

Ainsworth Elementary PTA
Regular General Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2022 | Zoom | 6:00p - 7:00p

Call to Order – 6:02p

Attendees – Quorum

Executive Board Members:

Jennifer Rollins, President
Andrea (“Andi”) Mukul, Treasurer
Stacy Day, Secretary

Committee Members and Ainsworth Representatives:

Jessica Kirkland, Community Outreach Coordinator
Andrea Tomlin, Communications/Room Parent Coordinator
Gaby Ordoñez, Hispanic Heritage Coordinator & Duelo Committee Member
Kathleen Joffer, Volunteer Coordinator
Angela Jenkins, Ainsworth Assistant Principal
Ruth Napier, Clothing Closet
Sarah Gault, Clothing Closet

Parents of Ainsworth Students:

Donna Prentice
Liberato Mukul
Isaac Cardona
Scott Wren
Lenka

Welcome and Introduction – Jennifer Rollins / Andi Mukul

PTA Ainsworth Board Member Election

1. Executive Member Terms
 - a. (Co)President and Treasurer positions will be available at the end of the year as Jennifer Rollins and Andi Mukul exit their term.
 - i. Co-President is an optional position.
 - ii. President and Vice President are also options for the structure going forward.
 - iii. President-Elect is an important role and process to prepare the incoming President for the role and responsibilities of the position.
 - iv. Jessica Kirkland and Andrea Tomlin have both expressed interest in the (Co)President position(s).
 - b. Current Secretary, Stacy Day, has volunteered to stay on in her position if no one else is interested.
2. Election Requirements
 - a. Per Article V Section 2(b) of the Oregon PTA Bylaws amended April 2021:
 - i. “Officers shall be elected by ballot vote, by the members at a general meeting, annually prior to July 1. However, if there is but one nominee for any office, election for that office may be by voice vote.”

- b. Per Section 3(a) and 3(b) of the Ainsworth PTA Standing Rules:
 - i. (a) There shall be a nominating committee composed of at least three (3) members, to be elected by this local PTA/PTSA unit at a general meeting, at least one month prior to the election of officers. The committee shall elect its own chair.
 - ii. (b) The nominating committee shall submit the name of one (1) or more candidates for each office to be filled. Additional nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.
- 3. MOTION by Stacy Day to not move forward with an election committee and proceed with election by voice vote for open Executive Board and Committee positions given low level of involvement and uncontested seats.
 - a. It is the goal of Ainsworth PTA that as we pull out of disruptions to programming due to the Covid pandemic, that a nominating committee will resume as we increase membership and involvement.

Open Forum – What Do You Want Your PTA To Be?

An open forum initiated and led by Jessica Kirkland, the PTA Executive Board, Committee Members, Volunteers and Parents provided feedback on the topic as well as challenges preventing or discouraging engagement, especially among our Hispanic community and other under-represented groups.

The pandemic has provided an opportunity to start anew – reimagining and creating what we want for the PTA and our Ainsworth community. This was the beginning of that conversation with the goal of increasing inclusion, involvement and refreshed programming.

- 1. Summary of verbal contributions and discussions:
 - a. Vision for PTA
 - i. An inclusive organization that provides resources, financial support and community building-events for the students, parents and faculty of our school.
 - ii. Parents (back) in the classrooms, engaging with teachers and students while offering support.
 - iii. Teachers (more) invested and involved in PTA.
 - iv. More intentional actions to engage and support inclusion of our under-represented populations.
 - v. Define the role of Room Parent more specifically and utilize this role more strategically to build more connectivity between all parties.
 - vi. Revisit and refresh event programming.
 - b. Current challenges and opportunities:
 - i. More diversity on the Executive Board to be reflective and inclusive of our diversifying student population.
 - ii. English as second language for many of our community that essentially excludes them from participating in PTA meetings, positions and/or volunteer opportunities.
 - o What are our options to begin removing these barriers, especially considering we are a Spanish-immersion school?
 - o For a start, how can we obtain translation services for PTA meetings – especially those calling for feedback?
 - o What organizations, resources or grants are available to help us engage verbally with our Spanish-speaking community?
 - iii. Low parent involvement – as seen through current PTA membership levels as well as lower volunteer numbers.
 - o How do we re-engage those previously involved who may have dropped off due to the

