

PTA General Membership Meeting 4/18/24

Present: Jonny Savoie, Katie Keller, Martin Kennedy, Laura Kurtz (taking notes), Cambria Olsen, Olivia M., Martin Castillo, Christine Vial, Kim Stockstad, Martin Castillo, Selene Baez, Otto Schell. Lauren Rosenthal, Alex Newman, Perla Sitcox, Courtney Savoie, Libby Usstonich.

1. Speaker to renew Portland Teachers Levy- Otto Schell, PTA lobbyist

There is a vote to pass the teachers lobby. This levy, if passed, would maintain 20% of the teaching staff- this levy funds 20% of staffing currently. It is a 5 year levy. It is the 1 thing that makes up for the state's lack of funding. First passed in 2007. Usually a May/Spring Ballot. <https://renewteacherslevy.com/> Need to make sure parents are aware and support the initiative and fill out their ballots! Audience asked to tell everyone we know about the levy.

Laura Kurtz makes a motion to support the portland teachers levy. Courtney Savoie seconds. Unanimous vote in support.

2. Kim Stockstab (school social worker) talks about survey, last year only 53 responses only for James John. Big project for climate team this year is parent outreach to get more responses. Created google survey earlier in the year to get ahead of it. BIG ASK- Successful School survey comes out May 6th to end of May. PTA is asked to start putting that bug in everyone's ear that the survey is coming. Survey is so important for the climate team and use the results to plot out how to improve the school.
3. We have an opening for Fundraising Committee. Job description: open in terms of creativity- restaurant nights and can drives (changes in bottle drop program made it easier to drop off at Safeway)
4. We would like to get more volunteers in classrooms next year. We see a need for that. Perhaps a signup genius- talk to teachers to see what they are looking for and help to coordinate that. Background check lasts for 3 years, you can get a hold of Nicole at the front office to check your status or do a check.
5. May 31st- carnival. We need volunteers to organize.
6. Pick up and drop off are a messy part of day. We are working with PBOT to make some streets one-way because of safety issues with this. It is very unsafe currently.
7. George Middle School is doing their big spring clean up and are going to go into the courtyards and outdoor clean up. 10-12 Saturday.

8. We got the go for McMenamins restaurant night, MAY 13th. In restaurant sales only, patio counts as well. No online orders. Beer and wine probably will count too. This is a BIG one- 50% of all sales, from 5-11!
9. Blue Bags- give us your cans! We have blue bags at the front office and you can bring your bags back to the school.
10. Plant Sale until May 3rd. Go to Peninsula optimist club and make sure to put James John PTSA.
11. Schoolwide Clean up Saturday, May 4, 2024
12. Teacher appreciation week May 6th. Look for sign up genius for potluck, and we will do a gift.
13. Martin Castillo shared a presentation about how staff, affinity groups feel welcome and a part of the community. So the goal is to spread this sense of community to all. Deep in the process of establishing our core values. Climate team is working on that.

#### Goals for 23/24

- Strengthen core instruction
- Know every student well
- Teaching practices to improve engagement