

**Thurston PTO General Meeting**  
**January 14, 2020**  
**Thurston Library**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Vice Principal Callahan, Alisa Cox, Kelly Delp, Bruce Fields, Anne Geidner, Allison Jeter, Diane McIntyre, Mary Manthey, Elizabeth Morehead, Jon Svoboda, Nadine Wong, Principal York.

Allison Jeter welcomes everyone and reminds everyone of the upcoming Science Fair and the Enrichment Night participants who will have outreach STEM activities including the Leslie Science Nature Center, Women in Science and Engineering from Huron High School and UM Biointerfaces Institute and UM Society of Women Engineers.

**Approval of Minutes from December 17, 2019 Meeting**

*Mary Manthey moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Kevin Cox. The motion passes.*

**Principal's Report.**

Ms. Callahan thanks the entire community for making the all school trip a big success. Special thanks to everyone who volunteered and donated to the event. A consideration for next year would be to support parent volunteers such as making pizza available for purchase. , Ms. C. to consider for next year on how to recognize the parent volunteers e.g. having pizza to purchase. Allison Jeter expresses special thanks to Ms. Callahan. for organizing the trip.

**Teachers' Rep(s) Report. Anne G. - no report**

**Committee Reports**

Thurston Community Players. No report.

Fundraising. Kelly Delp reports that \$648 has been received from Box Tops and reminds everyone to keep sending in BoxTops and scanning receipts with the new app. Winter Carnival will take place on February 21. More info to come.

Treasurer's Report. Jon Svoboda provided the report - Winter Bazaar raised \$432, which is about \$500 less than last year. This month's report also reflect a \$1,000 donation received to support the ice skating field trip and the \$500 increased budget for food for PTO meetings that was approved in December. The current projected end of year budget is \$37 short of the recommended minimum PTOC balance. Treasurer's Report can be found [here](#).

Thurston Nature Center. Elizabeth Morehead mentions that two planned events at the beginning of February might have to be cancelled due to weather. TNC trails are waterlogged and there is no ice on the pond. All the rain in the past weekend caused pond to raise by 4-6

inches but has equalized so there was no need to open up the valve. TNC might have an unexpected project coming up related to the existing culverts but they will need to work with the school district as the culverts were not part of the recent restoration. The TNC board will address this issues and additional strategies to prevent flooding at the February meeting.

Safe Routes/Safety. Alisa Cox encourages everyone to remain calm and safe in the parking lot - specifically to listen to the student safeties and volunteers and to continue to follow school safety rules. Respect bus lanes for buses. Be respectful and kind. Follow the rules. A reminder of the extra parking areas that are available, including infographics and movie will shared as an update on safety measures in newsletter.

### **Other Reports/Updates**

**Discussion was resumed on the Motion to hold a Black Tie Blue Jeans (BTBJ) Event again. The Motion was originally made at the November 2019 Meeting by Kevin Cox and was tabled until the January's meeting.**

Kevin Cox provides additional details about the proposed event. A committee has been formed with the following members: Chair Kevin Cox, Co-Chair Chris McInnis and committee members including Lauren Buis, Rebecca Lusk, Mike Lusk, Dr. Peter Scott, Jon and Margaret Svoboda.

Various discussion items about this proposed event are summarized below:

**Event Timing:** There was a discussion about the timing of the event. The proposed event would be held in the next school year 2020-21. The previous BTBJ event was held in the Fall, very close to the school's largest fundraising event, Fun Run. The event was also held close to the beginning of the school year which had advertising and ticket sales challenges. There was general agreement that Spring would be a better timeline for such an event.

**Broadening Event Participation:** The inclusivity of the entire Thurston families should be considered and ways to ensure broader participation from all families so that everyone feels welcome. The committee has already lowered ticket prices and will work towards ensuring a wide range of auction item prices and will communicate clearly to the broader Thurston community.

**Event Location:** There were several discussion points about considering an auction-style event to be held at Thurston to attract a higher attendance. The BTBJ Committee has had discussions with other parties to consider an auction in conjunction with another regular event e.g., International Night, but it is unlikely to happen in 2020-21 but should be explored further in the future. The need for the off-site location is due to alcohol being served. An alcohol-free auction style event could be held at Thurston but it would require renting of chairs and tables and hiring of custodial staff, which would require additional expenses.

Event Budget: The proposal estimate is based on an anticipated ticket sales of 200 tickets. The revenues and expenses are based on the actual numbers from last year's event. Anticipated expenses include estimated costs of services such as DJs and catering. The organizers have already confirmed that the venue at North Oaks will be provided free of charge. There is a very high likelihood that the actual expenses will be lower as some of the services might be donated and/or negotiated for a lower rate.

Since the proposed event would take place in School Year 2020-21, no expenses will be incurred in this current fiscal year 2019-20.

After discussions about the projected expenses and revenues from this event as well as coordination of the event, there was a motion to amend the original motion on the floor to include a Proposed Budget for the Black Tie Blue Jeans Fundraiser to be held in School Year 2020-21.

This amendment was followed by three subsequent amendments: (1) To define the scope of the 2020-2021 BTBJ event to be an off-site, adult-only fundraiser that included the serving of alcohol (2) to include the PTO Fundraising Co-Chairs, Kelly Delp and Kelly Williams and PTO Vice President Mary Manthey to the BTBJ Committee and (3) to adjust the event proposal with a projected revenue of \$12,500 and expenses of \$8,290. For clarity's sake, under this proposal, the maximum expenses to be incurred by the PTO for this event will be \$8,290.

*Bruce Fields moves to approve the Proposal to hold a BTBJ event in the School Year 2020-21 as an off-site, adult-only fundraiser that includes the serving of alcohol, with a committee including PTO Fundraising co-chairs and PTO Vice-President and with a budget of anticipated expenses of \$8,290 and projected revenues of \$12,500. This is seconded by Margaret Svoboda. The motion passes with 1 objection and 1 abstention.*

*Sarah Thompson moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alisa Cox. The motion passes.*

Meeting adjourns at 7:50pm