

## **Sabin PTA General Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**September 17, 2025**

**6:30 - 7:30 pm**

**School Auditorium**

### **Participants:**

Members: Matt Guy, Jenna Moran, Selena Deckelmann, Emily Leuning, Jenny DuVander; Ben Decherd; Brittany Allegria; Sara Lewis; Don Smith; Nancy Smith; Leif Schjeide

General: Karin Ljundquist, Brian Soderholm; Katy Vawter; Kristen Jessie Uyanik; Jocelyn Arnold; Angela Hancock; Geetha Beauchamp; Meredith Guardino; Emma Russac-Williams; Bas Geelen; Courtney Stiven; Andrew Busch; Raffaele Timarchi

Meeting called to order at 6:34

### **Welcome and Discussion** (Selena Deckelmann)

- Selena introduced herself and organized participants into small groups to discuss the following topics: what do we want for our students and what do we need to do to get what we want? This discussion will help inform the PTA's goals and priorities for the year.
  - In the first Sabin PTA meeting of the year, about 40 parents, a teacher and administrator joined for small group discussions of two questions. The first question we answered was "What do we want for our students?" Nearly everyone shared that they wanted community and joy for their students, as well as being part of a diverse, healthy and inclusive community. The groups also talked about the educational experiences, expressing support to meet students where they are at and be challenged; where learning is enjoyable, equitable and the environment is safe and secure for all students. There was support for joy in our music program, a strong arts program, and options for choir, science, field trips and more art! The community garden was mentioned, as well as "milestone experiences" for each grade level.
  - The second question was "What do we need to get this?" There was a lot of mention that sweat equity – help and support from our Sabin caregiver community. A challenge was issued for the school to ask for more from our local community. The groups also mentioned a number of things that would help provide the kinds of enrichment they were hoping for: career fair, science fair, cultural nights, targeted outreach for under-represented groups in the PTA, the carnival, and more. In terms of the culture of inclusion, groups mentioned systems of support for the social-emotional support classrooms and ways the whole school might change to support these students. The groups mentioned transparency and communication between parents, teachers and staff was essential, and that something that explained who was responsible for what inside the school could help parents navigate challenges and get support. Finally, there was a call for the PTA to form a clear set of priorities and goals to bring alignment between what the PTA is doing to support, and the goals of the staff and teachers of Sabin.

### **New Business**

- Volunteer Coordinator Ben Decherd highlighted several upcoming volunteer opportunities, especially highlighting the urgent need from the school for more lunchtime/recess support; a garden cleanup event on Sunday September 21 from 9am-noon; and hopes to revive the safety patrol.

- Selena also highlighted vacancies in year-long roles: Yearbook Coordinator and Social Media Manager, which Geetha Beauchamp volunteered to fill.
- Given the recent dues increases at the state and national levels, Sabin PTA needs to increase annual dues to \$12.50.
  - Sara Lewis moved to increase dues to \$12.50, Matt Guy seconded the motion and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.