

**Wallingford Elementary School  
Parent-Teacher Organization  
October 15, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees**

|                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Christie Cari     | Audra Bach         | Wojtek Paciorek     |
| Victoria Laidlaw  | Kaitlin Howell     | Doni Reece          |
| Sarah Rodwicz     | Colleen Thom       | Anamarie Jones      |
| Liz Oakes         | Rachael Reach      | Janine Bernstein    |
| Kristine Magargee | Beth Benzing       | Jenny Conahan       |
| Jen McGaffin      | Antoinette Barrett | Maria Acosta-Garcia |
| Rose O'Connor     | Christina Gaffney  | Allison Collings    |
| Candice Rogers    |                    |                     |

**Call to Order by Christie Cari**

**7:03 pm**

**Approval of minutes from 9/17/19 meeting**

Motion and second by Sarah Rodowicz and Rachael Reach. The minutes were approved unanimously without revision.

**Committee Thank You's**

- \*New Parent Reps: Anne McFadden and Gina Lazzari (Kindergarten play date)
- \*Movie Night: Jen LaViola, Anne McFadden, Chris Glowacki
- \*Directory: Christina Gaffney, Christine Greco, Paul Nuschke, Jen LaViola, Blakely Minton, Norma Long, and Daphne Bogert
- \*Mum Sales & Halloween Carnival: Renee Joyner, Doni Reece, Sarah Rodowicz, Tammy McCauley, Michelle Grunseich, Colleen Glackin, fifth grade helpers
- \*WES Spirit Day Fundraiser: Rachael Reach, Liz Oakes, Genny Waldman, Joni O'Connor, Gwen Cleary, Emily Glowacki, Mr. Savage, Mr. Bob, Mr. Miller, Mr. Fantozzi and staff & all volunteers

\*Pancake Breakfast: Jenny Montague, Jenna Leggette, Jen Ryder, Melissa Carden  
\*Secretary: Audra Bach (for all the notes for the September mtg)  
\*Visiting Author: Heather Warley and Martha Lambertsen  
\*Publicity: Antoinette Barrett - Deirdre Abrahamsson was hired full-time by the district to do photography. She goes between the district buildings. If you want her to come to the school for events you need to schedule her. We can't use pictures until we know who can and can not be photographed. We won't know that until the portal processes this data. Antoninette has a lot of pictures she has taken this year, but has not yet been able to use them. The ones she has used she has had Tanika give her permission to use. Dierdre can put up pictures though because she knows how to take pictures at the right angles where she isn't capturing faces. Deirdre wants balance of life photos in the classes. Sarah asked if she will do outside of school events, such as the veterans day parade? The answer isn't clear, but we think she will with enough notice.

### **Principal's Report: Gabe Savage**

He first thanked Rachael Reach and her team for the well organized & less chaotic WE LOVE WES Event.

\*PBIS Update - He attended a School Board meeting last night about the PBIS program. It was about 30

minutes long. It went into great detail about the systems. They are hoping to have the information on the website by this evening so everyone can see the presentation.

\*Sleep Study Committee - Mr. Savage will be representing the elementary administration on this committee. He came from a school that did move the High School to 8:30 and moved the elementary up a little bit. He can provide a perspective from all angles teacher, parent and student. He knows the impact it can have for teachers in the classroom, as well as students.

\*Review of Building Systems - Last year he focused on building relationships in the building that was the first step in his system. This year he is focused on building systems specifically the Positive Behavior Support and Instructional Support systems.

In the future he will focus on results. He has a very seasoned outstanding staff. They do Routine and fundamentally strong things well everyday. He is hoping to simplify things to make it easier for them.

\*Front Door Check-in - All visitors must check in at the front office. We can not use the side door by the cafeteria anymore. It is for security purposes. When people went in the side door they were able to roam the hallways and have access to the whole building.

That is what we are trying to prevent. When checking in at the front door every person that comes in will be seen by the front office staff, as well, the person will have to check in/check out and get a name tag.

\*Halloween Parade & Parties - 10:30 am Parade. The parties are after, except for Kindergarten. Only two extra people are allowed to go into the room with the homeroom

parents. All the food must be dropped off by 9:30 am with their child's name and class/grade on it.

\*The Nutrition Group – Kaitlin Howell / Email: [khowell@wssd.org](mailto:khowell@wssd.org) / Phone: 610-892-3470 x 2151.

-Kaitlin said to reach out to her if we have any questions. Generally she is in the schools, but she will get back to you.

-At this point Christie Cari brought up some questions from our meeting last year with the

Nutrition Group and asked them to reiterate on some of them.

