



Willard PTO Meeting

Monday, October 5, 2020, 7 p.m.
via Zoom, per Pandemic Regulations

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3527976403?pwd=S2FwSDQxdUN1aVY4SDNENTZNNjldz09>

Meeting ID: 352 797 6403

Passcode: 201250

1. Call to Order 7:02 p.m.
2. Report: Principal (Diane Wood and Christine Gerges)
 - a. Thank you for your question about desks! We have been working all summer, but we need to communicate to families! Great questions.
 - b. Picture Day! Thank you Melissa. Everyone signed up quickly. Social distancing. So glad it was sunny. I think it was a big success today. Kids were cute about their masks. Supposed to keep tents through November. We'll see if make-up photos will be outside.
 - c. Assessments have been happening. Kids are great at coming out of the break-out rooms. Grade-level teams will come together to plan. Paying close attention to the data. We don't know what we don't know. Zoom: How would children do long-term? Kids are hitting their stride.
 - d. Backpack swap: Need to shift time. It's a chore. 8:30 to 6 p.m. Please pick them up! Following Illinois Library Association. 7 days before back into circulation. Stephanie: When kids come: bring nothing. Only the iPad. Cold weather gear? Key learning tools? One for each student. No sharing.

- e. Wizard Weekly: SEL piece helping kids identify their feelings.
3. Report: Superintendent (Dr. Ed Condon)
- a. Nice to see everyone! Start with a thank you! Remote learning off to a remarkable start. Meaningful to our teachers to have the partnership with our families. The children are champions. Extraordinary. We hope it's not ongoing. Testament to Willard School community.
 - b. Calendar change: Winter break will now align with OPRF calendar. Get the full fall semester in before winter holidays. Try to coordinate with D200 and D97. Staff will return on Jan 7 & 8 for remote planning days. Apologize for any inconvenience.
 - c. COW will hear recommendations from COVID team tomorrow (Tuesday). Identify areas of need and SEL, Communications, Infection Control, Medical and Contact Tracing, Return to School Matters. Work was well done, thoughtfully and respectfully done. 33 members. Wide range of opinions about whether kids should be in school. Need to provide rigorous learning. How to prevent incidence of COVID. People came to the table with lots of ideas. What would it take to bring kids back to school? Will be addressed. Blended learning in the second half of October. Daily attendance Pre-K through 4. Core instruction, dismissed before lunch (late lunch) at home. Middle school, partial week, there for 4 classes in block schedule. Kept to a late lunch. Follow-up work at home. A big change from full-remote. Many safety protocols in place. District will still provide full remote. 20-25% could potentially enroll in full remote. Remote learning still needs to be robust. If the board approves, families will have one week to decide. Packet is very dense. Emily Brown question: IEP students? IEP students will be in class as much as fellow classmates.
 - i. Rashida: Will safety measures be available before families have to make a decision? Diane: Ed's message will have safety outlined. Mr. Vehil spending a lot of time. Safety and Operations Team new recommendations to blend. Every child will have their own seating space. Desks being used from

Roosevelt. Seating will not be grouped. K kids working with Kelly Wegener.
Yoga mats, lap desks.

- ii. Stephanie: Eating? Little kids? Social distance... Middle school (5 hours).
Extend passing period. Lincoln is not an issue with social distancing. Spent a lot of time at Willard removing furniture. Special placement, not ideal.
Guesstimate, maybe 10-15% will opt for full remote. Larger classes in larger rooms. It's tight, but honoring the spirit of social distancing. Have options to make classroom changes if necessary. A lot of furniture has been moved.
- iii. Lindsay: Shifting breaks due to the travel? Children will have to quarantine if they travel to hot spots. Tool kit: 20-page response for nurses for what happens if someone has COVID. How to be transparent, but maintain privacy. Cook County Health Dept. has given guidance, but trying to find the sweet spot is tough.

