Parent Night Out
- 5) Weekend events for those working long hours on workdays
- 6) Events to support upper grade families
- 7) Advertise Pathfinder events in local papers/alternative community papers
  
- 8) Little Sibling Swaps:  
[Parent involvement—Clan coordinators organize (or delegate) a means for parents with younger kids to connect and arrange pre-school sibling swaps so parents can get into the classroom regularly.]
  
- 9) Gather info re. need for interpreters at parent events (for non-English speakers)
- 10) Increased efforts to engage our fully diverse populations
- 11) Native Club
- 12) Buddy System—ask each PTSA member to invite and bring another parent
- 13) Call families about meetings and events prior to the event to invite folks

## **Student Achievement**

### Creativity

- 1) Garden Curriculum addressing writing, math, science, and hands-on learning
- 2) Use student artwork to make cards to sell (2x)
- 3) Publish student work in the Compass or through other venues
- 4) In Compass and Hot Sheet promote great individual/group standout projects going on
- 5) Have Art Clan Coordinator

### Leadership

- 1) Use newspapers to teach current events and social responsibility (I notice the donated Times copies are seldom opened)
- 2) Peer Tutoring
- 3) Flashcards daily in front of the whole class
- 4) Have Parent Volunteers to tutor in their area(s) of expertise

### Music/The Arts

- 1) Student music concerts and dinner to get to know everyone
- 2) Drama
- 3) More after-school clubs (chess/math/etc.) that promote learning
- 4) Computer/web club

## **Advocate for Pathfinder at Community and District Levels**

- 1) Write articles about successes to West Seattle Herald.
- 2) More self-promotion out in community.
- 3) Show the District what Pathfinder is doing—a monthly newsletter.
- 4) Invite guest speaker to meeting, e.g., author, parenting specialist.
- 5) Do outreach to daycares in West Seattle, through:
  - a. invitations to activities
  - b. parents at kindergarten meetings
- 6) Recruit future students through liaising with local daycares.
- 7) Tie into elders/kids partnership at Providence Mt. St. Vincent, e.g., kids reading to elders.
- 8) Have kids visit nursing homes.
- 9) Need an overall, ongoing coordinator for liaising activities.
- 10) Select a local charity to help, i.e., food drive for the West Seattle Food Bank.
- 11) Legislative/School District Parent Representative to go to meetings and give updates at PTSA meetings.
- 12) Parent sign-up to cover School Board Meetings.
- 13) Group of parents to go to every school district meeting wearing t-shirts.
- 14) Donate garden stuff.
- 15) Participate in the community Art Walk.
- 16) Get local businesses (in the Junctions) to stick Pathfinder art in windows.
- 17) Have a night where parents walk Junction to see art.
- 18) Build stronger ties between Junction(s) businesses and Pathfinder.
- 19) There is a “Fish Store” on California Ave.—let’s contact them re. donating for the Salmon Homecoming.
- 20) Get out Website on School Finder sites.
- 21) Sell Kid or Adult art at the Sunday Market.
- 22) Marketing our “products” to the outside world, such as wreaths, Craft Fair, other products that result from expeditionary learning.
- 23) Put on a talent show at the Market? Or the West Seattle Festival.

## Support cohesive K-8 through Pathfinder facility improvements

- 1) Organized sports teams? Track, Soccer, etc. for Middle School?
- 2) Do teambuilding with middle school kids the first day of school to cement them in.
- 3) Do Open House event for 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Spring and advertise at nearby Elementary Schools.
- 4) Do an event like the Back to School BBQ but make it just for middle schoolers, to draw them in right away.
- 5) Middle School-centered events.
- 6) More whole-school events featuring K-8 student work.
- 7) Teacher home visits for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade families.
- 8) 6-8 grade is emotionally difficult, get support for kids' parents.
- 9) Form committees for upper grade building improvements.
- 10) Have each clan do a mural on our outside walls.
- 11) Provide mural boards for kids to do murals, so they don't deface public property and the murals can be rotated or kept, as desired.
- 12) Build outdoor arbor for middle school to unify portables.
- 13) Build covered seating area in the middle of portables to unify them and provide outdoor space(especially useful on rainy days).
- 14) Reposition portables closer to each other.
- 15) Renovate concrete courtyard into a gathering place, with potted plants/concrete planters.
- 16) Paint portables.
- 17) Pressure-wash roofs to remove moss.
- 18) A private/parochial school in Wallingford has done a similar project to their portables to a great and aesthetically pleasing effect.
- 19) Work with grants and business community to reconfigure portables with a courtyard—new poured concrete courtyard, outdoor lighting, paint, and pots with plants
- 20) Refurbish and/or plant garden boxes.
- 21) Cut away some blacktop so the middle school doesn't look like FEMA trailers in a parking lot.

## Other

- 1) Sell wreaths at other Farmers' Markets.
- 2) Have families make a "pledge" of money or time or goods at the beginning of the year (Schmitz Park does this).
- 3) Pick projects and write grants.
- 4) Hire grant writer if needed for project (i.e., gardens school essay book).