1. Contact information (see above)

2. App Information: It is on the wssd.org side under the Food Service department section. You can download the NutriSlice app. There are breakfast and lunch

menus

on there. Due to suggestions from last year they are working on getting the snack options on there. For now, you can go onto the website to get all the items and nutrition information. Go to Ala Carte and nutrition information. Here is the link:

[www.wssd.org/Page/11167](http://www.wssd.org/Page/11167)

3. How can we limit our child's snack capabilities? Email Kaitlin directly and she can put a restriction on it. For example: You can have her add that they can only purchase on Fridays. That they can only spend \$4.00 at a time. She said the best

way

to limit day is being specific on which day(s) they can have a certain food.

4. How is the flow for the students in the cafeteria? When they first walk in there is a hot section (1 to 2 employees), one of them will help with snacks, then a cashier

on

the end.

5. A couple of parents asked how they handle children that try to get something that they aren't supposed to have that day? Kaitlin stated that they are trained to use

verbiage to let the kids down easily and they will speak softly to them, since there is only one person on the register.

6. Someone brought up that they discussed having two lines in the past and wanted to know whatever happened to that? Mr. Savage commented that he doesn't micro-manage his team. As long as they are getting the students through in ample time they can do what they want. He stated that they have been getting the students through quickly enough to have one line and they have been implementing the green trays. He said in fact, they have gone beyond expectations and have been able to wash them and get them back out for the next lunch.

\*A couple notes of praise came from Ms. McGaffin and Ms. Conahan - They both have been very pleased with the way lunch has been running.

\*Ms. Conahan said that Karey Goldberg can handle anything.

\*Then the conversation went back to The Nutrition Group. Kaitlin said they are trying to increase the food options. She mentioned they did a pilot program at SRS last year where

they tested a vegetarian/vegan menu. Since it was successful, they will try to offer vegetarian / vegan options that you will order for your child on the app the night before through the app.

\* Kaitlin said, they love getting feedback to it helps them to be able to determine what food to serve and not to serve.

\* Antoniette Barrett: Used them to cater a breakfast last year. They are a lot cheaper than other catering services. Her daughter loves the breakfast, especially the pancakes and french toast.

\* Allison Collings asked who is responsible for approving the items on the menu? It is the School District Wellness Committee.

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

**This report spans: 9/16/2019-10/15/2019**

We started the period with a cash balance: **\$43,943.17**

We had deposits of: **\$17,672.78**

And withdrawals of: **(\$5,864.92)**

Leaving us with a balance of: **\$55,355.03**

### **Highlights**

Deposits:

\$6984.49 – We LOVE WES

\$4,704.95 – Mum Sale

\$2,417.60 – Foreign Language Club

\$1,877.92 - Membership Directory

\$1,611.03 – Visiting Authors

\$95.29 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Carnival

Withdrawals

\$2,445 – Mum Sale

\$1,500 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trips: Ropes Course

\$797.10 – We WES

\$443.82 – Staff Appreciation: 1<sup>st</sup> Day Lunch

\$392.12 – Membership Directory

\$182.29 – Grounds and Greens

### **Reminders**

Deposits have all been labeled, please continue to do so

### **Total Expense vs. Deposits SYTD – 07/1/19-10/15/19**

Expenses: **(\$17,695.98)**

Deposits: **\$34,346.77**

**Net YTD: \$16,650.79**

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

\*Author Visit - Heather was not present, so Christie gave an update. Elizabeth Eulberg is coming Thursday for the third through fifth graders.

\*Directory - Christina Gaffney said, they are pretty much done with the directory. The total profit was \$6952. They have about 39 directories left. They were down in Ad sales this year. They attribute that to students moving up to the MS. They were close to the total

revenue from last year. If you want to advertise or know someone that will here are the costs. The covers are \$200 to \$250. Business card is \$31.50. We make people buy the printed and app, because of the Ads. The app is ready to go.

\*Mum Sale - Sarah thinks it went well. They had a new vendor this year. They sold 740 mum's. They did mention that they were dry and needed a lot of water. They think that is

on purpose so they aren't leaking water and soil into people's cars. They said once they watered them they were fine.

\*We love WES Spirit Day - Rachael Reach - There were three stations: Blow up Obstacle

Course, Hula Hoop and Twister. They raised almost \$7000. (\$5995 after deductions). Ms.

McGaffin and Ms. Conahan thought it was enjoyable and well done, as well as relaxing and they thought the kids had the right amount of time at each Station. Lastly, the teachers

and students were happy with the snacks.

