Wallingford Elementary School

Parent-Teacher Organization

March 9, 2021

AGENDA

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Audra Bach | Sally Robbins | Rebecca Berman | Tara Gallagher |
| Candice Rogers | Kim Graham | Samantha Simonsen | Christie Cari |
| Gabriel Savage | Joni O’Connor | Kelly Whitehead | Patty Briganti |
| Janine Berstein | Jessica Diamond | Fran Yan | Coco Kaminski |
| Jenny Montague | Shirley Robinson | Sarah Rodowicz | Colleen Thom |
| Mary D’Silva | Kristine Magargee | Beth Benzing | Christine Greco |
| Shirley Robinson | Noelle Coker |  |  |

Call to Order - 7:02 pm

Approval of minutes from 2/9/21 meeting

Committee Thank You’s

* Our Weekly/Monthly Working Committees: Treasurers, Secretary, WES Mail, Website, Car Line, Homeroom Parents and Coordinators
* Gift of Giving: Kelly Whitehead, Sara O’Reilly, Aimee Hodges
* Spring Book Fair: Sarah Rodowicz, Colleen Glackin
* Foreign Language: Amanda Weinberg, Marisa Brant
* Restaurant Night: Theresa Birardi - Tomorrow night
* Bingo Night: Kate Shaughnessy, Jessica Diamond, Susan Kenney
* Cultural Arts: Melissa Carden, Shannon Holt, Mahnaz Maqbool
* Math Week: Lindsay Goldsmith-Markey, Beth Benzing, Christina Gaffney
* Visiting Authors:  Joni O’Connor
* Sustainability for Earth Day: Erin Stancill, Katie Poland, Renee Joyner and Jess Trout
* Citizenship: Erin Thomson
* Math Week: Lindsay Goldsmith-Markey and Beth Benzing
* Nominating Committee: Patty Briganti, Lauren Shank, Erin Stancill, Michele Henriques, Sally Robbins, Gina Lazzari

Treasurer’s Report: Submitted by Fran Yan

This report spans: 2/9/2021 - 3/8/2021

* We started the period with a cash balance of $47,140.86
* We had deposits of $4,533.37
* And withdrawals of ($1,900.39)
* Leaving us with a balance of $49,773.84

Highlights

* Deposits:
  + $1,607.99   – Bingo Night ($1,310.89 in last period）
  + $1,592.49   – Silent Auction
  + $745.10    – Foreign Language Club for Spring 2021 Virtual Sessions
  + $458.52    – Amazon Smile
  + $119.86    – Dinner to Go
* Withdrawals
  + $705.34 – Staff Appreciation
  + $507.50 -- Foreign Language Club
  + $500      – Visiting Author

Reminders

* Deposits have all been labeled, please continue to do so

Total Expense vs. Deposits SYTD – 07/1/20-3/8/21

* Beginning Balance: $39,621.57
* Expenses: ($20,284.61)
* Deposits:  $30,436.88
* Net YTD:  $10,152.27
* Ending Balance: $49,773.84

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

* **Update on proposal to separate Dimensions in Science from Hour of Code Committee** - *Candice gave the update* - They are going to be put together. Christina Gaffney will be the one taking over for Maria Gallagher in the next couple of years and she is fine doing it that way.
* **Chipotle WES Spirit Night** - *Candice reported for Theresa Birardi -*  Tomorrow night,  March 10th, at the location in Springfield. You have to put in the code for our school.  We will receive 30% cash back.
* **Bingo Night** - *Jessica Diamond reported* - Very successful event. $3765 raised (Needs to coordinate the payout for the winners). Many comments on how well organized it was and families enjoyed it!
* **Spring Book Fair** - *Sarah Rodowicz reported* - March 7th to 20th through Children’s Book Store.. We get 30% of purchases. The items get directly sent to your home.
* **“Back to School…again” treat** - *Candice reported* - March 18th the teachers will receive a treat to go with their lunch that Mr. Savage is providing for them.
* **Visiting Author** - *Joni O’Connor reported* - The Henna Khan visit went very well! The school got 30 books to  use as they want of her newest book, Amina’s Voice. They can use the books for future events as giveaways or as class read alouds. A few copies will go to the library.  They are waiting to get the book plates that she signed to put into the books. The office can hold the OA ones.
* **Math Week** - *Beth Benzing reported* - Math week is next week! The OA students will get their materials in the lobby and all materials for the hybrid students are being sent home this week. The packet will include a 4 page sample with a link. It will also be put into the e-blast and WES Mail. Next week will be an asynchronous week, so it will be good for parents to do with kids that week. You can use the front page as a quilt to write in the activities they finished.
* **Cultural Arts** - *Candice reported for Melissa* - Book Club is this Thursday night, March 11th. You must RSVP to Melissa Carden to participate and receive the Zoom link.
* **Gift of Giving update** - *Kelly Whitehead reported* - Food Collection is wrapping up this week. They are going to have the 5th graders pack the bags next Tuesday at 3pm at the bus circle...instead of having the whole school to it together, since the kids are going back full time.
* **Sustainability** - *Candice reported for Erin Stancill* - Earth Day initiatives -
  + Crayola crayon collection - There will be a drive to collect broken crayons, so Crayola can recycle them.
  + Crayola Marker collection - Ms. Gallagher mentioned a special needs class recycles markers, so maybe they can partner.
  + Tree Sale through RedBud - You can call RedBud directly to order your tree for Earth Day and to pick up the week of Earth Day. Supplies are limited and so it is first come, first serve.
* **Citizenship** - *Erin Thomson reported* - Shoe Drive starts on April 5th! So, start collecting semi-good condition shoes with no holes in them. You can put them in a bag to drop off at the school. Details will go out soon!
* **Hospitality** - *Candice reported* - Conference Lunch will be March 23rd for the teachers. They plan to serve boxed lunches from Panera.
* **Nominating Committee** - *Patty Briganti reported* - Still trying to fill positions! Please check email and confirm whether you will or not be returning next year.
* **Grounds and Greens** - *Sam Simenson reported* - Going to work on the garden and front pots to spruce up the property before the kids come back.
* **Car Line reminder** - *Fran Yan reported* - Need more volunteers to get the cars moving through and have added Wednesday morning to the sign-up page.
* **Recess Equipment and Vote** - Candice Rogers -
  + Pool noodles for tag. 1st grade (Ms. Kaplan), 2nd grade and 4th grade teachers were interested in getting the box of pool noodles and it will come from the mini-grant fund. They can be used at recess on the fields. Vote was taken and 14 approved. Pool Noodles - $52.99



