

Wallingford Elementary School
Parent-Teacher Organization
September 17, 2019

MINUTES

Attendees

Audra Bach
Wojtek Paciorek
Beth Benzing
Doni Reece
Michelle Denny Grunseich
Sarah Rodowicz
Kate Fernandez
Scott Collings
Samina Antenucci
Anamarie Jones
Maggie Lorch
Kristine Margaree
Theresa Burch

Lauren Shank
Heather Warley
Jess Trout
Eva Stoneback
Jenna Leggette
Allison Collings
Erin Stancill
Fran Yan
Erin Mormile
Candice Rogers
Christie Cari
Christina Gaffney
Jeanette Kaplan

Michele Rufo

Call to Order 7:01pm by Christie Cari

Approval of minutes from 6/4/19 meeting

Introduction of PTO Board Members Christie Cari (Chair), Candice Rogers (Co-Chair), Audra Bach (Secretary), Allison Collings (Treasurer) and Fran Yan (Receiving Treasurer)...

Christie Cari asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting and they were approved.

Committee Thank You's

Back to School Night: (Mr. Savage, Tanika Johnson, Allison Collings, and Mia Jensen for video), Directory: (Christina Gaffney, Christine Greco, Paul Nuschke, Jen LaViola, Blakely Minton, and Norma Long), Spirit Wear: (Michelle Long and Jenny Dolan), New Parent Reps: (Anne McFadden and Gina Lazzari), SchoolKidz: (Rose O'Connor & Norma Long), Library: (Patty Briganti), Homeroom Parents: (Stephanie Cavanagh & Janine Berstein), Teacher Appreciation: (Doni Reece and Maria Acosta-Garcia), Carline: (Sarah Rodowicz and Theresa Burch), Mum Sales: (Renee Joyner, Doni Reece, Sarah Rodowicz, Tammy McCauley, Lauren Shank, Colleen Glackin), WES Mail: (Erin Mormile), Grounds and Greens: (Lauren Averill, Janine Berstein and all the volunteers), Website: (Heidi Bischoff), Foreign Language: (Lisa

Godlewski and Maggie Lorch), WES Spirit Day Fundraiser: (Rachael Reach, Liz Oakes and committee), Visiting Authors (Heather Warley and Ms. Lamberstein)

Christie Cari shared that the PTO received a couple thank you's from the teachers showing their appreciation for what the Greens and Grounds committee did to the atrium and also for the new STEM Cabinet.

Principal's Report: Gabe Savage

PBIS Update - Mr. Savage passed around a chart explaining the PBIS model for parents to understand it better. He also thanked all the committees that worked hard over the summer. He appreciated the first day lunch that was provided for him and the teachers by the PTO. He was happy with back to school night and the open house. He said that the grounds and greens did a great job on the property and it looks phenomenal. He explained that the water that was dripping off the roof is now being placed properly in a catcher. He also mentioned two upcoming dates (Kindergarten Playdate and School Pictures)

Mr. Savage is thankful for the new playfield. He appreciates that it is multiple. Now there will be places for the kids to play when the fields are wet since we have double the hard space now. They will have the fields to be used when it is dry. He feels it was really well thought out. The kids are enjoying it. The last pieces are the bottle filling station and the receptacle, which have been purchased. They are hoping to get the receptacle out once the port-a-potty is removed.

Question asked by Christie Cari - When will the blacktop be painted for basketball & 4 square? Mr. Savage said they found someone to do it but need to figure out the logistics.

Transportation

There was a change in transportation which made delays. Mr. Savage found out in his conversations with the transportation department the following: 1) The first four days of school is balancing out the buses. 2) One issue is some compliment programs don't start till the week after school starts. The transportation department did come to the school and checked the list with Mr. Savage to make sure things run smoothly. The district is still looking at it to make sure it is where it needs to be. It isn't a case closed right now and they may have to make more changes.

PBIS information and questions answered by Mr. Savage:

What is PBIS? It is a school wide positive behavior program that is teaching the student expectations for their behavior. It teaches it on the front end (in the beginning of the school year) to help them understand what is expected of them. This helps to lessen bad behavior on the back end. He did stress that there isn't many bad things here. It is just good to have a standard across the board with all the schools.

The three values the school is implementing are as follows: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe. He explained that PBIS is through a responsive classroom lens which means instead of

using external rewards teachers focus on positive reinforcement. He expressed that they are still positively enforcing our kids.

