

September 10, 2025

8:45 – 9:45 AM via MS Teams with 107 attendees at its peak; 97 at close

1. Bengu Bostanci, Association of Parents and Guardians (APG) President

- Hospitality, meaningful engagement and volunteerism are core APG tenets
- The APG works to build lifelong connections and a culture of care within EPS community
- APG officers serve two years typically
- Bengu introduced APG Members, their roles and upcoming events
- **Hospitality** (Chandra Pandey, Tani Bhutani and Sukriti Singhai)
 - o Back-to-school Ice Cream Social (Frid, 9/12) – LPC patio and near the sports court for all kids
 - o Fall Harvest celebration (Fri, 9/26) – open to adults only
 - o All-school Picnic (Sat, May 30th) – open to all families (past and present)
- **Faculty & Staff Appreciation** (Richa Rai, Tamara Reznik, Ruchi Bhutani and Leela Rao)
 - o Hosting a breakfast on September 18th
 - o Will assemble treat baskets in December (holidays) and February (Valentine's)
 - o Will host Faculty/Staff Appreciation Week in May with fun goodies and food
- **Arts** (Brenda Bown and Jeannie Kleinpeter)
 - o Planning an Arts Fest that will coincide with the All-School Picnic
 - o Support arts students with snacks, flowers, posters, etc. during performances
- **Athletics** (Ayesha Affan)
 - o Supports sports banquets
 - o Identifies team parents to provide snacks for games and gifts for coaches
- **Class Rep Coordinators** (Adam Milam and Polina Mokshina)
 - o Pivotal in managing open communication lines with families
 - o Recruit, train and support class reps (2-4) for each grade; host class rep meetings
 - o Class reps maintain WhatsApp groups with real-time Q&A; host social outings and back-to-school picnics; and attend grade-level parent meetings
- **Secretary** (Kristen Boeckmann)
 - o Captures notes for APG Exec and General Meetings
 - o Aggregates and edits notes for grade-level Parent Meetings
 - o Notes are published on the Families page of the EPS site and in the *EPS Weekly*
- **How Can You Help Volunteer?** Check your emails and the *EPS Weekly* every Friday for more details and sign-up links! Short-term volunteer needs include:
 - o **Arts** support parents – volunteer to provide snacks, flowers and decorations for actors
 - o **Athletics** team parents – sign up to provide snacks and collect donations for coach gifts
 - o **Fall Harvest** on September 26th – assist with set-up, decorating and/or clean-up
 - o **Photo retake day** on October 27th – help to check in and herd students

2. Hye-Won Dandino, Directory of Equity, Inclusion & Compassionate Leadership (EICL)

- A little bit about Hye-Won:
 - o Hails from New Jersey originally, but most recently from LA
 - o Mom to three humans (ages 9 and 7) and two dogs
 - o Level 42 Pokémon Go connoisseur! Family vacations often center around this.
 - o Married to a cycling enthusiast who builds custom bikes – showed a cool tandem

- Has spent 19 years in education in various capacities including Social Studies high/middle school teacher, principal and administrator
- Hye-Won discovered that the most rewarding and energizing aspects of her job focused on promoting a sense of belonging and inclusion
- She appreciates that EPS is taking a stand to prioritize equity and inclusion
- Hye-Won had a fantastic experience meeting EPS staff and students during the interview process. She found our community to be open to feedback with a strong growth mindset
- EICL initial plans:
 - Continue **Affinity Groups**
 - Plan “**Voices in Action**” Day
 - Complete the final phase of **Blink Consulting’s Belonging Audit**. Through the lens of belonging, what are we intentionally and unintentionally doing and how can we improve?
 - Kicked off **Bias Interruption training** for staff which will continue for the next few months
 - Ultimately, we hope to **build an onramp** that allows all members of our community to feel safe and empowered to take action in support of EICL

