

Washington Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023 6:00 - 7:00pm

Meeting Attendees:

Sarah Meints	Kathleen McGill	Amy Quinn	Janene Bolt
Alison Sobczyk	Megan Weber-Little	Ope Oloyede	Gwyneth Cliver
Craig Moody	Taylor Borchert	Shawn Rife	Jessica L Griffin
Peter Cales	Amy Lichti	Cari Briscoe	Lindsey Meldrum
Kelsey Fischer	Sam Constance	Melanie McFarland	Michelle Kiel
Alicia Gillespie			

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Motion to approve September PTO meeting minutes passes.

III. Reports

A. Principal's Report

1. The 100th Anniversary celebration was great! Thank you to PTO for your participation. Attendees included a family that had 5 generations of Washington students. It was great to see the Washington staff reunion.
2. The first Cool Cat reward was today. Students had fun playing board games. The next Cool Cat reward will be an all-school assembly. A survey will be given to get input about what students want as rewards.
3. Students who have 2 days or less absent (excused absences don't count) for the quarter will be able to attend the attendance party. 203 out of 320 students will be able to attend this quarter. Testing results are correlated to attendance, with the biggest drop in scores seen between 9 and 10 days missed. Student attendance is measured in minutes missed and is still not back to pre-Covid levels.
4. Teacher attendance is not a concern at Washington. Teachers here are happy and enjoy coming to work. They are appreciative of the things that PTO provides (i.e., stocking the fridge, gift cards). Anyone with 60 college credit hours can be a substitute teacher, but they should also be a good fit.
5. The school attendance team sends a letter and/or makes a phone call home for every 5 days a student has missed.
6. Tardies are given if students are not in their classrooms at 8:50am.

B. Teacher & Staff Report

1. Amy Lichti, 1st grade (13 years)
 - Students are working on adding in math and reviewing short vowel sounds.
2. Lindsey Meldrum, 1st grade (13 years)
 - Students are learning about maps and plants and animals in science.
3. Cari Briscoe, 2nd-3rd grade Deaf/Hard of Hearing (29 years)
 - Students are focusing on social-emotional learning (feelings) and seasons.

C. President's Report

1. High fives!
 - 100th Anniversary Celebration
 - Directory - We are printing the directory after a final check with Ms. Conner.
 - Spirit Wear - The website has been updated with the new spirit wear options. There are a lot of youth sizes left available but not many adult sizes. We will not reorder until we have a bigger order. Most staff members haven't had a chance to buy yet. We will set up in the teachers' lounge and have order forms available so staff can get what they want.

D. Treasurers' Report

1. Income
 - \$1,536 in donations from the 100th Anniversary
 - \$1,582.12 from Spirit Wear sales
 - Dundee Bank and Artifact renewed their PTO Business Memberships.
2. Expenses
 - Payments have been made for planners and the Spelling Bee.
3. Current balance is \$36,753
4. Spelling Bee Invite (yes or no? If yes, need volunteers to lead it)
 - The GATE teacher will sponsor the Spelling Bee.

E. 100th Anniversary Gift(s) - \$5,000 budget

1. Tree(s) and Bench(es) - \$2,000 to \$3,000
2. Survey result priorities
 - Enrichment programs
 - Painted games and activity starters on the playground
 - Gaga pit
 - Grants for teachers
 - Ground cover/flowers around old sign on east hill - Amy Quinn & Janene
3. Mrs. Gillespie suggested a drop down screen to show movies in the gym and a Cricut machine.
4. Discussion about our cash surplus and spending on needs now led to the formation of a task force to make spending decisions. Spring survey results will be published as input for decision-making.

F. Fundraising

1. Fall fundraiser Fun Run - this Friday, October 13th
 - We have raised \$5,866 with 27% of students registered and 19% pledged. We have received donations from 21 states.
 - Incentives will include an extra recess for students at \$6,000 raised and a popcorn party if 50% of students are registered. Mrs. Gillespie will text families tonight and put the information in the Washington World on Thursday.
 - If it rains, the run will take place in the gym.
 - Fliers went home with all students but could go home again.

G. Boo Bash - October 20th from 6:00-8:00pm

1. Fliers for RSVPs should be returned by Monday.
2. We still need many volunteers. PTO will send an email out on Thursday. Mrs. Gillespie will include the sign-up links in the Washington World on Thursday, too. Teachers will bring bake sale donations.

H. Upcoming Activities

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| 1. Oct 13 | Fun Run Fundraiser |
| 2. Oct 14 | Green Team Grounds Clean Up, 9:00 - noon |
| 3. Oct 20 | Family Fun Night: Halloween Boo Bash & Parade, 6:00-8:00 pm |
| 4. Oct 26 & 27 | Fall Conferences (PTO provides dinner, Jamie Williams) |
| 5. Nov 4 | Family Fun Night (bowling) |
| 6. Nov 14 | PTO Board Meeting (6:00 - 7:00pm) |

I. Lingering Action Items??

1. Taylor/Janene/Annie/Ope: consider how to more strategically approach outreach to families, to include planning two adult nights (one in fall, one in spring)
 - Ideas included a Harvest Party After-Party at the playground with cider and hot cocoa or planning a happy hour.

J. Adjourn