What will this look like as the kids go to Middle School and High School? Question - parent asked, "What prompted this?" Academic and behavior side. There was a representative sample of teachers from each elementary school. They (CCIU) went through a survey with each of the buildings. They all identified what they wanted to work on. The biggest area was to strengthen the behavior processes in the buildings. There wasn't anything consistently in place for expectations on behavior. He suspects it wasn't in place because we haven't had many issues. So they are putting structures in place. The students have morning meetings to work on this. The teachers are getting trained through modules on these things.

Scott Collings asked: Who is responsible for implementing this program? Mr. Savage said that Megan McCoulough is in charge of overseeing it and as well as coaches and consultants from the DCIU. Sydeny Tascone (DCIU coach) and Mr. Miller sat with Mr. Savage to go through the rubric to figure out what still needs to be worked through. There are over 250 schools in PA doing this program.

Beth Benzing did ask: Is the guidance time during the library time?

Mr. Savage explained that other districts have more support from guidance. He expressed that the one counselor we have goes to each school. Ms. Schwam is doing this across each elementary building. She does it for 4 days consecutively in each elementary school. She does it for 30 min and then they do book browsing the last 15 minutes of class. There used to be 6 to 8 guidance classes during class time. Now they are getting 15 guidance times throughout the school year, but during library time.

Erin Stancil asked: How much time is being taken from the extracurricular time for PBIS? Is this time over now? Mr. Savage told us that it got taught over four days. They wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page for the lessons. It occurred over the first two weeks of the school year. First week was by classroom teachers and the second was during the specials by the specials teachers. So now week three is back to normal. Everyone is on the same page and the whole building is using the same language. Mr. Savage stated that students come to WES with such great skills and backgrounds. Randomly there might be an issue so they have to make sure everyone knows the expectations, so they won't have to go back. There may be some check ins and reminders now.

Rachel Reach asked about Specials, specifically tech lab: She asked how Tech Lab is being integrated now that there is no actual lab? Mr. Savage explained that with the old way, they would come out of the Social Studies to do technology for 45 minutes a week. Ms. Kaplan spoke up to explain a little more about the process. She expressed that the majority of the time they are able to use the carts of computers and bring them into the classroom. Mr. Savage said that the district is working to get us on a 2 to 1 ratio in the classrooms. Right now each class gets 5 Chromebooks in their classroom. If they need more, they can borrow from their colleagues or sign out the cart. They are doing their best to integrate them in. He hit on Mr. Miller's lab. Also thanked the PTO about the library STEM area for Ms. Lambertsen.

Allison Collings mentioned that she doesn't think the PBIS was expressed to the parents. She got caught off guard when her child told her about it. She asked, Why is the library being used for Guidance lessons? Mr. Savage response was, It seems like the most natural place to do it. A concerned parent stated that she was in with third graders yesterday when it happened. She felt like it impacted the children's time to get the books out. Scott Collings asked: Is there a way to shorten it so the kids can have more time to select books so they aren't stressed? Beth Benzig stated she wants the kids to have at least 15 minutes of book time. Christie Cari was in there with the fourth graders and stated she felt like it was smoother with them. Audra Bach mentioned book browsing during the week to help in the efforts to give more time to select good choices without being rushed. Christie Cari said that book browsing is on MON, WEDS and Thurs at 8:30 am. Audra mentioned it is important that the kids get the books they need to read, since the teachers stress the 30 minutes a day reading time. Mr. Savage mentioned doing it at this time allows the building counselor to free up her time for individual cases, see more groups and respond to emergency situations. It is Ms. Schwam's first rotation here at WES. We want to make sure there is consistency among the schools.

Can we stress the book browsing times and make the parents aware of this option since many parents are not aware of it? Mon, Tues and Thurs at 8:30am. (I think Mr. Savage was going to share this)

Statement about PBIS from a new parent Erin Mormile who taught Kindergarten at a school which taught this program. She stated: She came from a district where the parents got the information. So they can speak to their children about the program and go over the information at home with them.

Rachel Reach asked about PBIS and stated: It is important for us to know about the program and be informed. Audra Bach said, it is important for the parents to know incase some parents might not want their school to teach their children certain topics.

