Wallingford Elementary School

Parent-Teacher Organization

January 9, 2024

AGENDA

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dr. Savage | Janine Berstein |
| Allison Collins | Candice Rogers |
| Kim Roguszewski | Stacey Peki |
| Suzanne Goodstein | Marisa Ciarrocki |
| Katie Dooley | Maura Strauman |
| Christina Gaffney | Amanda O’Brien |
| Lauren Bannon | Liz Pecora |
| Jessica Diamond | Becca Brendler |
| Juhi Pandey | Jill Briggs |
| Jennifer McGaffin | Megan Koehler |
| Christine Vasko | Katie Kopay |
| Kristina Dechter | Meg Pierangeli |
| Sarah Ponzio | Ashley Drane |
| Katie Dooley | Coco Kaminski |

**Call to Order:** 6:02 pm

Approval of minutes from 11/14/2023 meeting - Minutes approved unanimously.

**Chairperson’s Report:**

Candice began the meeting by thanking everyone for their flexibility in having the meeting via Zoom due to the weather conditions. She then thanked various committees for their work since the last PTO meeting, commenting that November and December were very busy months.

Candice reminded the PTO members that at November’s meeting, 9 Teacher Mini-Grants were voted on and approved. All of the items were ordered and delivered by early December. The total approved spending was $1,675.79, but she was able to get some items on sale, so the actual total spent came to $1,543.71.

Author Matt Phelan visited WES before the holiday break and met with the students in 2 sections, kindergarten – 2nd grade and 3rd – 5th grade. 49 signed copies of his books, including 6 signed books for the library were sold. This raised $124 for the PTO. During the visit he shared his journey to become an author and gave students a special glimpse into his books that he’s written, his process for creating illustrations, and the stories behind some of his characters and series. He encouraged students to use their superpowers of creativity and imagination and sketched and signed one of his favorite characters, a peacock named Plum, for the library.

Girls on the Run will be returning to WES this spring, starting the last week in February. Registration is full for the girls and there is a need for more coaches. The club will meet on Tuesday and Thursday after school. If anyone is interested in helping out, they should reach out to Christine Greco. The final race for this group is in May,

The car line is in need of volunteers for the remainder of the school year. Candice commented that it is not a significant commitment and could be done just once a month or less. It is a fun way to start a morning, welcoming kids to school and assisting with backpacks and keeping the car line moving. If anyone is interested there is a link to sign up in WES mail.

Candice ended her report by sharing some Martin Luther King Jr. activities that are coming up. The 2nd graders will have their assembly on Friday. The 2nd grade teaching team has sent out their contribution forms for the MLK Chain of Love that will go around the school. The money raised from the Chain of Love will go towards UNICEF to support children who have been displaced during the war or who need supplies. In coordination with that fundraiser, Mrs. Gaur and the PTO have selected City Team for our MLK Winter Donation Drive and Service Project. The idea was to keep the focus on kids for the student donations. Donations can include hats, gloves/mittens, socks and sweaters for sizes 2T – 6. They are not collected coats this year and do ask that socks be new with the tags still in place. Donations will be taken until Friday, February 19, 2024. At the MLK Day of Service, the WES will have a table where individuals can decorate hearts that will go with the donated items.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Submitted by Allison Collings

**This report spans:**

* Starting cash balance **$39,812.04**
* Deposits **$13,020.46**
* Withdrawals **($13,165.72)**
* Net ($145.26)
* Ending balance **$39,666.78**

**Highlights**

* Deposits:
  + Fall Book Fair $ 7,099.76
  + Bingo Night(s) $ 1,960.08
  + Fifth Grade Carnival $ 1,635.67
  + Visiting Authors $ 587.08
  + Foreign Language $ 541.08
  + School Spirit Sale $ 506.00
  + Iron Hill/Rita’s/Swarthmore Pizza $ 300.00
  + Membership Directory $ 126.33
  + Artist-in-Residency $ 125.00
  + Other $ 96.02
  + PTO Administration $ 43.44

**Total $13,020.46**

* Withdrawals
  + Fall Book Fair $ 3,968.86
  + Mum Sale $ 3,176.40
  + Visiting Authors $ 1,904.94
  + Teacher Reimbursement/Mini Grants $ 1,641.18
  + Staff appreciation $ 1,002.46
  + Fifth Grade Fall Carnival $ 605.29
  + PTO’s Sunshine Fund $ 347.91
  + Pancake Day $ 328.09
  + PTO Administration $ 83.71
  + (blank) $ 61.55
  + Staff Hospitality $ 45.33

**Total $13,165.72**

**Reminders**

* Please label all the Deposits

**Committee Reports (Committees at work have the opportunity to report, share good news/feedback, ask for help/advice/input**

**Citizenship/Thanksgiving Food Drive:**

This year’s Food Drive was held between November 9, 2023 and November 17, 2023. It was a huge success with an overflow of food delivered to the lobby outside of the main office. The collected food was provided to City Team in Chester and the Media Food Bank.