3. Sam Uzwack, Head of School

- We are so excited to welcome Hye-Won to the EPS team! We invested considerable effort into finding the right candidate for this critically important position.
- Sam and others in the community have begun engaging in thought partnership with Hye-Won
- **Fostering a sense of belonging:**
 - EPS was formed to bring together a diverse array of learners
 - The data tell us that when students bring their full selves to school they thrive academically, emotionally and socially
 - Thus, creating a sense of belonging will always be a core EPS pillar
 - This is Sam’s 25th year in education, 17 of which have been at EPS. Congratulations, Sam!
 - Sam has a daughter at W. Seattle High who is a senior as well as a 7th grade son at EPS
 - Our theme this year is: Act Responsibly: Care through Clarity. It’s amazing that this theme will be echoed at the Fall Harvest!
 - This theme emerged from our conversations last year about empathetic dialogue
 - We must be crystal clear about our expectations of those in our community. Are there written and unwritten rules?
 - We have many critical thinkers and self-advocates in our student body who will ask us to defend our policies and principles. “Because I said so” won’t cut it.
 - Sam’s goal is that EPS parents and guardians share this same sense of belonging. The APG is instrumental in forging connections and open dialogue between EPS and our families.
 - Sam is incredibly appreciative of Bengu and her team’s efforts
- **Campus expansion & building use update:**
 - How can we prepare our students to hit the ground running when they leave EPS? We don’t want to push our kids to grow up too fast, but we want to prepare them to succeed in whatever path(s) they take post-EPS.
 - Building 5:
 - “Conduit to the Professional World” for juniors and seniors

- Colleague AI, a spinoff of UW, resides here. Colleague AI is a start-up company working to build educational tools that leverage AI. Rather than developing these tools in a cubicle, why not build them in an actual school environment in partnership with students? In exchange for reduced rent, the company will teach seminars to our students such as “Ethics and AI”.
- Building 6:
 - “Conduit to the Natural World”
 - Here, students can think deeply and critically about environmental science and practices in a “living lab”. We’ve held outdoor classes here.
 - Students continue to work on creek restoration and releasing salmon
 - By 2030, Seattle will need double the amount of power. Kids need to understand the complexities of problems such as these.
- Building 12:
 - “Student Hub”
 - This is our most recent acquisition which we’ll use as a center for all student life activities, overseen by Carla Harris
 - In particular, we’re focused on hosting student leadership activities here. We held our second annual “Compassionate Leaders Camp” here in August, for example. Leadership councils and groups meet here.
- **Student safety and off-campus protocol**
 - This relates to signing In, signing out and off-campus privileges
 - EPS has a high-trust culture and we want to give students the freedom to build their independence responsibly
 - With great privilege comes great responsibility. We routinely ask students if they know what their privileges are and how to maintain their safety.
 - Juniors can sign out and walk off campus during free periods
 - Seniors can sign out and drive off campus during free periods
 - 9th graders and sophomores cannot leave campus, but can go for a walk after 3 PM
 - Middle Schoolers cannot leave the campus without being signed out unless they are transported by an EPS bus

4. Q&A

- **Question:** Will this session be recorded?
Answer: Yes! We’ll publish a link to the meeting recording in the *EPS Weekly*.
- **Question:** I work at Eastside Pathways, an E&I nonprofit. Is there an opportunity for families in this area to connect to EPS’s EICL efforts?
Answer: Absolutely, Hye-Won agreed to meet. Eastside Pathways is a terrific organization.
- **Question:** Are Juniors allowed to drive to school?
Answer: Yes, Juniors may drive to and from school but cannot leave campus by car during the school day. If they wish to go off campus before 3 PM, they must walk.
- **Question:** If a parent picks up their student at a sports field, is a sign-out required?
Answer: No, just let the Coach know you’re taking your student.
- **Question:** Will every senior participate in the “Conduit to the Professional World”?

Answer: Building 5 will be open to Seniors on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We are starting small.

- **Question:** Is there an update on our Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) neighbors?

Answer:

- Current plan is to have partial occupancy by the end of the calendar year
- Full occupancy is targeted for Summer of 2026 (TBD)
- Windows were replaced and the building was painted
- Contractor is currently working on the interior (kitchenettes, sprinklers, etc.)
- We continue to host monthly meetings with the Provider and City and County
- We have been focused on providing input to three key documents that will govern PSH operations: 1) Resident Code of Conduct, 2) Safety & Security Plan and 3) Outreach Plan. Code of Conduct is complete. Safety & Security Outreach is in its second or third draft.
- Next meeting will be two weeks from now to review the latest versions and timelines
- We are extremely fortunate that one of our board members is a land use attorney who has been instrumental in helping us to review the documents
- We're pleased that the County and Provider are looking at a phased occupation strategy, i.e. bringing residents in waves to test/refine protocol
- PSH will fence and gate their entire property
- Sam highlighted the successful partnership between EPS, the City, County & Provider. It has been a model of productive civic engagement. We continue to uphold a leadership role in these discussions. Thank you, Vickie, for all of your incredible work to spearhead our efforts in this space!

