

Wallingford Elementary School

Parent-Teacher Organization

October 17, 2023

AGENDA

Dr. Savage	Jen Schwartzengraber
Candice Rogers	Maire Conrad
Kim Roguszewski	Kristina Dechter
Liz Pecora	Daria Schuman
Danielle Nicholson	Stacey Peki
Janine Berstein	Dean Dennis
Emily Lovitz	Julie Pandey
Marisa Ciarrocki	Jill Briggs
Samantha Wilson	Kaja Giloley
Amanda Weinberg	Ashley Drane
Kim Nguyen	Jason Cerge

Call to Order: 6:03 pm

Approval of minutes from 9/12/2023 meeting - Minutes approved unanimously.

Chairperson's Report: Candice began by thanking the various groups that have been hard at work coordinating the New Parent Playground Social, the Spirit Wear Committee, 5th

Grade Representatives, Grounds & Greens, Foreign Language, Health Committee, Pancake Breakfast, Directory, Sustainability Committee, Social Committee, Library, and many others. Candice then reported on the teacher reimbursement program stating that 24 teachers and staff members submitted requests for reimbursement of up to \$100. In addition, as part of the PBIS program, t-shirts were ordered for all students, teachers and faculty to wear during special assemblies and on specific dates. The orders were placed through the Spirit Wear vendor with extras being ordered to be sold and distributed as needed. The order should be in by October 30th.

Candice also announced special recognition days such as the National Walk & Bike to School Day, IT Appreciation Day & National Custodian Day. These were celebrated within the community with special treats being made available for the IT staff and Custodians.

Finally, Candice announced that Dr. Savage would be sending out the mini-grant requests to all teachers on October 18, 2023. Applications will be presented at the November PTO meeting for approval by the PTO.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Allison Collings

This report spans: 9/12/23-10/16/23

We started the period with a cash balance of \$35,566.61

Deposits of \$ 7,227.82

Withdrawals of \$ (4,811.17)

Net: \$ 2,416.65

Leaving us with a balance of \$37,983.26

Highlights

- Deposits:

Membership Directory \$2,409.02

Mum Sale \$4,635.80

School Spirit Sale \$183.00

Total \$ 7,227.82

- Withdrawals

Fifth Grade Class Trips \$1,500.00

Health \$225.00

Membership Directory \$58.91

Movie Night \$140.00

Mum Sale \$200.00

New Parent Reps \$609.16

Staff appreciation \$90.59

STEM \$70.00

Teacher Reimbursement MiniGrants \$1,917.51

Total \$4,811.17

Paypal*

**Pending transfer to PNC, not reflected in totals above*

2023-24 WES Student Directory \$ 497.15

WES ANNUAL MUM SALE \$ 1,511.91

WES PTO \$ 76.42

WES FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLUB FALL \$ 5,954.26

2023 Halloween Carnival - Chil \$ 435.58

Total \$ 8,475.32

Committee Reports (Committees at work can report, share good news/feedback, ask for help/advice/input

Box Tops: *Report given by Maire Conrad*

This program raises funds for the PTO from items that are already purchased. It is one of the only fundraisers that is considered “free money”. If each family downloads the app, they can then scan their receipts from purchases they make for their household. The money raised goes directly to the PTO account. You can see more information about this in WES Mail.

Sustainability: *Report given by Candice Rogers*

The Reprize Drive is coming up quickly. This drive provides prizes for May Day. Please look for emails regarding this. This committee is also working to collect the “Welcome to WES” signs. They are doing a collection now and again in the Spring. Parents with these signs can drop them off now in the lobby of the school if they would like.

Pancake Breakfast: *Report given by Liz Pecora*

The sign-ups to volunteer for this event are out now. You can participate by either volunteering your time or donating items that are needed to make the event successful. The event runs tandem with the Halloween Carnival. This year, teachers are participating as well, which has not been done since 2019.

Swarthmore Pizza Night: *Report given by Daria Schuman*

Swarthmore Pizza Night will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023. This event has been promoted in the WES Mail and Dr. Savage’s weekly email blast. A second Swarthmore Pizza Night is being planned for April. In addition, Iron Hill will be participating in a fundraiser for the PTO on December 13, 2023. Finally, the Committee is working on a fundraiser with Chipotle sometime in February. 33% of the money spent for this event will be donated to the PTO.

Directory: *Report given by Liz Pecora*

The directories were picked up on October 17th. They are scheduled to go in backpacks on Friday October 19th. A digital version is also available so please check your emails for that notification. Funds raised through the directory include the red hearts, purchases and advertisements.

Apple Crunch Day: *Report given by Stacy Peki*

Apple Crunch Day was successful with 3 different apples being supplied to the students to taste and choose their favorite. Each had a different taste and appearance. 2 ½ bushels of each type of apple were purchased. The total cost was \$225. This is not a fundraiser but a fun thing for the kids to do.

