



Evan Briggs <evanybriggs@gmail.com>

Site Council elections

Evan Briggs <evanybriggs@gmail.com>
To: "Joung, Helen H" <hhjoung@seattleschools.org>

Fri, May 18, 2018 at 4:44 PM

FYI, this is the email I sent to Cassie after our conversation today. She then referenced it in the other email thread (that has way more people on it) that I just forwarded.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Evan Briggs** <evanybriggs@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, May 18, 2018 at 2:07 PM
Subject: Re: Site Council elections
To: Cassie Condon <cassie.condon@hotmail.com>
Cc: "Miner, John" <jminer@seattleschools.org>, Christina Ellis <penellis@gmail.com>, Jonathan Gasbar <jonathan.gasbar@highlineschools.org>

Hi Cassie,

I've just received confirmation that a joint communication from John and Jon Gasbar will be coming out on Tuesday, once John is back in town, regarding this proposed election. So we will not be making any announcements in the newsletter or otherwise until then. I will still post open site council positions. It's great that we suddenly have so many eager volunteers! Hopefully people will step up to fill some of these roles.

thanks,
Evan

On Thu, May 17, 2018 at 8:13 PM, Cassie Condon <cassie.condon@hotmail.com> wrote:

We have followed by laws in many cases in the 2 years I've been here - for voting (passing minutes), posting minutes, quorum and building consensus. Site Council is a joint body of teachers, staff and parents - none of us can or should unilaterally decide we will not follow bylaws in this particular case.

You're right there hasn't been elections, but partly that's because there weren't people asking to step up, which is happening now. We should use it as an opportunity to rally involvement for ALL positions. I'm planning on doing Comms again, but if someone wanted to put their name forward instead then great! I don't know that an election would actually change our leadership positions or not, but it would at least bring transparency and buy-in to the community, and maybe generate more volunteers.

This is uncomfortable for all of us, but it isn't right to change the bylaws without a vote. I don't love that this has only been discussed among a few of us.

I don't see that we have a choice other than to hold an election. I'm certain we could come up with a fair election process if needed, and I will find a way to make others feel comfortable putting their names forward. I will draft a proposal tomorrow afternoon to bring back to this thread. At that point, I'd also like to add other voting committee chairs and our BLT reps to ensure representation.

Evan my cell is 206-849-4400 if you want to chat tomorrow.

From: Evan Briggs <evanybriggs@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 5:13 PM
To: Miner, John; Christina Ellis

Cc: Cassie Condon

Subject: Re: Site Council elections

John,

I sent out a call to all current committee chairs earlier this week asking who is stepping down and who is continuing in their role. They have until Friday to get back to me. I will send out notification regarding open positions early next week.

As no voting has taken place in recent memory, we do not actually have a process for site council elections. In addition to the concerns detailed by Liz Benko in her email on which you were CC'd, the growth of our school, the addition of new committees, and the fact that several voting committees are currently without a chair, the by-laws as written do not provide a legitimate framework for how an election could be carried out with any integrity. As you are aware, my attempt to resurrect the by-laws updating process was shut down by staff, who requested that it be postponed until next year. So until we have by-laws that clearly delineate how and under which circumstances elections can take place, we cannot hold elections.

Please feel free to direct anyone with questions to me.

Thanks,
Evan

On Thu, May 17, 2018 at 3:26 PM, Miner, John <jminer@seattleschools.org> wrote:

Evan and Cassie,

Parents have been asking about the process for elections for Site Council. I have not seen information go out to families. I have told them to talk with you about their questions about process and elections. This information needs to go out to all families next week so everyone is clear about how voting will take place and how interested parents can put their names forward for site council positions. This has to happen ASAP so that our parent community is informed. Please make this happen

John Miner

Principal

Thornton Creek

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