

Washington PTO Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2023

Meeting Attendees:

Mark Karpf	Emily Moody	Jessica Hunt	Emily Natal
Virginia Bowers	Gwyneth Cliver	Jessica Griffin	Peter Cales
Ashlee Huffman	Alison Sobczyk	Melanie McFarland	Margi Bielser
Jill Gries	Jill Zabih	Amy Quinn	Megan Weber-Little
Annie Grace	Kelsey Fischer	Lizz Constance	

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

Principal Report

- Virginia Bowers – interim principal
 - Ms. Bowers has been at Washington for about the last six weeks and also a few days in October. Washington is an intentionally inviting school, and it has a very welcoming atmosphere. The Washington staff is like family, and everyone supports and helps each other. During the last month, we have been working on MAP testing. Mrs. Gillespie hopes to be back soon.
 - March 9th – Bingo for Books from 5:00-6:30pm

Teacher/Staff Report

- Jessica Hunt – 5th grade
 - Students have been completing projects and learning about Black History Month in reading, social studies, and writing. The last reading module was about the earth, and three guest speakers talked to students about chickens, sustainable building, and farming.
- Jill Gries – SLP
 - Ms. Gries has been working with a student teacher. They are using AAC to help students communicate in the classroom.
- Ashlee Huffman – K-1 Deaf Ed
 - Ms. Huffman is a first year teacher who went to Washington as a student. She recently attended an autism seminar.

President Report

- Updates
 - Gratitude
 - Michelle Craig for organizing the ice skating day
 - Megan Little for organizing the Valentine’s party treat
 - Abbey Jackson for continually lining up babysitters
 - Janene for sending out the reminder emails
 - New scholarship process/OPSF
 - PTO will continue to choose the winners of two \$300 scholarships, but the money will be given to OPSF and then distributed to recipients.

- We could consider increasing the amount of these scholarships in the future.
- Filed our State of NE Nonprofit Biennial Report and paid the fee
- 100th Anniversary Update
 - Mrs. Gillespie is working with TAC, so we're on pause until she returns.
 - A new sign will be provided by the district and/or PTO.
 - The celebration will include a weekend afternoon open house and sign dedication.
 - We could do a school day celebration in addition to include all students.
 - We could reach out to the Walter Scott Jr. Foundation, as he was a Washington alum.
- Nominating Committee – need 3 volunteers to join co-presidents
 - Submit slate of officers at the April meeting/vote in May
 - Volunteers – Gwyneth Cliver, Melanie McFarland, Elizabeth Constance
 - Motion to approve nominating committee passes.

Treasurer Report

- Balance – about \$27,000
- Skate City check for \$350
- Target donation of \$20 during their Employee Give Campaign
- A 5th grade field trip receipt was also recently received.
- A shorter/adjustable basketball hoop for the playground was suggested as a potential future gift to the school.
- Work needed on the field was also discussed. Planning and completing improvements in parts was suggested.

Fundraising Report

- Spring Fundraiser Update
 - Fun Run/Color Run
 - Fundraising will begin on April 24th and continue through May 5th.
 - Students will participate in the run during the school day on May 5th.
 - We will still have access to the dashboard for registration, but we will do our own emails and promotional pieces, so the upfront cost will be less.
 - We will be looking for corporate donations for t-shirts, prizes, and color packets.
- Be Nice, Earn a Slice – A student from each class earns a medium pizza and yard sign.
 - We will discuss this with Mrs. Gillespie when she returns.

Calendar Reminders

- February
 - 20 No School – Presidents' Day
- March
 - 13-17 No School – Spring Break
 - 21 PTO Meeting, 6:00-7:00pm
 - 30-31 No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- April
 - 7 Spring Music Program

- May
 - 1-5 Teacher Appreciation Week
 - 2 Field Day
 - 12 Carnival

Other Business

- Amy Quinn attended the Citizens Advisory Board meeting. The standard response protocol, fentanyl education, and I Love You Guys Foundation were discussed.
- Sending a PTO email to provide facts and links regarding the school voucher bill was suggested.
- Washington yard signs for students to display at home were discussed.

Adjourned