

Wallingford Elementary School

Parent-Teacher Organization

September 22, 2020

AGENDA

Mr. Savage	Candice Rogers
Audra Bach	Janine Berstein
Erin Mormile	Kim Graham
Fran Yan	Christie Cari
Kelly Whitehead	Beth Benzing
Elizabeth Schwartz	Lauren Conrad
Mahnaz Maqbool	Jency Weeks
Jennifer Griffin	Marissa Brant
Kristine Magargee	Sam Simonsen
Abbie Mello	Colleen Thom
Sarah Ponzio	Christina Gaffney
Christine Greco	Christina Clealand
Melissa Cardin	

Call to Order: 6:00pm

Approval of minutes from 6/2/20 meeting - Minutes approved unanimously

Committee Thank You:

- Website: Abbie Mello
- SchoolKidz: Rose O'Connor, Sarah Ponzio
- New Parent Reps: Anne McFadden, Gina Lazzari

- Mums Sale: 5th Grade Reps - Kim Graham, Melissa Carden, Sara Fritz, Kristine Magargee, Chris Schmidt, Katie Czaplicki
- Directory: Christine Greco, Jennifer Griffin, Paul Nuschke, Christie Cari and Blakely Minton
- WES Mail: Erin Mormile
- Hospitality: Anamarie Jones and her volunteer, Elaine Pilson
- Spirit Wear
- Foreign Language: Amanda Weinberg, Marissa Brant
- Movie Night: Jen LaViola, Anne McFadden
- Cultural Arts: Melissa Carden, Mahnaz Maqbool, Shannon Holt
- Treasurers: Allison Collings and Fran Yan
- Grounds and Greens: Sam Simonsen, Colleen Thom, Joni O'Connor, Sarah Taub, Kristin Miller
- Homeroom Parent Reps: Stephanie Cavanagh, Janine Berstein

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Fran Yan

This report spans: 7/1/2020-9/21/2020

We started the period with a cash balance of \$39,621.57

We had deposits of: \$10,300.00

And withdrawals of: (\$1,720.58)

Leaving us with a balance of \$48,200.99

Highlights

Deposits:

\$4,216.77 – Mum Sale

\$3,848.91 – Membership Directory

\$2,124.16 – Giant/Amazon Smile

\$109.95 – Other

Withdrawals

\$900 – Prior Years Expenses
\$436.37 – New Parent Reps
\$375 – Staff Appreciation
\$9.21 – Other

Reminders

Deposits have all been labeled, please continue to do so

Total Expense vs. Deposits SYTD – 07/1/20-9/22/20

Expenses: **(\$1,720.58)**
Deposits: \$10,300.00
Net YTD: \$8,579.42

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

- **5th Grade Reps** - *Kim Graham reported* - Mums sale pick up is Thursday. This year all sales operated online through paypal. They went with Whalen's greenhouses again this year. They purchased them for \$3.25 and sold them for \$7.50 each. 740 were ordered for a \$5,500 profit. There will be two dozen left over, and they will be offered first come. They will leave a tip for the driver of \$25.00. This was a 5th grade fundraiser.
- **New Parent Reps** - *Candice reported on behalf of Anne McFadden* - Thursday and Friday of this week there will be a school tour for the new families to school. The New Parent Reps and Candice will be in attendance to hand out magnets to them. Teachers and Administrators will be giving 3 tours every 20 minutes in groups of 10 (5 kids and 5 adults).
- **Directory** - *Christine Greco reported* - 30 Directories sold for this week (released Monday in WES Mail). The advertising sales were about \$4,241 and are down about \$900 this year from previous years. Distribution of directories will be in possibly two weeks with a possible pick up day, sending home in backpacks and drop off. If you order the bundle, the app is only good for iPhones. It will have only WES Students but all OA students from WES. The class lists will just be WES teachers and students.

