



Welcome, friend!

Hi Longfellow Community! We know school looks and feels very different this year. These times are challenging our focus, energy, and resources as families. Like all of us, PTA is adapting too. We are in this together.

We are fellow Lion parents and PTA members Ann, Andy, and Celine. We want to acknowledge the hard work of the PTA in developing programs for students and families, and with that, activate all of us to contribute to strengthening those programs.

At the June 16th PTA meeting, we had a community discussion and began to examine ourselves and ask these questions: *Do all parents really feel welcome at our PTA meetings and events? If not, why not and how can we change that? Who are we not reaching and why? Is our PTA community an anti-racist, truly inclusive one? Are our PTA programs? What can we do better to ensure we are serving all our students equally?* The three of us volunteered to get the ball rolling.

A lot of people in the meeting had much to contribute to the conversation and really, all of us do! As such, Longfellow PTA has founded its first **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee**, something our California state PTA encourages for all its districts: [CAPTA Outreach, Diversity, & Inclusion toolkit](#) [CAPTA statement on racial justice & inclusion](#)

At the heart of our Longfellow PTA effort is inclusion and support. We want everyone to be included, feel seen and supported, and we want to support our PTA work. We want to see our PTA Board, membership, sponsors, and programming reflective and affirming of our student body. Let's look at our current programs through the lens of inclusion and equity for our students and families of color, LGBTQ+ community, and our students with disabilities. And in doing so, get more

volunteers to help run those programs! Let's do more intentional membership outreach and make meetings more accessible and welcoming for more parents. For our great PTA to run even better, we need more folks on board – and if there are road blocks for those folks, let's figure out how to clear the path. For all our programs to reach more of our students in a meaningful way, we need to be intentionally inclusive with those programs.

One of the first steps was to hold a **Virtual Community Conversation** for anyone interested in joining in discussion with the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. This is town hall-style gathering for us to get to know each other and share our experiences with inclusivity and accessibility within PTA. We welcome everyone to join the conversation and for all of us to take communal ownership of it. We held this on July 28th via Zoom and it was an important first step. We had 29 attendees and the honest, open dialogue showed us that there is indeed work to be done – and that we have a community willing to be a part of it. Notes from the meeting will be shared soon, as well as actionable next steps, and likely there will be more Community Conversations to come.

We need more voices, we need more volunteers, we need more representation of our students. We need you. The time is now and we know so many of you care. Our Longfellow community is truly an awesome one. If this is our first or fifth or fifteenth year with Longfellow PTA, all of us can make it better.

Ready to jump in or just want more info?

Contact us at allofus@blongfellowpta.org. We look forward to meeting you!

Ann Lall, Celine Malanum, Andrew Terranova

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