5. Calendar of upcoming events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Audience
9/12	3:00 – 3:30 PM	Ice Cream Social (hosted by the APG)	Steps by the Sports Court	All EPS students
9/13	9:30 – 11:30 AM	EPS Ventures: SUP and Kayaking Instruction by Perfect Waves	Houghton Beach in Kirkland	All EPS students (limited capacity) Register via the <i>EPS Weekly</i> link
9/18	6:00 – 8:45 PM	Back to School Night	EPS Campus / LPC	All EPS parents and guardians only
9/26	6:30 – 9:00 PM	Fall Harvest: “Care through Clarity”	EPS LPC and TALI Theater	All EPS parents, guardians, faculty and staff (no students) Please RSVP by 9/19!
9/27-8	TBA	EPS Ventures: Fall Camping Trip	TBA	All EPS students (limited capacity)

EPS APG GENERAL MEETING

Date	Time	Event	Location	Audience
				Stay tuned for more info and how to register in the <i>EPS Weekly</i>
9/30	8:30 – 9:30 AM	9 th /10 th Grade Parent Meeting	Virtual: MS Teams	Grade 9-10 parents and guardians only
10/1	8:30 – 9:30 AM	11 th /12 th Grade Parent Meeting	Virtual: MS Teams	Grade 11-12 parents and guardians only
10/2-3	All Day	Fall Break: NO SCHOOL	N/A	All EPS students, teachers and faculty
10/7	8:30 – 9:30 AM	9 th /10 th Grade Parent Meeting	In person (TBA)	Grade 9-10 parents and guardians only
10/7	2:00 – 3:00 PM	11 th /12 th Grade Parent Meeting	In person (TBA)	Grade 11-12 parents and guardians only
10/8	8:30 – 9:30 AM	11 th /12 th Grade Parent Meeting	In person (TBA)	Grade 11-12 parents and guardians only
10/8	2:00 – 3:00 PM	9 th /10 th Grade Parent Meeting	In person (TBA)	Grade 9-10 parents and guardians only
10/8	6:30 – 7:30 PM	5 th – 8 th Grade Parent Meeting	Virtual: MS Teams	All middle school parents and guardians
10/12	TBA	EPS Ventures: Mountain Biking	TBA	All EPS students (limited capacity) Stay tuned for more info and how to register in the <i>EPS Weekly</i>
10/14	4:00 – 5:15 (C Volleyball) 5:30 – 6:45 (JV Volleyball) 7:00 – 8:15 (Varsity Volleyball)	Homecoming Games: Upper School Volleyball	EPS Gym	All EPS families
10/15	6:30 – 7:30 PM	5 th – 8 th Grade Parent Meeting	Virtual: MS Teams	All middle school parents and guardians
10/16	3:45 – 5:15 PM	Homecoming Games: Upper School Girls Varsity	EPS Gym	All EPS families

EPS APG GENERAL MEETING

Date	Time	Event	Location	Audience
		Soccer & Boys Ultimate		
10/18	7:00 – 10 PM	Homecoming Dance	EPS (TBA)	All upper school students
10/18	TBA	EPS Ventures: Fall Colors Hike	TBA	All EPS students (limited capacity) Stay tuned for more info and how to register in the <i>EPS Weekly</i>
11/6-8	TBA	Middle School Fall Play	TALI Theater	All EPS families
11/8	TBA	EPS Ventures: Northwest Trek Wildlife Visit	TBA	All EPS students (limited capacity) Stay tuned for more info and how to register in the <i>EPS Weekly</i>
Various	Various	Class Socials / Walks	Various	Stay tuned for more info from your Class Reps in WhatsApp and email!