

Washington Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024 6:00 - 7:00pm

Meeting Attendees:

Janene Bolt	Gwyneth Cliver	Megan Little	Kakie McGill
Alison Sobczyk	Sam Constance	Amy Quinn	Kim Armstrong
Annie Grace	Michelle Craig	Taylor Borchert	Callyann Casteel
Jessica Griffin	Peter Cales	Jill Gries	Kiley Ruff-Lange
Alicia Gillespie	Ope Oloyede	Kelsey Fischer	

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Motion to approve December PTO meeting minutes passes.

III. Reports

A. Principal's Report

1. Thanks to PTO for the ice skating party and Valentine's parties!
2. A letter is being drafted to send to homeowners on Mayberry Street about a vote to make it a one-way street for 45 minutes around arrival in the morning and 45 minutes around dismissal in the afternoon. 67% of homeowners need to vote to approve. The buses will still drive up the hill before dismissal.
3. ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessment) testing is going on now. Areas tested include reading, writing, speech, and listening.
4. NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) testing is coming up and discussions are happening in grade level meetings. Teachers will have postcards for families to fill out at conferences in March encouraging students to do their best on the upcoming NSCAS.
5. Upcoming assemblies include an anti-bullying assembly and a magician for reaching the school Cool Cats goal.
6. Requesting \$1,800 for field day t-shirts for students and staff this year (\$5 a shirt). Motion to approve \$1,800 for field day t-shirts passes.
7. Video screen has been ordered.
8. A question was asked about making the ice skating party a whole school trip during the school day in the future. We could consider this as a possible test incentive for older students (3rd-6th graders), but it may be hard for younger students to participate without more help.

B. Teacher & Staff Report

1. Mrs. Lange, 2nd grade
 - Students are working on place value in math and properties of matter in science. They are getting ready for the InView test, a cognitive assessment used to help determine qualification for GATE (Gifted and Talented Education).
2. Mrs. Gries, SLP
 - Mrs. Gries is working with a student teacher to help students with the R sound, grammar, and vocabulary.

C. Presidents' Report

1. Gaga pit
 - The ground under the Gaga pit has been too muddy for the students to play until recently. We could put playground tiles under it to help, but the hill and the rest of the field would still be too muddy to get to the Gaga pit. Seeding the field with clover or grass or covering it with mulch was discussed as possible options. Mrs. Gillespie will talk to planning with PTO willing to assist if needed.
2. Ice skating in Feb

3. Roller skating in December
4. Snow removal
 - Great job! This was so helpful! Should we have a PTO phone tree? Mrs. Gillespie can do an all call when needed. The school already has a plow and snowblower.
5. Directory
6. Valentine's Day

D. Treasurers' Report

1. Current balance is \$35,000
 - At this point, we have brought in \$16,000 (planned \$34,000 for the year) and spent \$12,000 (planned \$34,000 for the year).
 - Ask Craig what budget the planting by the sign should come out of.
2. Benches
 - We are still waiting on the separate plaque quote, but 2 benches like the ones in Elmwood Park with plaques from the same company would be \$4,630. Benches will be located on the east side of the building on either side of the stairs by the playground. We will ask the manufacturer about the need for a concrete pad. If needed, Callyann Casteel and Sean Ward may be able to help with the concrete.
3. PTO received a check for a little over \$800 from the former Washington Girl Scout Troop. Half of the money is designated for Green Team/grounds improvement and the other half is to be used by PTO as they wish. Thank you to the former Washington Girl Scouts! This past summer, the Girl Scouts also used some funds to have a pool party at Elmwood Pool for the incoming 6th graders.

IV. Actions & Decisions

A. Spend Money Taskforce

1. Discuss and make decisions as necessary
 - Video screen - It has been ordered.
 - Adjustable basketball hoop - Mrs. Natal's hoop and/or a hoop from Facebook marketplace can be used, it just needs to be secure and safe. We are still not sure where to put another hoop on the east playground. If it is put opposite the existing hoop, there are concerns about balls hitting the building/windows. Buildings and Grounds has said no bushes can be planted next the the music room windows to allow for camera access. A net could be put up.
 - Enrichment programs - Gwentyth Cliver wrote guidelines to use starting next school year. Sending to parents now would allow them to be ready.
 - Spirit wear - We are making a replenishing order in early March and could sell at conferences and Carnival.
 - Conference dinner - double check with Jamie Williams
 - Cricut machine - We have it now, and it's great!

B. Fundraising

1. Decision on spring fundraiser
 - eCreamery
 - Tentative date - April 11
 - Ice cream pints will have Washington themed labels with creative fun names. Fliers with a QR code to preorder pints will be distributed. Pints will cost \$10, PTO will get \$5. People can pick up their pints at eCreamery on April 11. A parent volunteer could pick up pints for staff during the day. Also, PTO will receive 5% of proceeds from all sales made between 4-7pm on April 11.
 - We can market the fundraiser at conferences and the upcoming spring program.

C. Nominating Committee

1. Need 3 volunteers to join co-presidents
2. Submit slate of officers at the April meeting/vote in May

D. Planning for Carnival

1. PTO currently sponsors food, and people pay for carnival games. Lifegate will be providing free popcorn and cotton candy. If prizes are eliminated in the future, there is potential to make carnival free. Discussion about prizes vs. no prizes yielded several ideas.
 - Instead of prizes for each game, kids could get a ticket or punch card to turn in at the end of the event for one prize or entry in a raffle for donated prizes. Prizes could be no cost, such as student names on the announcements or a bulletin board/leaderboard. We could continue to provide prizes but cap the cost of carnival per family. A free carnival could be a great way to increase visibility on how the PTO uses funds to help students.

E. **Upcoming Activities**

1. Feb 19 No School, President's Day
2. Mar 7 Title I Night
3. Mar 19 PTO Meeting
4. Apr 5 Family Fun Night: Roller skating

F. **Adjourn**