\*Box Tops - Kristine Magargee is collecting Box Tops until this Friday. In the spring we will go electronic. One downfall of the app is only one child can be listed on it. They are going to do a school wide goal for an incentive instead of classroom incentives due to this

issue.

-Kristine asked if anyone wants to count Box Tops this weekend? Angela will give you directions. They have to be in by the 31st of Oct to the company, so we can get credit.

We

need more detail for people to load the app.

\*Pancake Breakfast - Ending at 11:30 am, a 1/2 hour earlier than normal. There is supposed to be Gluten Free options and bacon. Looking for donations of syrup and pancake mixes. Audra asked if there would be cross contamination with gluten free pancakes? She mentioned she isn't sure if it would be worth it, since most parents that have kids with this issue would be afraid that we are going to not be careful enough to not

not

contaminate them.

\*Halloween Carnival - Sat Oct 26 - 8 am to noon - selling wrist bands \$10.00 a wrist band.

Renee Joyner is organizing the orders. Here is “How the whole school can help?” The cakewalk needs people to donate a baked good. 5th graders are running the carnival. There is only 20/60 cakes committed. There will be a haunted hallway, crafts, games, prizes. People can pay with paypal thanks to Heidi. Then the question came up whether Paypal is worth the fee they charge? The people using it thinks it was worth it.

\*Swarthmore Pizza Night – October 22

\*UNICEF - Lisa Hill said the boxes will be coming home the Tuesday before Halloween. Last year \$928.45 was raised for UNICEF. Hoping to get \$1000 this year.

\*Halloween Parties - 11 am to 12 pm - 2 volunteers per classroom. Food Drop off before 9:30 am and make sure the teachers names & grade on items.

\*Remembrance of John Lyons - We will be getting a bench and hopefully a tree on the far

side of the new playground. They are still figuring out details for the tree.

\*Chess Club - Mr. Sharrah will be running this in March, but they need parent volunteers that know chess. Christine Gaffney asked what will it look like for the parent volunteers?

They don't have all the details worked out yet, but there is one teacher right now. The hope is parents/grandparents with chess knowledge come in to help teach the children.

-The question was asked whether the children need to know how to play, the answer is the children don't have to know how to play chess.

-Lisa Hill asked whether MS and HS students can help? Mr. Savage said, not alone but maybe if the parent is with them.

-What is the age group? It is going to be 1st - 5th grade.

-Where will they meet? They may have to wait till after the school is cleared out at 3:45 pm to use the gym. We may have to limit the amount of the students to start.

-How will the students be split up? Ms. McGaffin or Ms. Conahan suggested two 6 week sessions K-2 and 3-5.

\*Mini grants - an email will go out soon to the teachers informing them they can apply for a

mini grant. In the past the librarian received Keva planks and Ms. Hole got alternative seating.

Vote – Gaga Ball Pit

Mamba GaGa Ball Pit – Large \$4,150+ \$380 shipping = \$4,530

Approx. 19' x 18' (Eight 6' x 3' wall panels, Two 4' x 2' entry/exit panels)  
12 - 25 players, depending on age

- Christie Cari stated, Luke Pinto a gym teacher in Perkiomen School District has had it for about 5 years. He uses it for indoor use only. It takes about 15 minutes to put together. He Recommended the taller wall. He wasn't aware it can go outside. The company said it is meant for indoor/outdoor use.
- A couple parents that weren't at the meeting emailed Christie with concerns about taking up space and about the cost.
- Christie Cari said, there are a lot of different options out there. They like the sturdiness and portability of this one.
- Jess - is worried about the mesh wall on the gaga pit. She explained that on a normal wood one the ball will bounce off the wall. Christie said it is like a bungee cord, so the ball will bounce off.
- Parents were asking, When it isn't attended to how are we going to protect it from vandalism? She said, the pins are lockable so people can't just up and take it.
- Christie Cari mentioned the gaga pit is coming from the proceeds of the We Love WES event.
- Christina Gaffney asked, How does the size compare to Wallingford Pool? We didn't have a good answer for her.

Christie Cari asked for a Motion to vote for using the funds for the \$4530 to purchase pit?  
Motion passes.

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

\*Car line... Sarah said, cars forget to pull all the way down. What should we do? Mr. Savage suggested using the lower door for the aides to get the students. Audra mentioned that her and Allison worked together last week and had these issues. Allison suggested using something as an identifier in the window of the car so the volunteers know that the car will be taken care of by an aide. They will send out some general reminders in WES Mail.

\*Wojtek Paciorek offered his services to fix electronics equipment. He owns a repair shop.

Adjourned 8:19 pm by Christie Cari

---