



Kirkland Middle School PTSA 2.8.77  
General Membership Meeting  
January 25, 2022, 7:00PM  
Virtual via Zoom

## Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** President Sarah Rock called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. The attendance list was recorded on Zoom.
2. **Minutes & Correspondence:** The minutes of the November 16, 2021 meeting were shared prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved and moved to record. There was no correspondence to share.
3. **Financial Reports:** The December treasurer's report was shared prior to the meeting. Financially, we as a PTSA are doing great, with plenty of funds in reserve. The general membership had no questions about the report.
4. **Informational Presentation on LWSD Feb 2022 Levies:** Associate Superintendent of Business and Support Services Barbara Posthumus and Executive Director of Support Services Brian Buck gave a presentation on the three levies that will be on the ballot in February 2022.
  - a. **Educational Programs and Operations Levy:** This renewal levy fills the gap between what the state funds and what our students and schools need, supporting staff (including safety staff, nurses, counselors, and substitute teachers), student opportunities (including summer learning, music and arts, and extracurricular activities and athletics), and early learning (including special education, Ready Start, and Head Start Preschool).
  - b. **School Technology & Facilities Capital Projects Levy:** This renewal levy maintains our investments in education, funding 90% of our technology and maintenance budget, supporting laptops and tablets, interactive whiteboards, document cameras, audio amplification systems, and training and professional development for new instructional technology and software. This levy will also fund building updates to maintain our investments in school buildings (replacing aging building systems, making improvements to campuses such as playfields and playgrounds, and making health and safety improvements).
  - c. **Building Excellence Construction Levy:** Since 2008 we've grown by 7,300 students, and by 2030 we are expecting a growth of an additional 3,500 students. This levy would increase classroom space in our current buildings, adding space for 550 elementary students, 600 middle school students (including additions at Finn Hill, Kirkland, and Redmond Middle School), and

1,200 high school students. The levy would also provide for the acquisition of property for future schools.

- d. The total combined cost of the levies is \$2.84 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value. We have the lowest tax rate of our near neighbors.
- e. Concrete examples of how these levies directly affect Kirkland Middle School include funding after school activities; funding English Learning Programs, Safety Net, school councillors, and nursing and health support staff; maintaining our technology and computers; and the building of an addition onto our school.
- f. More information can be found at <https://www.lwsd.org/education-levies>.

**5. School Report:** Principal Cassaro gave a report on the state of the school.

- a. **Covid Alterations:** The school is encouraging students to eat outside if they feel comfortable doing so, intramural sports have been postponed, and Honors Society is meeting virtually. The staff is trying to be transparent about the number of cases that we have within the school, with constant and clear updates on the number of Covid cases at the school.
- b. **New Semester:** The counselors are working very hard to give students the schedules they want.
- c. **Registration:** Registration is happening now for 8th graders, with Spanish 2 being added for the first time and guitar being added back to the list of course offerings.
- d. **MLK Assembly:** Student Leadership put on a MLK Assembly that was very well received and nicely done.
- e. **Staffing:** The stress level among the staff is high after the death of Mrs. Herendeen and with dealing with the threat of illness and the absences Covid is causing. Principal Cassaro will think about how the PTSA can support the staff in memorializing their colleague.
- f. The membership gave feedback to Principal Cassaro regarding the handling of the December lockdown.

**6. Business Items**

- a. **2021-2022 Budget Changes:** The board is proposing one change to the budget: the addition of a line item for our school book fair. The draft of the newly proposed budget was shared with the membership prior to the meeting, adding a \$4000 zero-sum "Book Fair" line item under School Support. ***Cheryl Geels made a motion to approve the draft budget as presented to the membership. The motion was seconded and was approved.***
- b. **KiMS PTSA Stance on LWSO February 2022 Levies:** We discussed whether we should endorse (declaring public approval of the levies) and/or support (with a \$200 donation to the Lake Washington Citizens Levy Committee and with volunteer hours) the LWSO February 2022 Levies. ***Joel Ryan made a motion to endorse and support all three February 2022 levies. The motion was seconded and was approved.***

- c. **Nominating Committee Election:** President Sarah Rock put out a call for three members to serve on our Nominating Committee. No nominations were put forth, so the matter was tabled.
- d. **Walkabout Program:** Julie Barnett gave an overview of the KiMS Walkabout Program. Information about the program is available at <https://kirklandmiddlepts.org/Page/Pta/Programs>, and volunteers can sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/KiMSWalkAbout>.

## 7. Board Reports

### a. **Membership: Joelle Harrison**

- i. We were awarded the Gold WSPTA Membership Growth Award, and we are two memberships away from winning Platinum Status.

### b. **President: Sarah Rock**

- i. We had a very successful Winter Wishes campaign, fulfilling every wish that was requested.
- ii. We approved grants to fund a camera for the yearbook and a music stand rack for the Music programs.

8. **Adjournment:** President Sarah Rock adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM.

**Next Meeting: March 29, 2022 at 7PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Geels, Secretary