

Serendipity Academy Parent Teacher Organization  
General PTO Meeting 1-22-14

In attendance: Kelly Alfaro Haugen, Melissa Van Gorkom, Justin Ruiz, Amity McDougal, Jennifer Falacy, Ashleigh Richards, Jody Hicky, Emily Walsh, Jennifer Olson, Kirstin Holstrom, John Hammagren, Lynette McCarty

Overview of the Bylaws

Everyone received a copy of the Bylaws, they are also available on the Website. The Bylaws outline the purpose of the PTO and its general make up which includes a board of directors and committees. It also provides some safeguards to protect from conflicts of interest and ensure safe money handling etc. No-one had any questions with regard to the bylaws.

Needs for the school

Help with how to build enrollment for the school... the school needs to increase by at least 8 more students in order to be able to maintain the teachers etc. at the school and keep payroll and try to stay/get competitive.

Working to update the vans to help advertise. One of the best values for the advertising for the school are the buses. Going with a partial wrap that will getting done soon.

Social networking for the school to bring more people to the website and get people to rate the school etc. to generate word of mouth etc.

Field trips/experiences to bring to the school to enhance education etc.

Maybe help supplement teacher training that may be necessary.

Help supplement extra classes such as Spanish that could either offset cost to parents/school or possibly even offer it to more students.

Help raise money to offset some of the school supply costs etc. to maybe free up some of the money so the school can address other needs like staff payroll etc.

Fundraising Ideas:

Garage Sale

Fun Run with photo ops

Parents Night Out

Father Daughter Dance

Auction/Dinner (early education folks may assist with putting something together)

Selling flowers/gifts for mothers/fathers day

Offer dinner/pot luck on event nights (winter program/science fair/fun run etc.)

Feb. 1st - private school fair at Good Shepard 12:30-2:30

### Nomination Discussion:

There were a number of nominations provided prior to the meeting which were presented to the group.

The group asked if there was a possibility to add alternative positions to the board so that if someone cannot make a meeting someone can be designated to sit in their place. The group discussed that this would take amendments to the bylaws and worked to draft the language at the meeting. The language was drafted to include two parent alternatives and one staff alternative. The alternatives could sit in the place of a board member and hold the vote of that member in their absence. The alternative board members can attend any of the meetings and can assist any committee position but not an officer position.

Once the changes were discussed, a motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments. A vote was taken and the group unanimously voted to amend the bylaws to include the language to add alternative positions.

Following the amendments to the bylaws, the group resumed discussion regarding board elections. With the amended bylaws, there were enough positions on the board for all nominees to hold a position. Therefore a voice vote was made to confirm all nominees as members of the board. The vote unanimously elected the following individuals to the board of the Serendipity Academy PTO: Kelly Alfaro Haugen, Melissa Van Gorkom, Justin Ruiz, Amity McDougal, Jennifer Falacy, Ashleigh Richards, Jody Hicky, Emily Walsh, Jennifer Olson, Kirstin Holstrom, John Hammagren.

Following the discussion, the board members took nominations for the positions available on the board. The nonnominations were as follows:

Kelly Alfaro Haugen (President/Membership Committee)

Melissa Van Gorkom (Secretary)

Justin Ruiz (Vice President)

Amity McDougal (Compliance Committee)

Jennifer Falacy (Treasurer)

Ashleigh Richards (Fundraising Committee)

Jody Hicky

Emily Walsh

Alt. Jennifer Olson (Fundraising Committee)

Alt. Kirstin Holstrom (Membership Committee)

Alt. John Hammagren (Compliance Committee)

With there being only one nomination for each officer position, there was a motion made and seconded to allow for a voice vote to confirm the officers of the board. The vote was unanimous and was followed by a vote to unanimously affirm the officers of the board. The committee chairs/co-chairs were also designated at the meeting.

### Next Steps

Lynette is willing to donate \$1,500 to help with the start up costs

Sign up at Target/Amazon/Safeway etc. to sign school up and get a % back

Look into Parades (4th of July, Pet Parade, Lake Fair)... possibly sell water with Serendipity Labels etc.

Start writing reviews.