4. Report: Presidents (Rashida Dairyko and Stephanie VanDerSchie)

- a. Working on parent groups. Goal is five parents in a group. Mix of new families. Communal activities on hold. Blank slate for PTO. Challenging environment.
 - b. Stephanie: On the Medical Response team Topic was heated. Our village had strong opinions. Advisory panel worked very respectfully. Every single member worked together to balance personal thoughts and considered all people in the group. Hopefully the work was useful.
 - c. No PTO council.
5. Report: Secretary (Brigette Nold) minutes approved.
6. Report: Treasurer (Carrie Ryan) A few donations to the PTO fund. Rashida: Bulldog bulletin asking for donations. Should we ask for donations? We are in a healthy position, maybe ask in the winter.
7. Report: Vice President of Volunteers (Elizabeth Stoker) Still trying to find room parents. Still pretty thin even after posting in Weekly Wizard. Plan B: notice out through the parent

support groups. Plan C: Elizabeth will do the collecting? The biggest part of the job is teachers' gifts. Extremely important and have to happen. Link not working in Wizard Weekly. It's on the Willard PTO page. Facebook page? Facebook might be a good resource. Return to school might resolve this issue. Ginny: teacher going on maternity leave? Gift for that? Not required, but is nice to do? Kimberly: Notifying people? Ask Gretchen about posting a link to the Weekly.

8. Report: Vice Presidents of Technology (Virginia Sara) No updates. Revtrak has a new feature: Bulk refunds! It would have saved a lot of time last spring.
9. Report: Vice President of Communications (Gretchen Radach) not in attendance.
10. Report: School Board Liaison (Lindsay McIntyre) Dr. Condon stole my thunder! School calendar changes: Casimir Pulaski is NOT a holiday.
 - a. Board approved a memo of understanding with teachers union. Getting everyone on the same page up front. Will be on COW tomorrow!

11. Committee Reports

Please provide a brief update (no longer than five minutes) for the following committees:

12. **Spirit Wear** Web store closed, Profits are final: broke even. But have lots of product. Want to re-open the store for the holidays. New vendor. It's easier. Pricing was pretty much the same or slightly cheaper. WERE some additional costs with them bagging. Felt comfortable because of things this year. LEFT with some product to move. Setting up a table? Diane: Teachers might buy things. Glass display cases in the vestibule could be used. Spirit Wear not a priority right now, but in a good spot!

School Picture Day About 265 students came through! Still lots of students and few staff. Perhaps communication could have got out sooner. Great weather, process was quick. Kids were excited. Work on communicating make-up day: Monday November 9. VanGogh did a great job. Can you order still? Today is the last day.

Belongingness & Inclusion Ashlie: One more week. 63 responses. Variety of responses.

Which is the point of it. Will follow up with knowledge sharing. List of books or TED talks.

Where can we house them? Do own learning? First event/discussion 10.28 6 to 7 p.m.

ZOOM. Discuss results in more detail. Teachers could talk about what they have been doing.

What parents want from these sessions. Don't want to be the main pushers of information.

Start promoting: Sign-up genius? PTO platform? Google Doc?

River forest Board of Trustees partnership with Dominican University. Lincoln has joined. Not

sure if invitation to Roosevelt has been extended. PTO Lincoln .. let's connect. Rashida will

connect with the PTO president at Lincoln to invite to the 10.28 event. Teachers reading a

book leading into January. Collaborative effort. Lots of conversations happening. So you want

to talk about Race. America To Me. TED TALKS. Lots of ideas. Invited teachers who are point

on this at Willard.

Yearbook Emily: Still getting requests. Pick up at my house 15 people. Venmo or check.

About a box plus 20 to send back to get a refund. This year? No idea yet. We will wing it and

make it work! Don't usually start planning until after school pictures.

Enrichment Julianne: Feeling tired of Zoom. Would love ideas on how enrichment could look.

Fundraising Carly: Wednesday Wine Being well received. First time doing a wine fundraiser.

10% will come to Willard. Giving us a nice cut. Fun event: Wine tasting. Julianne: Hugely

successful for Wonder Works.

13. Old News

14. New Business

15. Public Comment

16. Adjournment 8:17 p.m.

*** Next meeting November 4, 2020, 10 a.m. ***