

**Wallingford Elementary School
Parent-Teacher Organization
November 10, 2020**

AGENDA

Attendance

Gabriel Savage	Elizabeth Schwartz	Jency Allison
Candice Rogers	Christine Greco	Lisa Hill
Janine Berstein	Christina Gaffney	Cindy Bean
Fran Yan	Coco Kaminski	
Audra Bach	Kristine Magargee	
Christie Cari	Beth Benzing	
Colleen Thom	Stephanie Cavanagh	

Call to Order 7:01 pm

Approval of minutes from 10/13/20 meeting

Committee Thank You's

Website: Abbie Mello

WES Mail: Erin Mormile

Secretary: Audra Bach

New Parent Reps: Anne McFadden, Gina Lazzari (For the Kindergarten Playdate. Parents were very thankful that they could get out and meet new parents and have their kids play together.)

5th Grade Reps: Kim Graham, Melissa Carden, Sara Fritz, Kristine Magargee, Chris Schmidt, Katie Czaplicki - Thanked reps for the magician show. She felt it was very successful.

Directory: Christine Greco, Jennifer Griffin, Paul Nuschke, Christie Cari and Blakely Minton

Foreign Language: Amanda Weinberg and Marissa Brant

Visiting Authors: Joni O'Connor

Swarthmore Pizza Night: Courtney Kelly

Spirit Wear: Jency Weeks and Kellie Garson

Treasurers: Allison Collings and Fran Yan

Homeroom Parent Reps: Stephanie Cavanagh and Janine Berstein

Car Line and Volunteers: Cindy Bean and Fran Yan

Book Fair: Sarah Rodowicz and Colleen Glackin

Publicity: Coco Kaminski

Citizenship: Lisa Hill and Erin Thomson (Specifically thanked them for setting up the Food Drive)

Hour of Code: Lindsay Goldsmith-Markey and Beth Benzing

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Fran Yan

This report spans: 10/11/2020-11/8/20

We started the period with a cash balance of **\$45,685.14**

We had deposits of **\$9,795.02**

And withdrawals of **(\$6,837.85)**

Leaving us with a balance of **\$48,642.31**

Highlights

○Deposits:

\$4,560.12 – Membership Directory

\$3,241.67 – Foreign Language

\$814.79– Mum Sale

\$350.00 – Fundraiser (Swarthmore Pizza)

○Withdrawals

\$3,570.00 – Teacher and Staff Halloween Gift

\$1,640.00 – Movie Night

\$420.00 – 5th Grade Magic Show (paid for by Mums Sales money)

\$125.00 – Art Goes to School

Reminders

Deposits have all been labeled, please continue to do so

Total Expense vs. Deposits SYTD – 07/1/20-11/8/20

Expenses: **(\$11,546.43)**

Deposits: **\$20,567.17**

Net YTD: \$9,020.74

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

- **Milk and Cookie** - *Candice Rogers reported* - Thursday and Friday (Cohort B) and Monday and Tuesday (Cohort A)
- **Swarthmore Pizza Night** - *Candice Rogers reported* - \$300+ (Dine In, Carry Out and Delivery) - It is the first time they had all these options, and they want to promote it more for the next Fundraiser there.
- **Fall Book Fair** - *Candice Rogers reported for Sarah Rodowicz* - Orders as of Nov 10th. Ms. Chavetz will get 25% back of the total for some books. Total Orders: 23, Total Items: 96, Total: \$689.05
- **Citizenship** - *Lisa Hill reported* - Thanksgiving Food Drive will wrap up by November 17th for CityTeam. They are trying to find out about the Frozen Turkey Collection. Audra mentioned she can help find out with her contacts, if needed.
- **Hospitality** - *Christina Gaffney reported* - The committee is working on getting Boxed Lunches from Panera Bread for Nov 17th for Teacher Conferences. The teachers will get them when they leave school and have them for conferences on Thursday.
- **Car Line Reminders** - *Cindy Bean reported* - She thinks it is going well. It seems like most parents like having drop off in the back, since there is more space. If someone needs an aide the parents should pull up to the playground, even if there is a back up. There is an issue getting volunteers to sign-up. She is going to wait till January to put it up again, but needs parents for the remainder of this year to help. People are hesitating to help because of the uncertainty of how long school will be in the hybrid option due to COVID.
- **Homeroom Parent Reps** - *Stephanie Cavanagh reported* - They will be including OA HR parents in future party emails that have WES teachers. Also, they are looking for suggestions for how to do parties when parents can't come in to volunteer.. Gingerbread

parties will be via Zoom on December 16th. December 15th and December 18th for the Cohort A and B “parties”.

