

Wallingford Elementary School

Parent-Teacher Organization

February 6, 2024

AGENDA

Dr. Savage	Janine Berstein
Allison Collings	Candice Rogers
Kim Roguszewski	Gelareh Ateti
Billie Jo McNamara	Rachel Holbert
Amanda Weinberg	Becca Brendlar
Kristine Magargee	Sara O'Reilly
Amanda O'Brien	

Call to Order: 6:03 pm

Approval of minutes from 1/9/2024 meeting - Minutes approved unanimously.

Chairperson's Report:

The Chair, Candice Rogers, thanked the various PTO Committee's for their continued hard work and dedication to the school community. She shared that the Hospitality Committee was showing their appreciation for the school counselors and psychologists in recognition of National School Counselor Week. Candice then introduced Rachel Holbert who is a member of the WSSD Board. Rachel shared that she tries to participate in each of the schools PTO meetings to get an idea of what is being discussed and hear about all the good work the parents of these groups are doing.

Candice shared that a review of the PTO by-laws was being completed. With the assistance of Dr. Savage and an attorney, revisions were being suggested and would be shared at the March PTO meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Allison Collings

This report spans:

- Starting cash balance	\$39,666.78
- Deposits	\$ 2,351.51
- Withdrawals	(\$6,963.34)
- Net	(\$4,611.83)
- Ending balance	\$35,054.95

Highlights

- Deposits:	
○ Bingo Night(s)	\$ 1,897.00
○ Fund Raisers (Restaurants)	\$ 233.75
○ School Spirit Sale	\$ 72.00
○ Membership Directory	\$ 82.30
○ PTO Administration	\$ 26.46
○ Box Tops	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 2,351.51
- Withdrawals	
○ Bingo Night(s)	\$ 1,120.96
○ 5 th Grade Carnival	\$ 86.33
○ Foreign Language	\$ 5,060.00
○ Movie Night	\$ 610.00
○ PTO Administration	\$ 24.33
○ Staff Appreciation	\$ 46.72
○ Staff Hospitality	\$ 15.00
Total	\$ 6,963.34

Paypal (Net proceeds, not reflected in amounts above)

• 2023-24 WES Student Directory	\$ 22.18
• WES Foreign Language Club Fall 2023	\$ (140.00)
• Bingo Night(s)	\$1,572.81
Total	\$1,454.81

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

Bingo Night: *Report given by Janine Berstein*

Bingo Night was a huge success. The changes made since last year helped with the flow of the evening and allowed appropriate amount of space for everyone participating. Preliminary profits for the event are \$4,309. Charging \$5/attendee rather than family rates for next year is being considered. In addition, cutting the time for each session from 1 hour to 45 minutes is being considered. It seems that the kids start to get restless after 45 minutes.

Cultural Arts: *Report given by Candice Rogers*

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. The Committee is in desperate need of additional tables to be hosted. At the time of the meeting only 6 of 25 tables were assigned. The sign-up shows what can be done and what countries were already accounted for. SRS may be doing some tables, but WES wants to show a strong support for this event as well. Kids attending the event will be given a passport and can bring that in for a homework pass. It was suggested that high school kids may be able to volunteer but there is a desire to keep the International Event separate from what is done at the high school. If approved, there will be a performance at the event by a Philadelphia company.

Gift of Giving: *Report given by Sara O'Reilly*

The Committee reported on the upcoming Gift of Giving project to support Caring for Friends, a Philadelphia non-profit organization that provides free home-cooked meals to isolated, homebound individuals.

This community service project will be handled the same way it has been in previous years. Students will decorate and fill bags with donated breakfast items during their Valentine's Day parties. Last year 580 bags were donated.

Restaurant Night: *Report given by Candice Rogers*

A fundraiser was held at the Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant in Media on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. That event raised \$213. Chipotle Night is scheduled for February 10, 2024. Chipotle donates 33% of sales back to the PTO. In addition, there will be a fundraiser at Swarthmore Pizza on April 16, 2024.

Dimensions in Math and Science/Science Fair: *Report given by Christina Gaffney*

Science Fair Night will be held on March 7, 2024, from 6 – 7 pm. This is for 3rd-5th graders. Books have been set up in the library to assist kids in picking out science projects they can do on their own. Parents are not meant to help with these projects and the tables should be run by the kids. However, 10 volunteers are needed to make sure everything is running smoothly. Students attending the Science Fair will get a passport and earn a homework pass after receiving 6 stamps.