**Principal Report**:

￭Mr. Savage was very happy with the way the author spoke about her life and how she connected with the kids with commonalities. He thought she was one of the best ones we have had since he has been there.

￭They are expecting 80% of the parents to drop their kids off at school. They have informed Chief Splain of the potential issue of a back up onto Kershaw.

￭Breakfast is free this year so they have double the amount of kids having breakfast compared to other years. There will probably be issues with distribution since more kids will be there at one time.  Mr. Savage just wanted to let parents know now. Also, to let them know it will get worked out. It may take some time.

￭The PSSA’s will be offered from May 3rd - 21st the state government said we have to have them. They can be pushed back as far as September 2021, but the district doesn’t want to be administering them in the beginning of next school year. There are still OPT out options available. They still have to work out this for the OA.

￭He is proud of his staff for pulling together to get ready for March 18.

**Open Floor (A time to share new ideas, ask questions, general discussion)**

￭Jessica Diamond - How many students switched from OA to School and School to OA?    
Answer:  85 total - 49 leaving OA and 36 leaving OA to the building. The numbers are shrinking on both sides. WES went from 21 to 16 kids coming in from 8 kids going out to OA to 4.

-What about busing?  Do you recommend parents continue to drop off kids or have them put their kids on the bus?

Answer: Parents should do what they are comfortable with, but said yes it would be less stressful on the car line volunteers and staff if parents had their kids take the bus so there's less cars in the loop and then there would be less of a backup onto Kershaw and at the train station.

￭Jenny Montague - Will the kids have to carry all their supplies in their backpack everyday?   
Answer: They will get their own desks. Jenny said the biggest issue with the car line currently. Currently, kids can’t fit their backpacks in the car by them because they have too much in them. The parents have them in the trunks so the parents have to get out of the car to get them out which slows down the line. Also, aides with special needs students have the students pull up some to ease the line since it takes awhile for them to come out. Also, suggested having them move up to the ramp, or have them pull up come out in the front with the buses or reserving two spots in the loop, so they can get out and have their aide walk them in from there.

Kristine Magargee -

PSSA questions - Kristine asked if it is low stake testing to see where the students are if there has been a fall behind in education. Will they use them for placements in other schools? Mr. Savage said it will probably be difficult to use the results for placements this year. They may have to figure out a different way to place kids.   
  
￭Audra Bach - Made a statement that she heard that religion will not be the only reason to opt out this year. Also, has been hearing a lot of OA parents will be opting out. She also asked what the students in the OA will be doing when the kids in school will be taking the test? Since typically everything stops when the PSSA’s are happening. Are the OA kids not going to be learning during those times? Since everything needs to stay equal or will it balance out since the OA kids will be taking the tests on another day when the other students aren’t in school?  Mr. Savage didn’t really have answers for the questions at this point, but it is being worked on.

￭Mary D’Silva - Asked about the 5th grade end of year events - like the dance and move up ceremony.   
Answer: Yes, he has thought about it but is trying to focus right now on getting the kids into school March 18. He said, they will put more focus toward these things once things are settled down.

￭Noelle Coker - Asked if all the kids had the option to go back to in-person?

Answer: Yes, the survey was sent out back in January and they can talk about it separately from the meeting.  She then asked a couple more questions and realized that her daughters teacher will not be moving back into school so she wants to keep her daughter in the OA.

Adjournment 8:08 pm