

Washington PTO Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022

Meeting Attendees:

Mark Karpf	Emily Moody	Dan Stockmann	Ope Oloyede
Annie Grace	Kelsey Fischer	Alison Sobczyk	Janene Bolt
Michelle Kiel	Jessica Griffin	Melina Petersen	Cari Briscoe
Amy Lichti	Beth Hughes	Gwyneth Cliver	Elizabeth Constance
Melanie McFarland	Alicia Gillespie		

- Introductions
- Motion to approve September PTO meeting minutes passes.

Principal Report

- Report cards just came out.
- Conferences are coming up the last week of October.
- Progress reports will come out the first week of November.
- We didn't have enough parent volunteers to support the Aladdin Disney musical this year, so it will have to be postponed.
- 6th grade basketball is coming soon.

Teacher/Staff Reports

- Cari Briscoe
 - Class is very individualized this year.
 - Students are enjoying yoga as a calming transition activity.
 - Student teacher is moving to Ms. Raddish's class.
- Amy Lichti
 - 1st grade just started sun, moon, and stars unit.
 - Student teacher is leaving for North Carolina.

President Report

- 100th Anniversary Celebration/Committee
 - One parent from each grade, alumni, 1-2 PTO reps, 1-2 teachers/staff, 1-2 current students
- PTO Potential Gift to the school – Previous gifts have included the wildcat on the gym floor, playground equipment, and others listed in the school directory.
 - PA system in gym
 - Considering stand alone speakers and microphone system so it can be moved around as needed.
 - Please let Emily Moody or Mark Karpf know if you have knowledge in this area or would like to volunteer to look into PA system options and quotes to discuss at the November meeting.
 - Sign in front of building (100th Anniversary gift?)

- The work order has been submitted to OPS, and they will tell us what is allowed.
 - Digital or not? Perpendicular or parallel to the building? We will discuss options, aesthetics, etc.
 - Sign could cost \$5,000-15,000 depending on features.
 - Please let Emily Moody or Mark Karpf know if you would like to volunteer to look at options and work with Mrs. Gillespie on specs to discuss more at the November meeting.
 - PA system and sign will take up a large chunk of our funds for this year.
 - Enrichment clubs: robotics, chess, Spanish/French, sign language, LEGO, walking, etc.
 - Students have told us they enjoy these opportunities; it can be hard to get supervision.
 - An extra robotics kit could allow more students to get involved. – Mrs. Gillespie will take care of this.
 - Sign language club is another possibility. – Maybe a UNO student could lead this, but a supervising teacher/staff member would still be needed. Could consider a nominal tuition or PTO scholarship if needed for participating students to be used to pay club leaders.
 - Outdoor nature classroom
 - Playground equipment
 - Gaga ball is a game that many students enjoy. We could consider getting a gaga ball pit.
 - A suggestion was made that creeping juniper or another low maintenance plant be planted on the hill to reduce mowing. Washington’s daytime custodian is responsible for maintaining the hill.
- Gratitude
 - Michelle Craig for a fun Scavenger Hunt – over 20 families participated
 - All who helped with grounds clean up and the Quinns
 - Jamie Williams for coordinating a dinner for the teachers
 - Donations totaling over \$1000 raised for the teacher in need in a little over a week

Treasurer Report

- The current PTO balance is \$27,430.96.
- Expenditures since last meeting included busing for field trips last school year.
- Family skate night made \$243; cost was \$30 for flier printing.
- Money has been allocated for field trip buses and the principal’s fund for all school events.
- There is no required balance that a 501(c)(3) like the PTO must maintain. The most expensive time for the PTO is the beginning of the year. The balance should remain above \$10,000-15,000.
- The district did provide some funding for Washington’s 75th anniversary celebration, so they may do the same for the 100th anniversary.

Fundraising Report

- Fall Fundraiser
 - Annual catalog sales are kicking off Monday, 10/17. Hard copy sales will close on Wednesday, 11/2, because students aren't in school on 10/29.
 - Morning announcements will be made to get kids excited. Janene Bolt will send out a PTO email reminder. A reminder will go out in the Washington World on 10/17. A school mail reminder to return orders will go out on 11/1.
 - Money will be counted on Wednesday, 11/2, with any additional orders collected on Thursday, 11/3 added that day. If you are interested in volunteering to count money (4-5 people needed), please let Melanie McFarland or Elizabeth Constance know. The goal is to get the shipment before Thanksgiving Break. We will get an estimated shipment date after the money is counted and submitted.
 - Volunteers are also needed to distribute items. Please let Melanie McFarland or Elizabeth Constance know if you can help.
 - Top sellers (individuals/class) will get an extra incentive. Ideas included a pizza party, limo ride, and Ollie the Trolley. Melanie McFarland will check on rates and dates and discuss in November.

Family Fun Night: Boo Bash

- Fliers are out. A suggestion was made to send future fliers home with the youngest instead of oldest student in a family, since parents may be more likely to go through their younger child's backpack. A school mail reminder will go out Friday.
- We are experimenting with offering a free meal. Drinking fountains and coolers will be available for water stations (Dan Stockmann will help with this). Callyann Casteel will DJ. Annie Grace will get glow sticks.
- Volunteers are still needed. Future suggestions for increasing volunteers for 30 minute shifts could include contacting families individually or having a PTO liason in each class to reach out to families.
- Suggestions for additional ways to reach families with PTO information and reminders: \$14.99 per month for 100 texts per month through Wix annual subscription (free trial period includes 5 texts). Could use the Remind app like some teachers. PTO emails are sent to 94 email addresses vs. 612 views for Washington World emails. Could put QR code on front door, at conferences, Boo Bash, etc.

Brick Sales

- Sales will happen this fall and will be due in December before Winter Break. We can use the PTO website for online sales. Fliers can be made using Canva – contact Michelle Craig for more information.
- Bricks will be installed in the spring.

Directory – has gone to print

Survey – discuss in November

Calendar Reminders

- Upcoming Events
 - 10/21: Boo Bash
 - 10/26 & 10/27: Parent/Teacher Conferences

- PTO providing Taco Bar on Wednesday night for the teachers!
- 10/27 & 10/28 & 10/31 & 11/1: No school!
- 11/8: PTO Meeting

Other Business

- Washington is a voting site on Tuesday, 11/8. Concerns were raised about voters being in the building with school in session, especially for classrooms on the same floor as the polling booths. Mrs. Gillespie is planning to have teachers lock their doors for the day.

Adjourned