- **Movie Night** - *Candice Shared reported for Anne McFadden* - Drive in movie night next Tuesday night. They had 3 movie choices: Big Hero 6, Zootopia and Coco. The kids were able to vote on the PTO website for their movie choice (they usually vote in school). Looked into doing it at WES. Jenn LaViola recommended having it at Arasapha Farms. As of now, 100 families are signed up. Bring your own food and beverage. They will also be selling food and drinks at their snack bar. It is a WES Only event, but OA students are welcome, who have their home school of WES. Everyone who signs up will get a ticket sent to them for entrance. This ensures that only WES families attend and helps us count how many cars are there for cost. They won't start the movie till after dark, but will open the gates at 6:30pm.

Vote: WES Movie Night at Arasapha Farms

Description

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we had to consider an alternate location that could accommodate more people while safely staying in our own vehicles for the movie.
- The Movie Night Committee has always been given a budget to cover the movie and popcorn while the screen has been donated by another generous parent.
- Arasapha Farms has generously offered their venue for a "WES only night" on September 29th, but charge \$20 per car. We would like to keep this a free event for our school community, but need to approve the funds.
- Arasapha Farms will allow 150 cars so that is our maximum.

Movie Night Current Budget: \$800

Cost:

- Big Hero 6 Licensing Fee - \$435
- Car Entrance Fee (as of Tuesday, September 23rd) - \$2,000

Current Total costs \$2,435

Total Cost with maximum: \$3,435.00

Motion to Vote and passed unanimously.

- **Hospitality** - *Candice reported for Anamarie Jones* - The Committee provided lunch for the teachers for the first day of school. They received a CFA Covid-safe meal, and the PTO gave the staff WES Water Bottles.

- **Spirit Wear** - *Candice Rogers reported* - Spirit Wear items were sold for \$5.00 at the PTO meeting. The first sale ended September 20th, and we are waiting for the orders to arrive. There will be another sale at the end of October/beginning of November and a final one in the spring. Welcome to Jency Weeks, who has volunteered to help on the Committee since one of the Chairs has to step down.
- **WES Mail** - *Erin Mormile reported* - Try to email her by Friday with submissions, but will take them till Sunday if needed.
- **Foreign Language** - *Marissa Brant reported* - Virtual Session this fall. Spanish I is full now and they are hoping to open another session. The numbers are light for Spanish II and III. We will also have basic German and Mandarin classes. Can consider combining with SRS students, if classes are low and we referred students to SRS for French since we can't offer it this year. The classes will start next week. Looking to do ASK Scholarships, but are waiting to hear back from Erica Weaver, the Guidance Counselor, for that.
- **Caring Committee** - *Lauren Conway reported* - Provides support to families in need - like hardships, displacements. They make meals for families and do gift cards - to places like Jumpers and Movie Theatres, etc. The community is relied on to let them know when there is someone in need and Mr. Savage or the office staff let the Committee know. They would like some more people to join this committee and you can sign up after the meeting.
- **Grounds and Greens** - *Sam Simonsen reported* - They haven't spent anything with their budget. She has decorations handed down to her and would like to still put out those decorations. They need to get into the school and clean-up the atrium.
- **Box Tops/Amazon Smile** - *Kristine Magargee reported* - Box Tops usually makes about \$1,000. Last year our school made \$756. Most likely, because it changed to online scanning. Anyone clipping can still send them to the committee. This year's earnings are about \$104.00 so far. If you send the link out you will get double points. Scan your receipt after shopping and it will calculate your earnings. To get started you just need to download the app and connect it to your school. They are working out how to get a neighbor, friend or family. You can also email the receipt to an online order to the program directly.
- **We Love WES event** - *Candice Rogers reported* - This will not happen this fall, but are hopeful they will do it in the Spring. Usually in the Spring we do the direct appeal, so it is being tossed around to do it in the Fall, if we need a fundraiser.