Spirit Wear: *Report given by Kristina Dechter*

The Spirit Wear sale was extended a couple of days for parents who may not have had a chance to order within the first deadline. It is anticipated that production of the items ordered will be completed by October 30, 2023. There may be another sale prior to the holidays to allow for some gift purchasing. Another sale will also occur in the Spring.

Book Fair: *Report given by Jen Schwartzengraber*

There were \$1,615 in rewards from last year that went to teachers or the library. Each teacher received \$25 to purchase books for their classroom and \$600 went to the library. All of the books were packaged nicely and presented to the teachers as a gift.

Foreign Language Club: *Report given by Amanda Weinberg*

The foreign language classes held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at WES have been very successful. Spanish 1 is maxed out with 12 students. Mandarin is also very popular with 11. German has 4 students and Spanish 2 only has 3 or 4 students.

Four scholarships were given out of a total of 37 students participating. There will be a surplus of over \$1,000. Even with some changes in rates for the teachers or decreasing the

cost of classes, there should be a surplus of approximately \$500. It will need to be determined what to do with any surplus.

Kaja has been going to classes, especially the first classes to make sure everything is running smoothly. She has also been sending email reminders of classes. She has some additional ideas for next year which will be discussed at a later time.

Homeroom Parent Coordinators: *Report given by Janine Berstein*

Homeroom parents have been preparing for the Halloween Parties. With the new clearances, there were concerns that volunteers would not be able to participate. The clearances are not due until the end of the year and therefore volunteers can participate even without the clearances prior to Halloween.

Hospitality Committee: *Report given by Candice Rogers*

Teachers will receive an “apple themed” treat on October 23, 2023. It will include Apple Cider donuts and cider from Linvilla. The Committee is also preparing conference dinners. Sign-ups will be sent out the first week of November.

Citizenship: *Report given by Danielle Nicholson and Ashley Drane*

They are preparing for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. They will send out flyers in backpacks. Frozen turkeys can be bought to WES on Friday the 17th for donation as well. The food will be split between Media Food Bank and City Team.

5th Grade Representatives: *Report given by Kristina Dechter*

The Halloween carnival will take place on October 28, 2023. The 5th graders are excited to help with this event. This is one of the biggest fundraising events that includes families. Wristband sales started this week. There will be games outside on the blacktop and in the gym. The event will include pumpkin decorating, haunted hallway and trunk or treat for those wishing to participate. The parking lot will be open this year for parking.

Social Committee: *Report given by Jill Briggs*

The goal of this committee is to build a stronger community. It is not for fundraising. The first event will take place on November 20, 2023, at Ship Bottom Brewery in Swarthmore for parents only. There will also be an event in the Spring.

Principal's Report : Dr. Gabe Savage

Dr. Savage thanked the PTO for the Apple Crisp Day, movie night, and the PBIS t-shirts. He noted that the Artist in Residence, Ambrella, was in the school earlier that day and was painting hearts on the front wall. She and Ms. Ryan will be educating the students about the project taking place throughout the school.

The Halloween parade will happen on October 31, 2023. AM kindergarten will have a mini parade in the morning. All other grades and PM Kindergarten will be outside at 2 pm.

The 3rd grade Veteran's Day Assembly and parade will take place in November. This is a special time for the 3rd grade and an event that the students look forward to every year.

Each grade is planning a field trip this year. The 5th grade had their first field trip to the ropes course. The first grade is planning Ramsey Farm, and the 3rd grade will be doing the Veteran's Memorial. Plans for 2nd and 4th grade are not yet finalized.

Some parents have asked what the clearances are for and why they need to have them done to visit the school. The determination for a clearance being needed is that any adult in the building long enough to build a relationship with a student must have clearance. It is the district's belief that participating in various classroom activities meets those criteria. Due to the short notice of this new policy, a grace period was given, and this requirement will not be necessary until the end of the calendar year.

Professional training is important for all teachers. This training should include a track for both academic and behavioral needs. The academic track addresses some thoughts or knowledge that need to be automatic to free up the brain to look at other ideas or more in-depth thoughts. That is the need for routine and structure. The behavioral track focuses on how teachers are interacting with students. How are they being positive and focused on what they are trying to accomplish. A parent asked about redirecting and if that is taught to teachers. Dr. Savage noted that it is part of their training. He noted that the book "Power of Words" shows appropriate language to use and ways to use it. This book was provided to all teachers. They have other tools to assist them as well.

A parent also asked if the assessments or surveys that were mentioned during the last meeting are shared with parents. Dr. Savage responded that all surveys are scored by the School Counselor, Ms. Weaver. If students qualify for support, groups for counseling will be gathered. Parents are informed of this before students participate in any groups. Of course, parents should always feel free to reach out should they have concerns.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Roguszewski