Scott Collings and another parents asked: When will it be reassessed to see if it is working? Mr. Savage stated there is an RTI Pyramid 80% of your students are able to achieve expectations, then there is a Tier 2 (15%) and Tier 3 (5%). We will be hitting Tier 1 this year. Next year will be Tier 2. His job is to look at it from different perspectives of stakeholders (such as parents, teachers and kids). It will take 3 to 5 years to implement this program. There is a rigorous assessment with strict deadlines at the end of the year. He is hearing our message about communication. He feels communication is a strength for him. Erin Mormile suggested that they create a training for the parents, so that they can be better informed. She said, It is a preventative training for the child, but the training might help to get the parents on board. She taught at Colonial School District and it was taught there. She said it was very positive for her school. Kristine Margaree stated: It helps kids to feel included and helps them to know the right words to use.

Treasurer's Report: Allison Collings

This report spans: 7/1/2019-9/15/2019

We started the period with a cash balance: \$39,100.24, We had deposits of: \$16,673.99, And withdrawals of: (\$11,831.06), Leaving us with a balance of: \$43,943.17 (9/15/19)

Highlights

Deposits: \$5476.75 - Membership Directory (mostly ad sales), \$8564.49 - Foreign Language which will be paid back out (not revenue). \$1973.70 - Amazon Smile/Giant (free money, free money), \$504 - Spirit Wear from BTSN

Withdrawals: \$6,682.06 - Prior Year Expenses (Stragglers after July 1) (May Day, 5th grade trip, Grounds and Greens, Artist in Residence, etc), \$3,000 - Field Trips, \$1200 - G&G (atrium), \$500 - Artist in Residence, PayPal \$4238.18 in revenue from 8/29-9/15 is posted in PayPal but not yet deposited into the PNC account or reflected in the numbers above: Mum Sale - \$1251.56, Foreign Language Club - \$1802.40, Membership Directory Sales - \$1184.22

Reminders

Deposits have not all been labeled, please make sure they are labeled for your committee. There were some big deposits last year that had to go into "other fund" because they were not allocated properly. You can email Allison a copy of the check or deposit slip from PNC and tell her you made the deposit. Most importantly state which committee's account you want the check to go into. You can put anything for Allison in the PTO drawer in front of Tanika's desk or take slips for deposits from there.

Kristine Margaree asked about Box Top checks: She didn't think the checks she receives are labeled for box tops. So she was concerned the committee wasn't getting credit for them. Allison confirmed she is getting them.

Misc: Total Expense vs. Deposits SYTD – 07/1/19-09/15 – Same as above
Expenses: (\$11,831.06), Deposits: \$16,673.99, Net YTD: \$4,842.93

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

Remembrance of John Lyons - The kids all did a card for him over the last school year. The Caring Committee had it framed and it will be posted in the school. They are looking to do planting or a bench for him.

WES Mail - Erin Mormile - If she gets submissions by 5pm on Friday it would be great. She understands that doesn't always happen. Reach out to her if it is going to be late. She leaves wiggle room on Monday mornings and sends it out at 11am. Make sure all the information is in the little blurb. She will spell check it, but you need to make sure the hyperlinks work. Also, make sure all the information is there. Lastly, try to keep it short.

Directory - Christine Gaffney - Why isn't the app activated? Is the question she has been getting a lot. She stated that it is only activated till August. As to why it isn't ready for this year yet?

There is some missing data. The girl that runs the app graduated from Wallingford years ago, but still helps with the app. She is working with Paul Naucke a WES Parent to get it working. Lauren Shank said the HS and MS has their directory and the app is running completely. She suggested reaching out to whoever does it there to see if there is something we are missing that they can help us with. Christie said they are hoping the hard copies of the directories will be out at the end of September.

Spirit Wear - Michele and Jenny not here, Christie filled us in. The store will be open till the beginning of December and we can order online now. It made more than anticipated already. Just at Back to School Night and they sold old inventory from last year.

Fifth Grade Parents – (Sarah Rodowicz) - Mums & Halloween Carnival - 421 mums sold so far. The goal is to raise \$1500. Last year they sold 660. The order forms are due Weds, but they will extend it to Friday. They are \$6.50 if you get more than three. September 27 is pick up after dismissal. Mr. Savage said to convey to him what the teachers need to know and he will pass it onto them. They will need fifth graders to help.