- **SchoolKidz kits** - *Sarah Ponzio reported* - 97 kits were ordered this year, which raised \$470 for the PTO. Virtual ordering system instead of paper this year. We will plan to order online again next year. Currently, we are the only elementary school that does this in the district.
- **Cultural Arts** - *Mahnaz Maqbool reported* - Meeting and working on bringing more diversity conversation into the school. They picked the movie choices for the kids to vote on for Movie Night. Shannon Holt on the Committee made study guides for each of these three movies, and we hope to distribute them at the movie.

Principal's Report: Gabe Savage

We have had to pivot quickly over and over again since March 13th! Thank you to the parents and teachers for their support. Thank you to the Hospitality Committee for the back to school CFA lunch. Back to School Night in the empty gym was different with 600 people logged in via Zoom. Ms. Laird once told him...hold onto all the good notes and when things get difficult you need to go back to them.

He also appreciates the constructive feedback - when you say this doesn't work. They try to make adjustments for the majority of the community.

Monday - No School this coming Monday

Thursday & Friday this week - Walk through for new students. Health screening before they come. It is important for those students to get that experience before they come.

MUM Pick up: 4-6 pm on Thursday.

Bundle Pick-up: The teachers are asking for a bundle pick up for the OA Academy. The teachers will send this information out for the parents and students.

Yesterday the board approved the Hybrid opening - October 1st (Thursday) - Cohort B (K-2); October 5th (Monday) - Cohort A (K-5)

School update: Next Week Tuesday will be an Asynchronous day. Wednesday the teachers will set up their rooms. There will be assigned seats dedicated to each kid. For Kindergarten, they will spray the room in between AM and PM. Dismissal will change a little bit. Students will be dismissed from the teachers classroom. They will spread kids across the entire building. They have placed stickers 6ft apart to sit on in the morning and in the hallway as they walk in line. They will be checking students in the gym upon arrival to make sure they have filled out their health forms. Signage has been placed in the classrooms and bathrooms. Next week they will have a safety meeting on protocols

for the teachers to get training for when the kids will be here. Lunch will be assigned seats, 6ft apart, facing one direction, etc.

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

Q: What will happen for drop off if more parents drive to school? Will the front get too backed up?

A: Right now he doesn't have another option, but a possibility to switch the buses to the front and the cars in the back. He will check on this.

Marissa Brant wanted to make sure she would get confirmation of switching from Cohort A to B since they volunteered to go to Cohort B. Mr. Savage said he would check.

Christina Gaffney asked, Which door will walkers go into?
The normal door.

Erin Mormile asked - What does Monday and Tuesday look like in Cohort?

The students, who are home will Zoom in live to the teacher for a ½ hr of Math and ELA a day. Then will have Asynchronous work. The teacher can work something out if you miss class. They get a little less screen time. They have morning meetings everyday. He is working to have Special teachers hired for the OA and they will get specials each week on a 2 week rotation.

Parents trying to figure out if there will be Zoom helpers in the classes?

Mr. Savage said, they are going to see if they need teachers to help in the classroom for the people on Zoom. He only has two TA's for each grade and they have to be spread to the OA as well. How can he do it efficiently without hiring more people? Is what he is trying to figure out!

Why are they not having a half day Monday through Friday?

Busing was the biggest issue when deciding not to do this. You need 30 minutes between each bus route. This would have been their number one choice, but they couldn't make it work.

Sam Simenson asked - What about hand washing? Should the kids come with stuff for that and are they going to be talking with the kids on how to properly wear masks? The teachers will have sanitizing stuff for hands, wipes for classrooms, and even masks if they don't come with them. They didn't want to have the parents spending a small fortune to supply these since they are really expensive right now. They knew they would have to supply these things if they went back.

Candice asked - what does mask wearing look like for the day? Are they wearing masks all day beside lunch?

Mr. Savage said, They are hoping to have mask breaks throughout the day. We are looking to have a mask break of no more than seven minutes while being six feet apart without spreading.

Ms. Conway added - She works in a school building and said the kids are doing great with wearing masks. She is hoping we will be pleasantly surprised.

WES Mail will have a plea for carline volunteers. Please sign up on the WES PTO Website to volunteer.

Adjournment: 7:22pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Audra Bach