- pandemic?
 - How do we engage parents who haven't been involved or are new to the school?
 - iv. Low teacher involvement. Teachers have a sense that being more involved with supporting PTA means more work for them.
 - How do we get better partnerships between Teacher/Room Parent/PTA?
 - Teachers need to be advocates of PTA and help build interest / enthusiasm for events, etc.
 - v. We need to be more deliberate in asking for help and volunteers. It's not always clear what is needed, for what and when.
 - How can we create methods of communication and engagement that foster participation that reflects, accommodates and is inclusive of the diversity of schedules, availability and interaction modes (ie. synchronous/asynchronous involvement and feedback; meeting dates and times; in-person/online; etc)?
 - vi. Many parents, especially from our Hispanic community and other under-represented populations, feel they don't have a healthy and open platform for voicing frustrations, sharing ideas, or providing other feedback.
 - How can we revisit and act on some of the feedback already provided by this community prior to the pandemic to reinforce they were heard?
 - Can we create an online platform where members of our community may provide feedback?
 - vii. Some historic events are insensitive, culturally inappropriate or even racist in foundation.
 - What events need reworked to be more inclusive?
 - What events should be dropped?
 - What events should we be doing that we're not?
 - How can we make events more accessible (scheduling, financial) and inclusive (Hispanic and other under-represented communities)?
 - viii. Provide additional support and resources for new Ainsworth families.
 - How can we help connect our new families with information about organizations and extra-curricular activities (child care, sports, arts, etc) that are connected to our school?
 - How can we help integrate these new families with the community?
 - c. Zoom Chat dialogue copied/pasted by Stacy Day during progression of meeting – "Exhibit A"
 - i. Additional feedback provided via Facebook by parents who could not attend the meeting.
 - ii. Background dialogue by attendees to follow up on discussion, etc.
 - d. Word Bubble suggested by Gaby Ordoñez – "Exhibit B"
 - i. Main words and themes
 - ii. of the open forum that may help foster or prioritize future discussions and actions by the PTA.
2. Next steps
- a. PTA members voiced uncertainty about what is the best path forward to balance current pressing PTA operational business (outgoing executive members, elections, etc) while advancing bigger picture goals and bandwidth to take action on shared feedback in light of low level of involvement while acknowledging the importance of this work.
 - i. What are the objectives and goals of the next in-person meeting?
 - Is it a continuation of the "Open Forum" from this meeting?
 - Do we begin (re)building the PTA from the ground up by revisiting Values, Mission and Vision?
 - Who can help facilitate or moderate discussions among the PTA and our

under-represented communities? Translation services?

- a. Angie Jenkins volunteered to assist this effort.
- b. ACTION ITEM – Should we utilize PPS translation services for a fee?
 - o How can we drive greater attendance and participation if this is the meeting for beginning this work?
- ii. As this is the only meeting in March, is it better to take time to identify our objectives and save for a meeting in April to encourage better organization, efficiency and engagement?
- b. ACTION ITEM - PTA Executive Board to determine the agenda for the next meeting given this feedback.

Next Meeting(s)

Thursday, March 10th from 6-7:30pm - Ainsworth Elementary (in person)

Adjourn – 7:51p

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"Exhibit A"

Zoom Meeting Chat Transcript:

Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (6:05 PM)

Hi - I posted on the PTA Facebook page if you couldn't attend the PTA meeting but wanted to share to please comment. I received two comments.

1) I would like the theme to be:

KIDS First- kids have been kind, resilient and deserve to have a strong Ainsworth Community again. We need to put the student's needs first again.

Let's focus on bringing back the soul to Ainsworth. Let's bring back all the special activities for each grade level...

3rd Grade Portland Play

4th Grade Oregon Trail Overnight Adventure

5th Grade Biz Town (went away a few years ago), Samba Band & Starlight Parade

These are the memories and activities that kids remember.

How about funding buses for field trips? Bring back after school actives and clubs. This all can not be forgotten or fade away.

2) Any option of parents donating tents to place out side classrooms to help for morning drop off. I have to drop off early due to work and it would be great to have more covers when it rains. Happy to donate.

Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (6:20 PM)

RE Samba Band

A few weeks ago I asked Maya, the music teacher, about Samba when I was updating the PTA website. Here was here response:

Samba, 2/3 choir, and 4/5 choir are still offered, but none of them are happening at the moment due to covid. They probably will not happen in the 2021-2022 school year because of Covid, but we will bring them back as soon as it is safe to do so!

Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (6:21 PM)

@Stacy can you capture these comments for the minutes? Thanks.

Yes.

Isaac Cardona to Everyone (6:41 PM)

Hey y'all, I'm solo parenting this week and need to start bedtime. Thanks for having this space. I've loved the events that I've had in the PTA so far. I volunteered at the Latino Heritage Night and would love to do more stuff like that. (My wife is also a co-room parent and that's been great for building community in our class and we've done quite a few class get togethers at school. Always fun)

Jessica Kirkland (she/her) to Everyone (6:41 PM)

Thanks Isaac!

