

Thurston PTO Board Meeting
August 18, 2020
Board Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Alisa Cox, Jon Svoboda, Bruce Fields, Corentin Cras-Méneur, Elizabeth Morehead (by proxy), Diane McIntyre, Principal York, Mary Manthey, Nadine Wong

This special meeting of the PTO Board was carried out via Zoom.

PTO Vice President Mary Manthey welcomes everyone to the meeting.

Update by Mary Manthey:

- Thurston PTO Allison Jeter has resigned from the PTO Board due to a move from the Thurston School area.

Discussion about Board Vacancy and Upcoming Elections

- Per the PTO bylaws, in the event of a board vacancy, the PTO Board can appoint a new PTO President to serve until the next PTO elections.
- Due to the pandemic, in May 2020 the PTO Board voted to postpone the elections for the 2020-21 year from June to November 13, 2020.
- PTO Co-Treasurer Jon Svoboda would like to be considered for the PTO President vacancy.
- Should Jon Svoboda be voted into the PTO President position, this will create a vacancy in the co-treasurer position and the board would have to appoint a new Co-Treasurer to serve until the next PTO elections.
- Thurston parent Tayfun Ozdemir expressed interest in joining the PTO Board to serve as co-treasurer.

PTO President Appointment: *Bruce Fields moves to appoint Jon Svoboda as PTO President until the November 13, 2020 elections, seconded by Mary Manthey, the motion passes with 1 abstention.*

PTO Co-Treasurer Appointment: *Bruce Fields moves to appoint Tayfun Ozdemir as PTO Co-Treasurer until the November 13, 2020 elections, seconded by Mary Manthey, the motion passes with 2 abstentions.*

- The updated slate of open positions on the PTO Board at the November 13, 2020 election will include: President, Co-Treasurers (2 positions), Secretary, Member-at-Large (2 positions)
- Mary Manthey encourages all Board members to actively recruit candidates for these open positions.

Discussion on Community Engagement:

- Principal York provided a quick update on the instruction survey results from the families - the data are being compiled and the school is working hard on class assignment. More details will be shared with the community soon and a physical distribution of the materials to students ahead of the new school year will be announced soon.
- Principal York and the Board discussed the need for continuing to build the Thurston community despite the lack of in-person interactions.
- Communications and sharing of information will be key and ways to support students and parents and to keep them connected were discussed including:
 - Grade-level or classroom-level virtual meet up organized by room parents
 - Accelerating the publication of the school directory
 - Leveraging the weekly newsletter and PTO webpage to provide resources
 - Hosting Q&A sessions with Principal York, PTO President, School Psychologists and monthly thematic parent sessions
- The Board would like to explore social media platforms to create a community of Thurston parents and to share information with parents and serve as a parent community hub.
 - There are several concerns about social media platforms, specifically regarding alignment with the community values on positive engagement and respect
 - Alisa Cox and Nadine Wong report to the Board with recommendations on the establishment of a Facebook Group Page with a goal of ensuring engagement of the Thurston community in a respectful manner.

Minutes Approval: *Mary Manthey moves to approve June Minutes seconded by Jon Svoboda, the motion passes.*

Mary Manthey moves to adjourn, seconded by Jon Svoboda - Meeting adjourns at 7:43pm.