- **Directory** - *Christine Greco reported* - \$5,488 profit through sales and ad sales. They are still selling them, but slowing down. They ordered 250 and have more to sell. They are still trying to get the APP approved by Apple.
- **Spirit Wear** - *Jency Weeks reported* - The sale went live over the weekend. You can order online and can have it sent home or to the school at no charge. Have a couple more items added there...some shirts and bows. Trying to get Wallingford on shirts, so kids can wear them as they move to the Middle School. The sale closes on November 22nd. Items would be ready for pick up by December 9th, if you order by November 22nd.
- **Visiting Author** - *Joni O'Connor reported* - **Josh Funk** is going to visit virtually Friday December 11th at 2:15pm. Will work for Cohort, and OA schedules. He is a coder and does books on coding as well. Children’s Book World is going to give us a link to order his books. We will still get 20% proceeds from our orders. Also, **Hena Khan** wants to come in February. We had to cancel with her last year. She will do two sessions - one for the younger grades and one for the older.
- **Publicity** - *Coco Kaminski reported* - She is going to do a new theme this week with a Turkey and handprints on the board inside the doors of the school. Maybe a Gingerbread theme for December. Board says, “Thankful to our teachers and staff.” Students attending WES can do hand Turkey’s for this project.
- **Hour of Code** - *Beth Benzing reported* - National Hour of Code week is December 7-11th. It will be on the Asynchronous Day, December 9th with parent volunteers leading some coding activities via Zoom.
The link will be posted and there will be a help link in the afternoon 2:15-3:15, where Beth and Lindsay will be available to field questions. This is for grades K-5. It will be for the OA and Cohort Model. They need parents volunteers to run rooms on Zoom. There will be an IA on the Zoom with a parent volunteer, so no clearances need to be completed. They will give instructions to the parents who are doing it. A sign-up will be going out via email.
- **Iron Hill Spirit Night** - *Candice reported Theresa Birardi* - Iron Hill Night will be the Tuesday after we come back from Thanksgiving break December 1st. We will start promoting it next week.

- **Teacher Mini Grants** - We received applications from the 1st and 3rd grade teaching team. **Specifics at the end of the PTO meeting minutes.**

Vote: Motion was seconded and approved for both applications.

Principal's Report: Gabe Savage

- Mr. Savage is thankful for a sense of normalcy with all the normal activities we are still doing like the Milk and Cookie Stand, Visiting Author, Food Drive, etc
- Thankful for the handwritten notes. Mr. Savage said it was the most thoughtful gift he has ever received in his years of being an administrator. He mentioned what Ms. Laird said, hold onto the good notes, because you get a lot of bad ones too.
- We will be doing school pictures at some point. They will do it for Cohort and OA together. SRS uses a different company that is why they are doing photos this week.
- Conference sign ups will come down 11/12. Contact the teacher directly if you don't sign up before that.
- The COVID numbers are going up. Should we have to go to RED we go back to the same virtual schedule that they did in the beginning of the school year. They are prepping so it is as smooth as possible. He is glad he doesn't have to make the decision. It won't look like March 13th. He is confident they will be able to handle it once it happens.
- They did a fire drill today and split the kids, so they could maintain social distancing.
- He said, we will be able to look back and be proud.

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

- Candice thanked him for continuing to do the drills. He will do them at a different time every month so he gets Cohort A and B.
- Jency is wondering if the school board is looking to close down the schools again? She said she has already been vocal about this with Mr. Savage and watched the School Board meetings. He said they have been talking about it since August. Dr. Palmer would like to stay open, but we have other factors which have been emailed out by Dr. Palmer to consider. Mr. Savage has been covering classes because they can't get subs.
- Audra thanked Beth Benzing for speaking at the School Board Meeting last night as a teacher and still making time for the Hour of Code.

- No December Meeting...Next meeting will be in January 2021.

Adjournment 8:01 pm

Vote #1: Mini-grant request from the 3rd grade teaching team (Melissa Haebel, Dan Fantozzi, Tara Gallagher, Patience Scott, Amelia Sisko)

We are interested in ordering a Grade 3 Scholastic News Magazine Subscription for each 3rd grader in Cohort and Online Academy at WES. According to the Scholastic News website, “Scholastic News empowers students with the lifelong knowledge and skills they'll need to become informed, active citizens in a diverse world. We have used Scholastic News Magazines with our classes in previous years and have found this supplemental resource to be an engaging, interactive tool for learning about current events, Social Studies and Science topics relevant to 3rd graders. Scholastic News is offering a digital and paper copy subscription this year that will benefit students learning online and in the classroom. Students will have access to the online library of current texts and teachers will have access to digital teaching tools. Students also have access to videos and text to speech audio as well. In past years, we asked parents to send in money for their child to pay for this subscription. This year, we realize that this may be a hardship for some families, so we decided to ask PTO to help support this resource for our students.

Here is a screenshot of the estimated cost:

Total costs = \$818.13 – about \$5.95 per 3rd grader (125 students for Hybrid and OA)

Vote #2: Mini-grant request from the 1st grade teaching team (Jeanette Kaplan, Tara Irely, Jessica Evangelist, Krista Sudall and Lillian Amenta)

The first grade hybrid teachers are requesting additional recess equipment that can be used while practicing social distancing. The first grade OA teachers are requesting 6 months of GoNoodle Plus to allow for brain breaks and interactive instruction on Zoom. They would like the items as soon as possible.

- Go Noodle Plus Subscription: \$10 a month for 6 months = \$60 (x2 for 2 classes) - \$120

Outdoor Recess Equipment:

- Toss Across Tic-Tac-Toe Game - \$22.62
- Pretext Carnival Outdoor Games Combo Set - \$19.79
- Eastpoint Corn Hole Outdoor Game - \$19.86
- Velcro Paddle and Catch Game - \$24.86
- One 20-30 Gallon Sterlite Bin - \$15

Total costs = \$222.13