Me to Everyone (6:41 PM)

Thank you, Isaac! We appreciate your feedback + attendance. Hopefully we'll see more of you all!

Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (6:44 PM)

@andrea - Ezra likes it too that I help out :)

Donna Prentice to Everyone (6:44 PM)

When Stacy is done - building off what she's saying - I have some insight regarding the co-room parent role

That was also a major function as room parents at Bridlemile - we received a weekly email from the room parent coordinator about all of the initiatives that needed help! I think people feel more comfortable raising their hands with folks they know, as opposed to diving head first into the PTA.

Donna Prentice to Everyone (6:53 PM)

Hit send too soon - and then our role was to then communicate those needs with the classroom

Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (6:54 PM)

Please feel free to share - this is a safe space.

Andrea Tomlin to Everyone (6:59 PM)

Yes Angie - exactly this. The silver lining to the pandemic

Angela Jenkins to Everyone (7:08 PM)

R-write a Ainsworth specific mission?

For PTA

Ruth to Everyone (7:10 PM)

What steps can we take to create diversity in our leadership. Would cafecita be an appropriate place to begin that conversation and share our desire to grow in this way?

Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (7:12 PM)

My note was around mission - similar to what angie is saying

Ruth to Everyone (7:13 PM)

This sounds very helpful Andi. I think we need more structure + wider community representation which may result in a need for very thoughtful and intentional invitations on our part.

Donna Prentice to Everyone (7:14 PM)

I also just want to echo one more time - as a new parent to the school - I think there is a huge opportunity to make people feel welcome and connected to the school. Community building within the classroom.

Angela Jenkins to Everyone (7:14 PM)

If we are going to do this, I recommend we increase attendance by offering childcare and even food. We will have much better attendance.

Scott Wren to Everyone (7:16 PM)

I agree with Donna. It feels very intimidating to get involved with the PTA with the limited time my wife and I have but we do want to participate so finding way to find small ways to help would be great

Scott Wren to Everyone (7:17 PM)

I do also like the idea of making the meeting minutes or ideas about PTA transparent so if you miss a meeting you can still find ways to contribute and feel involved

great, thanks for letting me know.

Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (7:18 PM)

<https://ainsworthelementary.org/pta-meeting-minutes/>

Donna Prentice to Everyone (7:22 PM)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/114brDYIERHmzvJbiMN23gg9K4tc4chLC/edit>

Not to be aggressive....

But here it is

Donna Prentice to Everyone (7:24 PM)

I would be happy to shed some light on how we roped in parents!!!

Liberato Mukul to Everyone (7:25 PM)

I vote Donna to be our new room parent coordinator

Sarah Gault to Everyone (7:25 PM)

Second that!

Angela Jenkins to Everyone (7:26 PM)

I think it would be great to connect the PTA and cafecito more intentionally. What is the information I can take back to that team or what positions are available that that group could have access to? Ideally it would be great to find a parent that could be responsible for that, but I am happy to for now.

Gabriela Ordóñez to Everyone (7:27 PM)

Donna, send me his phone number. We will add him to a group I whatsapp

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Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (7:32 PM)

As Andi was saying I think we probably need to workout session.

Start writing down all our ideas, categorize them and create a strategic / action plan.

Liberato Mukul to Everyone (7:34 PM)

Why don't room parents attend PTA meetings?

Gabriela Ordóñez to Everyone (7:36 PM)

YES Lee that should be a must!

Donna Prentice to Everyone (7:36 PM)

[file: Gmail - 🌸 Week Ending 17 April :: Co-Room Parent Weekly Email.pdf]

Kathleen Joffer to Everyone (7:40 PM)

At our next meeting, things we could brainstorm on

- > How can we better engage our community?
- > How to make our community stronger?
- > What communication is needed for the community ie. what PTA, school, ect
- > How to communicate? Best way to share information. How to make information sharing more personal.
- > Clarity on PTA Roles

Gabriela Ordóñez to Everyone (7:43 PM)

What are our top values as a PTA?

What are we not?

Angela Jenkins to Everyone (7:47 PM)

She isn't allowed to leave. I may have to hold her children back a grade or two...

Gabriela Ordóñez to Everyone (7:48 PM)

Yes Angie, echo that!

Sorry, when is the next meeting again?

Sarah Gault to Everyone (7:49 PM)

March 10

