**Fairmount Park Elementary PTA >> Backpack Program Proposal**

**Summary**

The Fairmount Park PTA Executive board recommends formally including The Backpack Program as an official PTA initiative for the 2018/19 school year. The PTA would form a committee to evaluate the program structure and provide a proposal for program management and funding. Additionally, the committee will determine an interim solution to ensure food security through the remainder of 2017/18 school year & summer.

* Yeah Vote – PTA should incorporate The Backpack Program
* Nay Vote – PTA should NOT incorporate The Backpack Program

**What is the Backpack Program?**

The FPE Backpack Program started in 2016/17 school year with a dedicated group of volunteers lead by Ms. Gano. Backpack programs are part of many school communities, whether directly through the PTA or through individual volunteers. These programs are designed to provide families within the school community with nutritious meals outside the school hours.

Currently, the FPE program provides food security to 11 families including ~30 children in the Fairmount Park School community. The need as well as the program has evolved over time and Ms. Gano has requested the PTA involvement to ensure this vital program sustained for years to come. Additionally, through inclusion in the PTA the program will have the benefits of the non-profit tax status 501c3 and contributions to the program will be tax deductible.

**How does it align to the PTA mission and articles?**

The Washington State PTA Mission is:

* A powerful voice for children,
* A relevant resource for families, schools and communities, and
* A strong advocate for the well-being and education of all children.

We believe as a PTA in the wellbeing of the whole-child; nutritional meals year-round being an essential part of helping every child’s potential become reality.

**Next Steps**

If the general PTA membership approves the incorporation of the Backpack program we will form a committee to research and recommend a formal structure for the program. Taking into account the best practices and recommendations from the current program volunteers and Ms. Gano, as well as, insights from other programs. These findings and recommendations will be presented at the next executive meeting for review and a vote in the general meeting.