



Bellevue PTSA Council

General Membership Meeting
September 8, 2014

Mission Statement

The Council advocates for children on relevant issues at the local and state level. The Mission of the Bellevue PTSA Council is to support and strengthen our local units through the adoption of best practices and leadership development. We train, mentor, and facilitate information exchange between and among our local units, school district, and community organizations. We promote parent involvement by providing a district wide forum for discussion and action on issues that affect our children. Bellevue PTSA Council works in partnership with the Bellevue School District, Bellevue Schools Foundation, and the community at large to promote the welfare of children and families in the home, school and community.

Goals

- Attain 100% local unit representation in our monthly General Council Meetings.
- Invite relevant speakers to meetings.
- Provide opportunities for leadership training and at least 2 roundtable sessions to facilitate the exchange of ideas.
- Strengthen the partnership between PTSA, the school district and our community by instituting a periodic Council newsletter and increasing communication channels to local units.
- Provide a “best practice” moment in each General Council Meeting to assist our local units in meeting the Standards of Excellence as set forth by the Washington State PTA.
- Host parent education programs during the year focused on issues specific to elementary, middle and high school parents.
- Support our local units in their efforts to outreach to their school communities and broaden their membership base.
- Greater involvement of a more diversified community to better reflect our community at large.
- Create better collaboration between all PTSA’s as a unified group on funding resources and knowledge.
- Continued review and mainstreaming our goals.

Bellevue PTSA Council

2014-15 Board of Directors

- President, Jennifer Karls
- Vice President, Lisa Shank
- Co-Secretary, Aimee Bachmann
- Co-Secretary, Kyla Carlson
- Treasurer, *Open Position*
- Advocacy Director, Sarah Butcher
- Communications Director, Brook Rose
- Family & Community Engagement Director, Jessica Garcia
- Past President, Catherine Smith
- Past President & Membership Director, Carolyn Watson
- Member-at-Large, Adam Dibba

Advocacy

Director, Sarah Butcher

- What to look forward to:
 - Monthly Newsletter
 - Call to Actions
 - Advocacy in Action
- WA State PTA Legislative Assembly October 24 & 25, 2014 Vancouver Hilton, Vancouver Washington
 - Identify your delegates
 - More information to come on platform issues
- Current BSD issues to pay attention to:
 - Graduation Credit Requirements
 - Policy 3246 – Use of Reasonable Force

Communications

Director, Brook Rose

- Monthly Newsletter
 - Sent out after the general membership meeting
 - If there is something that you would like to include in our newsletter, please send information to Brook Rose the first week of each month.
- Website
 - Updated regularly
 - Check often for calendar updates, advocacy information, general council updates and information
- Facebook Page
 - Like the Page
 - Share with your PTA members

Family & Community Engagement Director, Jessica Garcia

- Parent Education meetings and speakers planned monthly
 - First Event: Sept., 17th at 5:30pm at Sherwood Forest Elementary: Empty Hands Musical Tour (Teaching Children Empathy & Kindness)
 - Look for updated information on the website
- Topics being considered include:
 - Common Core
 - Mental health
 - Graduation requirements
 - Drug & Alcohol Abuse
 - Sex Health/Education
 - Health Concerns
 - Internet Safety
 - Bullying
 - And Others...

Membership

Director, Carolyn Watson

- Goal to increase Bellevue Local Unit Membership by 5%
- Membership dues will be paid directly to WSPTA
 - WSPTA will invoice Local Units for full amount of dues
 - WSPTA will then send Bellevue PTSA Council our share of the dues.
 - Council Membership dues for 2014-15 unchanged at \$1.30.
- Membership chair will be able to answer questions and will be helping to track dues payments.

Reflections Art Program – 2014-15

Theme: “The World Would Be A Better Place If...”

- Council is forming a Reflections Committee to manage the program this year. Need volunteers (Reflections Chairs preferred)
- Local Unit Recommended Deadlines
 - November 14th: All Reflections Entries Due
 - November 15th – November 25th: Prep Reflections Artwork for Display and/or advancement (All forms completed, display/presentation ready)
 - December 3rd: All Reflections Judging Completed
- See handout for more details (*provided by Jessica Garcia*)

PTA Training Requirements

(to remain in good standing)

- All elected officers must attend a WSPTA certified training.
 - You have met your requirement if you have attended:
 - WSPTA Convention held in April 2014
 - Region 2 training in August 2014
 - At least one elected officer must attend PTA & the Law
 - You have met that requirement if you attended PTA & the Law at WSPTA Convention in April 2014 or at Region 2 training in August 2014
 - Upcoming PTA & the Law trainings:
 - Duvall class - Wednesday, 9/17, 6-9pm.
 - Redmond class - Wednesday, 9/24, 9-noon
 - Redmond class - Saturday, 10/4
 - Issaquah class - Thursday, 11/13
- see the WA State PTA website for other locations.*

Nominating Committee

(to be elected in November)

- Bellevue PTSA Council will elect the nominating committee at November General Membership meeting according to Article V, Section 1(b) of the WSPTA Bylaws and in accordance with our Standing Rules.
 - The committee shall consist of 3 members with 2 alternates and will be nominated from the floor.
- Consider serving on the PTSA Council Nominating Committee
 - Important work of recommending a slate of officers for new school year.
- Think about electing your nominating committee early and be sure that you are in compliance with WSPTA Bylaws and your local unit Standing Rules.

PTA Awards

- Consider applying for a PTA Award this year. You are doing great work for our children and this is an opportunity for recognition for your PTA member efforts.

Award Categories Include:

Website Communications

Newsletters

Other Communications

Honor Units

Standards of Excellence

PTAs Taking Significant Action

Outstanding Local Unit of the Year

Mentor-A-PTA

Typical deadline for application is March 1st

Scholarships

The Alice Hurd Foundation Scholarship

- Scholarship awarded to one graduating Senior from each High School. Included this year Big Picture.
- This scholarship is in memory of Alice Hurd, Parent and PTA Leader in our Bellevue schools. This scholarship recognizes students for their volunteer and community involvement.

The Bellevue Parks' Levy Scholarship

- One Parks' Levy Scholarship awarded to a graduating Senior.
- Recognizes commitment to our environment.

The Michael C. Riley Memorial Scholarship

- Scholarship awarded to one graduating Senior from each High School. Included this year Big Picture.
- Award based on academic merit.

The Judges Choice Scholarship

- Awarded to one deserving graduating Senior based on the decision of the judges.