

Elementary Partners in Education

May 2018

Follow up comments

1. I'm supportive of meeting 3 – 4 times next year as a collective PTA group.
19 – yes / 0 – no

2. Here are some ideas I'd like to learn more about and/or discuss next school year (if possible, limit your answers to three):
 - Bell to bell costs covered by foundation/PTO (field trips, etc.)
 - Centralized/equitable after school enrichment xxx
 - Funding for special needs programs
 - Funding after school programs
 - Define concrete next steps/action plan
 - What to do with continuing conversation/problem solving tips
 - Field trip equity xxx
 - Community partnership coordination x
 - Better define buckets, roles and structure around items that touch multiple groups
 - Equitable access to afterschool xxx
 - All students to participate in activities year round
 - Clarify who funds what
 - Collaboration between PTO's
 - Continued conversation and more research around equitable models of district-wide elementary fundraising – and concrete steps toward making this happen
 - Robust communications campaign with transparency about our process
 - Philosophy around fundraising – not asking kids to sell. What about book fair/sales/etc. where kids need to bring money to school to buy something? Does it highlight inequity or kids feeling like they don't belong at schools because they cannot purchase things?
 - I would like to investigate the idea of the Foundation holding surplus funds from PTA's so our collective wealth can be working for us
 - Develop a final document of "Partners in funding" that the PTA/PTO's all agree to support as a step toward equity
 - Unpacking how we create equity by sharing funds
 - Standardizing some support for arts integration
 - Create an equity based PTA funding model – the 3 columns are a great starting point. Still, if we compare overall funds raised and dollars spent through PTA's on a per pupil basis, this is perpetuating huge inequities
 - More Common Threads under BPS
 - Build funds for PTA/PTO

- How to attract or entice volunteers – share strategies
- Increase school funds e.g. ideas
- Where are the needs at all the schools?
- How can we get that information in one place to work more collectively to helping across the board?
- PTA's do too much fundraising and we can see families are tired of giving so often and being asked so often.
- Looking at the teacher stipend and implications
- Increasing transparency of partners like Common Threads and Wild Whatcom – i.e. on school pays \$3000 another \$500. We are already supporting each other.

3. Wonders/Reflections

- The Partners in Funding document is confusing. I'm not sure that a typical community member could decipher the nuances.
- Thank you!
- How to communicate this work/roles to PTO members/board who are new or turning over. So conversation doesn't need to take a step backwards and keeps moving forward
- Great conversation – Thank you!
- Like the opportunity to connect with other schools, district, fund.
- If there are 3-4 meetings next year, maybe vary the times because the middle of the day might be difficult.
- Explicit roles for each organization. Call out explicitly our focus around equity as the driver for this work. Is our community on board when those with more have slightly less to create equity for all?
- Would there be value in a smaller meeting with new PTA leadership to generate voice and deeper understanding?
- Can we make our notes and documents from these meetings accessible/available for sharing from a centralized place? It would be nice to be able to visit a website or find all this information.
- Can we get some sort of blind assessment of where people stand on sharing PTA/PTO funds toward equity? Like on a scale of 1 – 10 where are you?
- Large PTA budget discrepancy
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