

# Washington Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023 6:00 - 7:00pm

## Meeting Attendees:

Gwyneth Cliver	Taylor Borchert	Jessica L Griffin	Peter Cales
Michelle Craig	Danielle Rowe	Judy Bauer	Alicia Gillespie
Alison Sobczyk	Ope Oloyede	Kakie McGill	Michelle Kiel
Melanie McFarland	Kelsey Fischer		

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Motion to approve October PTO meeting minutes passes.

III. Reports

### A. Principal's Report

1. Thank you to the PTO for a great job with Boo Bash and other family nights!
2. Harvest Parties are coming up.
3. 240 people attended Title I Night, where they played math games and ate dinner. The event went well.
4. There was a good turn out at conferences. In person and online meeting options were still offered, but most conferences were done in person. It's good to have contact and communication with parents, whether in person, online, or over the phone. More parents that used interpreters participated in conferences. PTO could provide gift cards or Book Fair money to incentivize even more families to participate.
5. Asking PTO to provide shirts and \$250 to rent the Elmwood Park pavilion for Field Day again this school year.

### B. Teacher & Staff Report

1. Danielle Rowe, Kindergarten
  - In reading, students are working on CVC words, blending, and segmenting. They learned about Veterans Day. In science, students are learning about pushes and pulls (forces). They are also working on getting along with others and social skills.
2. Judy Bauer, Media Specialist
  - Students have been using robots and designing Macy's Thanksgiving Day balloons.

### C. President's Report

1. High fives!
  - Boo Bash - An amazing event! Expenses were about \$1,300 and income was about \$1,000 (loss of \$250). Vegan and gluten-free pizzas only had one taker each. People liked having clementines instead of chips with the pizza. The dance party was good. People liked providing this as a community event, not as a fundraiser. A suggested change for next year was to have more than 2 people at the Bake Sale table from 6:30-7:30pm. People also thought the playground was dark by the end of the event, so it was suggested that we put lights outside or move the time of the event to 5:30-7:30pm.
  - Fun Run Fundraiser
  - Bowling Night
  - Green Team plantings - Thanks for your support!

### D. Treasurers' Report

1. Current balance is about \$39,000

2. Expenses - Bowling Night, landscaping, renewed PTO email and Wix website, 2 field trips, conference dinner, Spelling Bee, spirit wear, and planners

#### E. **Spend Money Taskforce**

1. Review status of projects and make decisions as necessary
  - Benches - need to make a selection. 2 spots have been approved on the east side of the building facing the playground.
  - Trees - got the ok as long as they are not crab apple trees.
  - Landscaping near sign - underway
  - Grants for teachers - Mrs. Gillespie can get most of what teachers want. She can't get things from big box stores, only district vendors, but she can let PTO know if there's something she can't get.
  - Playground games - ok to move forward on both the east and west playgrounds.
  - Cricut machine - ready to purchase, may need to set aside budget for more vinyl going forward
  - Video screen - 3 options were presented, including:
    - (1) 180 inch portable screen with stand and backlight for \$1,449
    - (2) 200 inch portable screen with stand and without backlight for \$1,449
    - (3) Inflatable screen for \$289
  - Gaga pit - ok to move forward on the south side of the field. Peter Cales offered to help.
  - Swings - suggested by students, but won't be approved (safety issue)
  - Enrichment programs - Volunteers can apply for level 3 status (includes a background check to be alone with students). Many teachers are already tutoring. Currently offering basketball to 6th grade girls and boys.
  - Inflatable arch - being discussed
2. \$8,000 to \$15,000 cash on hand floor was discussed. Treasurers suggested spending down our balance \$8,000 per year for the next 3 years.
3. Additional ideas for spending money included:
  - A basketball hoop for the west playground
  - Dancing classrooms
  - Disney play - one staff member may be interested, would need 4-6 level 3 volunteers to help
  - ASL enrichment - one paraprofessional may be interested, would need another volunteer

#### F. **Fundraising**

1. Report out Fun Run results & debrief
  - We made \$10,078.58. 82.9% of donors covered the platform fee. 37% of students registered, 31% pledged. Donations were received from 29 states. Last year, we made \$13,263.65 - less communication and the 100th year celebration may have led to fewer donations this year. People thought text reminders were more helpful than emails and wanted to keep the Fun Run in the fall.
2. February fundraiser suggestions included:
  - a dance
  - a raffle at Carnival
  - an art show - Each class would create an art piece to be auctioned off at an event or at spring conferences. We could also collect art and other things from businesses to auction off. An event like this has been done in the past, and Mrs. Ryan helped.
  - a trivia or bingo night - A bingo night has been done in the past. An auction could also be part of this event, and we could ask for basket donations.
3. Our balance can't go over \$50,000 as a 501(c)(3) organization. In addition to spending, we could move to one main fundraiser per school year with additional smaller fundraisers as needed (e.g., Topgolf, eCreamery competition with other schools).

#### G. **Membership & Directory**

1. We are waiting on OPS to get class lists approved for printing.

#### H. **Events**

1. Lifegate Church as a community partner:
  - Offered to let us borrow their popcorn and cotton candy machines/supplies, bounce house, and volunteers for Carnival for free

- Offering a Polar Express PJ Night with free food and movie showing for only Washington families on December 16th at 4:00pm. A flier will go home in backpacks. English captions will be provided.
- Offered Green Team help

I. **Upcoming Activities**

1. Nov 17 Classroom Harvest Parties
2. Dec 12 PTO Board Meeting (6:00-7:00pm)
3. Dec 15 Family Fun Night: Roller-Skating Party (5:00-7:00pm)

J. **Adjourn**