



WASHINGTON
WILDCATS
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Sept 19, 2023
6:00-7:00pm In-person

Participants in Attendance: Erin Baer, , Lacey Peters, Jena Beaver, Claudia Cavaletto, Andrea O'Loughlin, Andrea O'Loughlin, Kelly Milazzo, Jessie O'Sullivan, Sara Dodgin, Jory Zusmer, Rynell Casey, Jennifer Gore, Megan Bright, Denise James Villanueva, Raul Vasquez, Tara King, Alexis Dilg, and Odelliah Greene

Staff Members in Attendance:
Arielle Curry, Kaye Cantu and Caitlin Garcia

Kelly Milazzo called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Huge gratitude was expressed to all for being here, and all of the efforts with back-to-school night and the PRIDE campaign.

PTO Meetings for this year have been shortened to an hour, and we will need to be efficient with meetings. Many items may need to be put in the parking lot.

For PRIDE, we want someone at the front and back gate next week every day in the mornings. We welcome non-PTO parents to also support PRIDE efforts encouraging people to donate.

Community letters were written to those living in the Washington boundaries, requesting their support as well. Jenna crafted a letter and would welcome help delivering on our streets. A sign up sheet is available and letters are being sent home for all PTO members to distribute. Kelly will share who is the lead for each location. Letters to the school community will be sent out this Thursday. We also have business letters requesting support. Transfer parents can help distribute letters to businesses (70 letters printed). Envelopes are available if one donates cash.

PRIDE is PTO's largest fundraiser, and we are looking to raise 75% of the budget. The most significant funds are raised via PRIDE and Move-A-thon. The next ask is the Halloween party. We need a few more volunteers including a lead for the event. It doesn't need to be a heavy lift. The Halloween party will be on campus Oct 26th.

Regarding playground equipment, Lisa Remorenko will make sure the kids have all of the balls and play equipment they need. Lisa runs lunchtime funtime, so she will hear of needs.

Community Bricks: We need to have 10 orders to produce them. We currently have 5 or 6 orders. If anyone wants to order a brick, now is a great time to get to 10 to get them ordered. We go strong with a brick fundraiser at the end of the year.



Treasurer Report:

Arlen Bean Trust provided a \$50K nonrenewable grant to support students who cannot afford overnight field trips, specifically CIMI and Outdoor School. Currently Outdoor School is funded by the district. We have funds on hand should we need them. We'll only use those funds if our budget falls short.

Erika presented a draft budget for the 23-24 school year and explained projected income and expenses. We do have reserves. Notables within the budget include: STEM teacher jump up in salary is a significant increase from \$68K to \$91K. This year the expectation was for us to pay salary and benefits, of which \$30K is benefits. It is still to be determined whether the District will cover the benefits. PRIDE revenue is estimated at \$150K and Move-A-Thon is projected at \$40K. We currently have 489 kids at the school at this time, so participation with PRIDE is significant and key to be able to approve the proposed budget net \$0K. Enrichment will bring in \$3-5K. Party books are likely to bring in more income than projected. Kelly proposed we move forward because we agreed to this plan at the retreat.

We paid for Mr. Mack benefits in the past, so it's unlikely that the district will pick up the benefits. We can request it, but because we paid for Coach V's benefits in the past, there may not be a good precedent.

We are hopeful there will be income from non-Washington families and the community letters. We hope those letters will bring in more income. In future years, the QR code should be different for community members vs. attending families.

Ideally the budget should be proposed and/or approved in April. Lacey Peters moved and Claudia Cavaletto seconded approval of the 23-24 budget as outlined by Eriak Adler. All were in favor. We also are putting in a raffle permit as required by IRS law, and are setting up an Amazon Account for the PTO.

Communications Update:

Shelley reported back: if you request a post, please send it two days before the expected post date so she can get it approved. Translation for the newsletter happens by Denise. For all other items, please rely on Google Translate for Spanish translation, and reference that Google was the translation source and thus please excuse errors. Either Kelley or Kim need to approve an item. If you hear from one of them, know that they speak for the other.

