

Washington Elementary School PTO Board Meeting

May 14, 2024 6:00 - 7:00pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees: Craig Moody, Taylor Borchert, Amy Quinn, Gwyneth Cliver, Megan Little, Taylor Gomez, Ashley Giese, Alison Sobczyk, Janene Bolt, Peter Cales, Rachael Pierce, Ashley McIntosh, Marianne Goodwin, Alicia Gillespie, Michelle Kiel, Sam Constance, Jill Zabih, Emily Moody, Michelle Craig, Annie Grace

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve April PTO meeting minutes passes.

III. Reports

A. Principal's Report

Mrs. Gillespie

1. Thank you to PTO: Teacher Appreciation Week, Field Day Elmwood Park pavilion rental and t-shirts.
2. Disney musical: Ms. Hunt helped with past production. Teachers are not interested in helping with any upcoming productions at this time but OPS Level 3 volunteers are welcome. If there is any interest, volunteers should be in place in early June so Ms. Wagner can begin working with a director and choreographer.
3. New Secretary has been hired. There are still 3 positions open at Washington for next year: Kindergarten Paras, Special Ed Para (currently have one but could use another). Both part-time and full-time positions open for Kindergarten Paras.
4. Carnival was a success. Field Day was great because of PTO. Thank you for all that PTO has done in the past year.
5. Parents can't see NSCAS results early. Scores are embargoed- not able to share until scores come out publicly.
6. Washington was in the Top 20 OPS schools for "Leaders Become Readers".

B. Teacher & Staff Report

1. Mrs. Goodwin: The class is happy to be done with testing. They are wrapping up topics + adding in some arts and fun learning activities.
2. Ms. Pierce: The class is wrapping up the last summative and looking forward to the end of the year. Field Day was great. They working on keeping structure and still learning. They've had an Escape Room exercise to work on problem solving before middle school.
3. Mrs. McIntosh: The students have been having fun doing a bean experiment.

C. President's Report

Craig & Taylor

1. Thanks: Michelle Craig for the Carnival, grounds clean up crew, playground painters, Teacher Appreciation Week planners, Amy Quinn for the new inflatable arch, and Michelle Kiel for brick sales.
2. Cards for Barb: Parents/students will bring cards the last week of school.

D. Treasurer Report

Annie

1. PTO down \$11,000 from beginning of year - spend down committee did great.
2. Treasurers will look more closely before summer PTO board meeting and right-size budgets for the next school year.
3. For next year: Look at "What's a fundraiser?" vs. "What's a PTO sponsored event?"

E. Carnival Report

Michelle

1. Sold 50 more wristbands (310) than past 3 years.
2. Loss of \$512.10 based on the last Carnival.
3. Card Reader: On the fly ended up having to borrow phone and download the app. How can this be prevented next year?
4. Between \$600 and \$700 was brought in via Venmo.
5. Lifegate Church offered a bounce house for the younger kids- possibility of taking them up on that next year.

6. There was \$1,000 of donated raffle items that Michelle rounded up.
7. 122 people put in for the raffle. 310 blank raffle entries were given out at the beginning.
8. Kona Ice will do a 10% giveback from sales at the event.
9. Lifegate Church provided cotton candy/popcorn machines for free.

F. **Actions, Decisions & Needs for Input**

1. Motion to approve PTO Board of Officers for the 2024-2025 school year passes:
 - a) Presidents: Kakie McGill and Craig Moody
 - b) 1st VPs: Janene Bolt and Taylor Borchert
 - c) VP Treasurer: Annie Grace and Emily Moody
 - d) VP Secretary: Gwyneth Cliver and Ope Oloyede
 - e) VP Fundraising: Megan Little and Alison Sobczyk
2. Spend Money Taskforce:
 - a) Playground benches. Parts have been received. Assembly and installation are next steps. Peter offered to help set up playground benches during the summer. Option to set up benches in school prior to exterior concrete pads being ready was declined.
3. Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 school year:
 - a) What should PTO **continue**, **stop**, and **start** doing? Results of independent brainstorming, table brainstorming, and full group brainstorming:

Continue

1. Spend money taskforce
2. Emails
3. Big events (Boo Bash, Carnival)
4. Board shadow program
5. Green team
6. Teacher appreciation & gift cards
7. Spirit wear
8. Ice cream fundraiser with eCreamery
9. Transparency wrt what we're spending money on

Stop

1. Planners (or confirm they are in fact needed)
2. Distributing the directory too late
3. Making everything free; allow for donations
4. Ad hoc asks for \$\$
5. Hoarding money
6. Student door-to-door fundraising
7. Small prizes at carnival
8. Unhealthy snacks/treats

Start

1. 6th grade yearbook (CHS assist)
2. Parents to assist with more healthy food
3. Make budget/financial visible at all times
4. Committees for big events
5. Evening events start at 5:30 when on school grounds
6. Give teachers an opportunity to propose \$\$ needs (e.g., grants)
7. Host an adult night => recruit volunteers
8. Incorporate education into green team activities (e.g., arborist)
9. Explore opportunities for all kids (and parents) to learn more sign language
10. Separate community-building events from fundraising
11. Host parent education events (e.g., healthy screen habits for kids)
12. Support the 6th grade picnic consistently

13. Support enrichment activities
14. Flag-a-friend (recruitment)
15. Adjust format of PTO meetings to be less formal

G. Adjourn