Nominating: *Report given by Candice Rogers*

The Nominating Committee has started working on the slate for the upcoming school year. Please let them know if you would like to stay in the position you currently have, you want to continue to participate but perhaps do something else or if you are not able to volunteer next year.

Foreign Language: *Report given by Amanda Weinberg*

The foreign language program continues to be active with many students participating. It was reported that the French teacher does an excellent job but can only teach on Saturdays at 11 am. There were 40 participants in this program: 12 in Mandarin, 12 in Spanish 1, 5 in Spanish 2, 7 in German, 4 in French. 5 of these participants received scholarships to participate. We currently have a surplus of \$300 which is planned to be donated to the Helen Furness Library since they do not charge for the use of the room some of the classes are held in. There are 12 students who already signed up for the Spring session.

It was suggested by a parent that the \$300 surplus be used for additional scholarship opportunities. The ASK program is beneficial for financial assistance, but not everyone knows about it, and some may be timid in asking for assistance outside of the community. After a lengthy conversation, it was determined that the PTO would talk about how we can help with this in the future. Everyone appreciated the discussion and wants to make sure all students are able to participate in the various activities available in the school community.

Spirit Wear: *Report given by Kristina Dechter Patterson*

A spring sale will be held from 2/19 – 3/1 for orders to be received before spring break. Various items will be added such as towels, tank tops and WES Cares shirts. It seems that participation is down for the sales, and it was asked the homeroom parents send an email reminder that a sale is going to be occurring. The water bottles that were purchased will continue to be sold at various school events like they were at Bingo.

Sustainability: *Report given by Candice Rogers*

The committee will be having one more re-prize drive to help support May Day which is scheduled for May 10, 2024.

Chess Club: *Report given by Candice Rogers*

The Chess Club will be held on Thursdays after school. There is a cap of 34 students able to participate. Parent volunteers are needed, but do not need any experience in playing Chess. The Club is open to students in grades 3-5. If younger children want to participate, they can do so with a parent participating. The Committee is hoping to organize a district wide Chess Tournament in May.

Home Room Parent Coordinators: *Report given by Janine Berstein*

Class parties are being staggered for Valentine's Day. Only parents with completed clearances can participate so the committee encourages everyone to get them done. Mrs. Zwitch has updated information on whose clearances are up to date. The process only takes about 5 minutes and is good for 5 years.

PTO Vote:

Candice informed the PTO members in attendance that there is a price increase in field trips due to the additional cost for transportation. The 4th grade team needs \$1,500 for a bus to take the 4th graders to Pennsbury Manor. School district buses cannot be used because the trip is too long and the buses are needed for transporting students from the middle school and high school. The expense was unanimously approved.

A second request was shared from Nurse Costa to replace the ice maker in her office. Many students need ice for their bumps and bruises. The cost of the ice machine is \$88 + tax and could come from leftover funds related to mini-grants. This expense was also unanimously approved.

Principal's Report : Dr. Gabe Savage

Dr. Savage thanked the PTO members. He reported on enjoying Bingo Night with the parents, families and teachers that participated. He looks forward to the event every year.

A SEL (social-emotional learning) survey will be done on February 12, 2024. Teaching SEL skills is an important goal for WES this year. The surveys will be completed online and should take approximately 15 minutes. For Kindergarten to 2nd grade, the surveys will be done during their Guidance Special. For 3rd – 5th graders, the survey will be done via email. Responses will go directly to the social workers and counselor. They will reach out with any concerns that may arise.

The district is moving towards Schoology which is a learning management system and a good source of information between teachers, parents and students. For now, the 3rd – 5th graders will start the transition to this new platform while the younger classes will remain on Seesaw. Teachers will need to have some presence on this new platform and next year, classes will move over completely to this. There was a pilot done to ensure the system provides the attributes the school is looking for to help improve communication. Informational sessions are being held in the upcoming weeks.

Kindergarten orientation will be held on March 6, 2024. That is when the lottery is done for AM/PM classes. A lottery is necessary if either the morning or afternoon sessions are too popular. Normally, it is the morning sessions that are most desired.

Candice closed the meeting thanking everyone for participating.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Roguszewski