Please recommend volunteers of the week which is open to anyone we have seen as a volunteer who has done a great job. She will also reach out to teachers and ask them to recognize volunteers inside the classroom.

IT:

Rachel did an extensive update to the Washington PTO website to be more user friendly and to manage donation areas. She is getting a hold of log-ins. Someone is paying for the old hosting and we are trying to identify who it is. Proposing using Slack for communications as



opposed to email or texts. Others agreed Slack would be welcome. There is a free version of Slack. Tech Soup might be able to sponsor a paid membership. Whats App was considered as an alternative, but has security issues. The downside of the free version of Slack is that the history is only saved for 90 days.

Wildcat wear inventory is underway, and the website will need to upload new photos.

Party Book Committee:

Rynell reported that she will share Back to School Night sign-ups. There was a great Party Book Committee kick-off last week with ideas for this year. Every first Thurs, Party Book Committee meets at Brass Bear Uptown. The goal is to make it fun and raise money for the school. Mom's night out is next Thursday Sept 28th. Please invite 5 people you know, including new parents. We will host a raffle, so if we know businesses to donate raffle items, let her know. When asked whether we need supplemental insurance for the event, Erika agreed to look into it. Claudia will provide a charcuterie plate. Estimate is 50 parents.

Principal's Update:

Back to school night was successful. Pride campaign is going strong. Particular appreciation was shared to Erika because the audio system wasn't working and she re-wired it the day of. Gratitude to all for the fundraising; the program partners will be getting approved by the SBUSD School Board. The District has a meeting on Friday with Explore Ecology. All District Principals are complaining, so we are hoping the district will cover the costs.

We are taking advantage of free assembly opportunities: Michael Katz is coming up, Growth Mindset, H2O Where Did You Go, etc.

Ms. Neushul is volunteering to help lead Science Night in the Spring. School is fully staffed for playground supervisors; but seeking paraeducators. Nurse Sherri Jones is retiring, and they are doing a special celebration recognizing her 20 years. The Nurse position is now open; it does not need to be a LVN. Back-up plan is to have office staff help in the health office. We will do a brick in her name and honor.

Ms. Curry is seeking gift cards of \$5 for Blenders, Sweeties, etc. for student raffles for Student of the Month.

Retreat Minutes:

Catherine Brozowski moved approval of the August 27th Board Retreat minutes and Jessie O'Sullivan seconded. All approved.

For future Back-to-School nights, childcare would be helpful. For all PTO meetings, childcare will be from 5:45-7:15.



Campus Beautification:

Erika is working towards garden improvements, including adding new beds, trellis for shade, placing tree stumps, and a mural. We want to make it more colorful. Nov 5th was selected. The days are most successful when they are prepped.

One School, One Book:

Megan spoke about this family literacy program with a whole school reading one book. She is seeking volunteers for the committee. Several people signed up at Back to School Night. The book choice remains a secret, but will be Wish Tree by Catherine Applegate. The Chaucer's book fair will be Nov 30th. It brought in \$1200 last year. A portion of all sales go to Washington which funds One School, One Book. Perfect time to buy gift cards. Teachers also have a Wish List, and parents can help teachers receive books. It was considered whether to pass the books along to other kids in the community, and it was intentionally chosen to allow families to keep the books since some kids don't have many books at home.

Grant Opportunities:

Catherine has experience with grants and is willing and open to writing proposals for the school She will work with Ms. Curry to identify priorities for the campus and teachers. This will include PTO projects of Children's Creative Project, STEM, etc. Deckers was proposed as a possible source.

Will the grocery stores do a round-up day? Vons, Lazy Acres, and Home Improvement Center have round-up options. Other prospects may include: Trader Joes, the Mesa Business Association (who funded bike safety a few years ago) and Omni Mesa (who Kim knows well).

Open Discussion:

Campus beautification is underway with installation of Foxtale Agaves.

The Halloween party will be Thurs October 26th.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm

Next meetings: October 17th, November 7th, 2023