Car Line - Sarah and Theresa - Thank you to those volunteering. Monday mornings need help throughout the year. Theresa asked Janine and Stephanie to publicize it or have Mr. Savage put it in his e-blast. Theresa stated: There hasn't been any hits on sign-up genius in a couple weeks. Jenny suggested to point to those dates that are needing to be filled, so parents don't have to dig for them. Allison suggested that they express the kids can come early with them and wait in the foyer.

Foreign Language - Maggie said that there are 81 students over all. Spanish had the most success and is closed. They made the classes over 10 weeks this time. There are a lot of questions about placement. They are trying to work the kinks out with the teachers for the levels. They are probably going to do it by grade: early and older elementary. There was a wait list for Spanish for the first semester. Those students will be allowed to register early for the second semester. . The registration will come out in November. The second session will contain review from the first session. Lauren Shank mentioned there should be communication on the thought process for semester two, especially if it is going to be the same. Candice said, they need two teachers to be able to have a beginner and advanced class.

Movie Night – October 4th - Christie Cari stated: It is a Family Event - You need to stay with your kids on the field.

We love WES Spirit Day – October 11 - Rachel Reach explained the vision for this year - We are going to have the WES Walk at WES this year, since they beautified our property. They are going to run it like Jump Rope for the Heart. They will have three different stations. The fundraising is going to be child run. The goal is potentially to purchase a Gaga Ball pit, but that has not yet been approved. The students will get points for PBIS as an incentive. They will get 15 minute early access to May Day if their class gets the most. They will get points for PBIS to give them incentive. The grade with the most points will get announced as the winner. They will get 15 minute early access to May Day if their class gets the most money/point combination.

They will also get healthy snacks at the end of the walk. We will get a flyer at the end of the month explaining it.

New Parent Reps - They did a great job on the Open House. Sept 25 is a Kindergarten playdate at 3:45.

Box Tops - Kristine Margaree stated: Box Tops will be going digital. You will have to scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase and the scanner will determine what items have box tops from your receipt. You can still submit the old ones by the October deadline. After that you will have to go digital with them. We will get two checks a year on the digital one.

Swarthmore Pizza Night – October 22nd - (Christie Cari) - Fundraiser

Chess Club – Interest? - Mr. Sharrah is interested in restarting it. Let Christie Cari know if your child is interested. It will start up in March. Sarah Rodowicz asked: Will they be teaching and Christie Cari stated they are not sure if it is going to be through the school or PTO.

Pancake breakfast (Jenny is going to be doing it alone) / Jen Rider will be able to help and Jenna Leggette just volunteered. October 26th from 8 am to 12 pm. Sarah touched on the Halloween Carnival - they need help.

Sustainability- (Erin Stancill) - Global Climate Strike this Friday. This is in preparation for the Around the UN Climate strike next week. She asked Dr. Palmer if this could be an excused absence? It will be Friday in Center City. Dr. Palmer's response was there is an educational field trip form if they want to take their child out of school. She will not make it a district wide thing. She fears it will be too political to put it out there. Main thing Erin stated is Dr. Palmer hasn't made a final decision, so you can call her at x1101 if you want her to make it a district wide excused absence. Scott Collings asked if Erin will put something together incase certain kids want to join her and her children on this event. That day is a ½ day. Rachel Reach asked Mr. Savage to explain the education trip form. He said, it is on the website under forms, but it needs to be in 7 days in advance. The children get 10 educational trip days a year. He will sign off until the 10 days. Then they said, given the short notice will we get approval. He said, "I did approve one."

Visiting Authors - Heather Warley - Children's book world has a relationship with Ms. Lambertsen. Jennifer and Matt Holm will be the authors for K-2. Mr. Grabenstein might not work out due to sickness for grades 3-5. Collecting payment and forms through Friday for the K-2 to purchase the books. They are hoping to get ordering of visiting author books digital.

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

Lauren Shank mentioned the district is starting a new Music Association from High School down to Elementary School. She will be the rep for WES. She gets a lot of questions on the swap site.

Allison had a question on the PowerSchool: She gets emails constantly about their child's attendance and ignoring them, since it seems like a glitch. She asked if she should be getting

these emails? What should we be using the PowerSchool for. People suggested to change the notifications.

Jenny acknowledged that Mr. Savage rode the bus the first week of school because a child needed an aide.

Adjournment at 8:28 pm.

Reminder: PTO Social Tonight – 320 Market in Media!

Respectfully submitted by Audra Bach