

Washington PTO Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2023

Meeting Attendees:

Mark Karpf	Emily Moody	Dan Stockmann	Elizabeth Constance
Kelsey Fischer	Kathryn Salinas	Janene Bolt	Peter Cales
Annie Grace	Jessica Griffin	Ope Oloyede	Gwyneth Cliver
Melanie McFarland	Alison Sobczyk	Alicia Gillespie	

- Welcome and Introductions
- Motion to approve February PTO meeting minutes passes.

Principal Report

- We had a great book bingo night!
- Picture Day is on Thursday.
- The Lewis and Clark Jazz Band will perform at an assembly on Friday.
- The decision not to allow teacher requests next year was discussed. A lot of thought goes into making class lists, and having too many teacher requests constricts the process. Class lists will be developed on Articulation Day. Students will visit next year's classroom on a day in May.
- A question about teacher retention at Washington was asked. Mrs. Gillespie noted that April 28th is the deadline for teachers to resign and retain their teaching certificate. As of now, two teachers are leaving Washington, and one position has been filled.

Teacher/Staff Report

- Kathryn Salinas – 4th, 5th, and 6th Deaf/Hard of Hearing
 - Ms. Salinas has enjoyed seeing her students grow and learn this year. She has been thinking about transitions as students get ready to move to the next grade/school.
 - The 4th grade wax museum was a success! A student in Ms. Salinas's class participated by giving a speech.

President Report

- Updates
 - Thank you
 - Tom Craig for registering Washington for the Dundee Parade
 - Teachers and staff for a fun Books and Bingo night!
 - Jamie Williams for coordinating the spring conference dinner
 - PTO Board Officer Nominations for 2023-24 school year
 - Let us know if you are interested in an officer or committee position!
 - Descriptions are in the directory.
 - Slate announced at April meeting
 - Elections at May meeting
 - No questions/comments/concerns regarding LB753 and the PTO announcement were raised.

- Scholarship Winners
 - We received four scholarship applications from high school seniors who previously attended Washington. Mrs. Lange, Mrs. Gillespie, Mark Karpf, and Emily Moody reviewed the applications and selected two winners:
 - Naomi Gilbert
 - Beatrice Jackson
 - \$300 scholarships will be sent to OPSF for distribution.

Treasurer Report

- Recent expenses/income
 - Donations - \$491 from United Healthcare and \$950 company match from Robert Natal
 - Upcoming expenses – Carnival and Spring Fundraiser
 - Revenue – Carnival and Spring Fundraiser
- Balance - \$28,124
- We are still waiting to hear from the district about plans for a new school sign. We anticipate a new sign will cost \$5,000 to \$10,000. Additional proposed gifts included a second smaller/adjustable basketball hoop or a gaga pit for the playground.
- Field Day will be held at Elmwood Park on May 2 from 10am to 2pm. OPD will help escort students to the park. PTO will provide different color t-shirts for each grade and \$320 for Elmwood pavilion. Because the early childhood students can't go to Field Day, a bounce house was suggested as an alternative activity.
- Omaha Street Percussion will perform at an assembly on March 27, sponsored by Washington's former Girl Scout troop.
- Upcoming field trips remain for all grades. PTO has provided \$2,200 for field trips this year (budgeted \$2,000 but under budget in other areas).

Fundraising Report

- Spring Fun Run updates
 - 4/24 kickoff
 - 5/5 Fun Run
- The upfront fee for the spring fundraiser is less than last year, and we will keep 85% of donations instead of 50%.
- We will use prizes left over from last year but will need to get more (discussed requesting a donation from Oriental Trading Company).
- We will only provide t-shirts this year if we can get a corporate sponsor/donation.
- We will need to create a sign-up for volunteers.
- We will use Fedex on 72nd and Dodge for printing.

Carnival Report

- Michelle Craig is planning the carnival, but Stephanie Stang will come back to help.
- Last year, many people thought wristbands included pizza.
- Carnival is meant to be a family fun night, not a fundraiser, and usually breaks even.
- This year, wristbands will be for playing games, and we will keep the price the same (\$8 presale, \$10 day of). We will have a suggested donation for pizza, and prices will be marked for other food items.

- We will use water coolers again this year.
- Janene Bolt may get one or two vegan pizzas to trial as an offering.

Other Business

- Grounds improvement was discussed. Getting a recommendation/estimate for improving the field and/or the grass on the West playground was suggested.
- Mrs. Gillespie expects high student enrollment next school year. Currently, Washington has 311 students. There is no maximum enrollment capacity, but current class sizes are not as high as other schools in the district.

Calendar Reminders

- April
 - 7 Spring Music Program 9:30am or 2pm
 - 7 FFN: Roller-skating party 5-7pm
 - 11 PTO Meeting 6-7pm
 - 14-17 No school
 - 29 Green Team Grounds Clean up 9-noon
- May
 - 1-5 Teacher Appreciation
 - 2 Field Day
 - 9 PTO Meeting (Officer Elections) 6-7pm
 - 12 Carnival 6-8pm
 - 26 6th Grade Program and Clap out TBA

Adjourned