**Social Committee:**

The first Parents Social was held on Monday, November 20, 2023, at the Ship Bottom Brewery in Swarthmore. There was not a huge turnout but all that attended had a great time and look forward to doing it again. The Committee is working on planning a larger social in the spring that would include food, drinks and a DJ for some dance music. Keep an eye out for more information on this.

**Restaurant Night:**

A fundraiser was held at the Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant in Media on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. Iron Hill donates 20% of total receipts back to the PTO. The committee has organized a fundraiser with Chipotle on February 7, 2024. 33% of total receipts from this event will be given to the PTO. In addition, there will be a fundraiser at Swarthmore Pizza on April 16, 2024.

**Spirit Wear :**

The holiday sale was successful. The tie dye shirts are a big hit, as are the new styles. The Committee ordered a bulk order of new water bottles and will make them available for sale at various upcoming events. A spring sale is being considered to raise some additional funds.

**Bingo Night :**

Bingo Night will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024. There are two sessions for this event. The early session is usually the most popular and sells out quickly. Registration is already open. To try and better manage the space, the committee has asked for the number of bingo and non-bingo players during registration. In addition to Bingo, there will be pizza, a bake sale and the annual raffle. Water bottles will be sold at this event to help support the Spirit Wear Committee. Tickets for the raffle are being sold in advance. 50/50’s will be sold at the event but are not available in advance. Volunteers are still needed for this event to run smoothly.

**Hospitality :**

Teachers were provided dinner during conferences in November. This is always a nice treat as the staff are at school late meeting with parents. The dinner provided by the PTO alleviates the need to pack a dinner for themselves during a busy time for them. The committee also provided holiday treats for the staff.

**Hour of Code :**

The Hour of Code was held the week of December 4, 2023. Students and volunteers enjoyed the experience as it is something they look forward to every year. Next year, the committee would like to have more volunteers. The committee reported that they had been told some parents expressed being intimidated by this volunteer opportunity. It was discussed that volunteers do not need to have any coding knowledge to help the students and it is a great way to get into the classrooms and spend time with the students.

**Foreign Language :**

The foreign language program continues to be active with many students participating. There is consideration being given to adding additional classes during the next semester, specifically Spanish 1 classes. Any additional classes would need to be held at the library as there is no more additional space in the school for classes.

**Cultural Arts :**

The committee is preparing for WES to host International Night on Thursday, February 22, 2024, between 6 pm – 8 pm. All WSSD elementary schools are invited to participate. Students and their families can host a table dedicated to a specific country which they share ancestral ties to or simply enjoy. Families can work together on a specific country. Information regarding this program will be out shortly.

**Home Room Parent Coordinators :**

The committee discussed the success of the holiday parties throughout the school. A discussion took place regarding the challenges of finding opportunities for all parents that want to participate in the classroom to be able to do so. Many parents want to be home room parents but there are not enough opportunities for everyone. The committee is working on finding ways to ensure the selection of home room parents and volunteers is fair. It was suggested that all emails be sent out at a specific time on a specific date with prior notice of this being given. That would give all parents an opportunity to be looking for the email and able to respond quickly. Options need further thought and discussion. It was recognized by all that it is not an easy task.

**Sustainability :**

The committee is currently working on a Bike Bus program that provides meeting points and a designated route. This allows a large group of kids and an adult to ride together making the trip safer. The committee is looking for parent volunteers to start this program. A target date of April 3, 2024, has been set.

**Principal’s Report : Dr. Gabe Savage**

Dr. Savage thanked the PTO for their work and the treats the staff received during the holidays. He shared information on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of service, as well as the 2nd grades assembly that is scheduled for Friday January 12, 2024.

Dr. Savage shared that report cards would be sent out towards the end of January. Testing for all students was done to identify who is meeting, exceeding or falling behind benchmarks. For those students that may be behind benchmarks, it provides the staff with an opportunity to work with them and provide additional supports should they need them.

He reminded everyone that all volunteers who will be spending time with the students must have their clearances completed and on record with the office. This is a district wide policy that was put in place to protect our students. Completing the clearance process is easy and free. Volunteer clearances are good for 5 years from the date of issue.

Dr. Savage commented that he is excited for Bingo Night as it is always a good time and a great example of how WES works to provide a family atmosphere. He enjoys watching the children and parents in a social setting having fun together. The raffle prizes with teacher experiences are always fun. He specifically enjoys the breakfast with the Principle and the opportunity to be the Principle for the day. During breakfast he learns a lot about the kids and what they enjoy doing.

Candice closed the meeting thanking everyone for participating.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Roguszewski