

Washington PTO Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2022

**Meeting Attendees:**

Melina Petersen	Alison Sobczyk	Amy Quinn	Kelsey Fischer
Jessica Griffin	Melanie McFarland	Dan Stockmann	Annie Grace
Callyann Casteel	Alicia Gillespie	Danielle Wegman	
Abbey Jackson	Emily Moody	Monica Erickson	
Gwyneth Cliver	Janene Bolt	Sarah Jackson	

- Introductions
- Motion to approve June PTO board meeting minutes passes.

**Principal's Report**

- Students are settling in and getting used to the new school year
- Thank you to PTO for all the support
- Two OPS Citizen Advisory parent volunteers are needed from Washington. Volunteers will meet at the TAC (Teacher Administration Center) building to share in discussions regarding district strategic planning, etc. For more information or to volunteer, email Alicia Gillespie: [alicia.gillespie@ops.org](mailto:alicia.gillespie@ops.org)
- Disney musical will be back this year: Aladdin. Participation for grades 3 and up. Parental support will be needed.
- The principal and teachers are feeling the pressure of being short staffed. Additional paras would be ideal, esp. for Special Ed/Deaf Ed. Principal doesn't want to overwhelm staff and parents by asking for more commitment regarding PTO events. A PTO family fun event every month seems overwhelming. Teachers/staff required to attend fall and spring school events (focused on math and literacy) required for Title I Schools, so we don't want to make staff feel like they should attend PTO events at the school. PTO is trying to build family engagement, but healthy balance of after-school requirements is needed for staff. There is also a concern of students who hear about events but can't attend like other students for various reasons. Consensus with PTO to try to keep family fun events outside of school building (besides Boo Bash/Carnival) and remind families of no restroom access/bring their own water bottles. Flyers in backpacks could help in lieu of announcements, because then students are less likely to hear about events and want to attend if parent isn't able to bring students (usually parents go through backpacks before students do). To provide feedback on this topic, email PTO President Emily Moody and/or Alicia Gillespie: [emjmoody@gmail.com](mailto:emjmoody@gmail.com); [alicia.gillespie@ops.org](mailto:alicia.gillespie@ops.org)

**President's Report**

- Initiatives for increased PTO/family engagement:
  - Every parent is a member
  - Invite a friend to the October PTO meeting: Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm in school library. FREE babysitting provided (ages 2 & up) in the gym
  - Sign up for PTO email updates: [www.wildcatspto.org/emailsSignup](http://www.wildcatspto.org/emailsSignup)
  - There is a pending parent feedback survey regarding PTO involvement
  - PTO would like to direct as much traffic as possible to PTO website: [www.wildcatspto.org](http://www.wildcatspto.org)
- Washington Elementary 100<sup>th</sup> year birthday celebration:
  - One parent volunteer needed from every grade for planning committee
  - There will be upcoming discussions surrounding the question, "What will PTO's gift to the school be?"
- Thank You's:
  - Gwyneth Cliver for organizing Kindergarten Picnic
  - PTO board for help with Kindergarten Picnic and Welcome Back Night
  - Tom Craig for organizing the Dundee Day Parade
  - Janene Bolt for PTO website work
  - Mark Karpf for business memberships

- Emily Moody for Teacher's lounge clean up, snacks, and small surprises
- Amy Quinn for Green Team Cleanup and planting mums at front entry
- Volunteers at Open House for HUGE SUCCESS with spirit wear sales and bake sale!!

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Budget line items to help Teachers/School: Target gift cards for classroom amenities, class parties, assemblies (cultural arts), field trips, grounds & maintenance, Principal's fund, school planners, Teacher appreciation week and conference dinners.
- Inflation is noticeable when trying to stick within a budget (Gwyneth Cliver on Kindergarten Picnic purchases).
- Fall and Spring fundraisers expected to be the biggest income as usual.
- No expenses shown for spirit wear this year: Keeping same design from last year and planning a new design for next year's 100<sup>th</sup> year school celebration.

### **Fundraising**

- Fall fundraiser: Catalog sales packets will arrive the first week of October. Kickoff will be 10/17. Last day tentatively 10/29. PTO is receiving a 3% sales total early signing bonus.
- Spring fundraiser: Fun Run or Danceathon. PTO won't use Boosterthon's full support this year, for less emails to deal with + more profit for PTO. Event will occur earlier this year than last year: March 20<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>, tentatively.
- Recommendation for fundraiser: Parents/family/friends take online surveys for \$1.50/survey (Amy Grace has experience with this as a soccer club fundraiser).
- Supplemental fundraising: TAGG, TAGG for Teachers, 5 Guys Washington Elementary Night: 5 Guys will donate all proceeds to Washington Elementary.  
Recommendation for supplemental fundraising: Godfather's Pizza has "Be Nice, Win a Slice" program – Students of the Month get free medium pizzas.

### **PTO School Directory Update**

- Last call for new sign-ups or changes to current family listings.
- With changes to how sign-up is done this year (families with no changes to existing directory listings need not sign up or do anything), Abbey Jackson is backchecking instances of families who didn't sign up or note changes, but who had new kindergarteners this year, in order to make sure new kindergarteners are listed with family directory listings.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Boo Bash:
  - Amy Grace created flyers with RSVP's tentatively due 10/17 (for estimation of how much food is needed) to go home in backpacks.
  - Proposal to change meal cost per person to \$5 to better cover PTO expense. Further discussion around how it would be possible to sponsor families who can't afford meals as easily. (Each person gets one meal ticket at entry).
  - Callyann Casteel and family volunteered to DJ. Recommendation for lower music volume than last year.
- Green Team:
  - Next Green Team Cleanup 10/2, to be noted in both PTO email and Washington World going out next week.

### **Adjourned**