



## Willard PTO Meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10 a.m.  
via Zoom, per Pandemic Regulations

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3527976403?pwd=S2FwSDQxdUN1aVY4SDNENTZNNjljdz09>

Meeting ID: 352 797 6403

Passcode: 201250

1. Call to Order 10:03 a.m.

2. Report: Superintendent (Dr. Ed Condon)

Not present.

3. Report: Principal (Diane Wood and Christine Gerges)

Feels like the first day of school! The big tents! Anticipating a crash at 1:15! Lots of high energy in the building. Thanks so much for volunteering to help with lunch. Thanks to Elizabeth for setting up the Sign-Up Genius. Having the adult supervision will help. Ordered bags of recess toys. Pump before you play. Wash before you eat. Gave each class a kit. Standing in the grass didn't sound fun for recess. Trying it all. For families still at home, the teachers are looping them in. Doing spring benchmark assessments. Normal spring session. Starting to think about class placement. See the guidebook! Wish we had a better way to communicate and have parents read things!

Any questions? Gretchen: Curious about the tests. How will things be benchmarked against

schools that have been in IAR: not great consistent data, even before the pandemic. MAP, decades of data. They renorm the data every five years. How will the winter MAP fit in because we have never done a winter MAP. It's tricky. Everyone is looking at data differently, not just Willard.

Really appreciate your kind words at the PTO council meeting.

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

PTO Council reported the fun things going on at Willard. Ed talked about instructional changes. Discussed migration of server. Will circle back and update Gretchen this week. Did send a note to the district Mr. Otis was missing from his post before spring break. Asked if Ms. Denise can shift down if Mr. Otis is missing. Village was made aware.

5. Report: Secretary (Brigette Nold)

Lost connection to Zoom meeting. Minutes approved.

6. Report: Treasurer (Carrie Ryan)

Need to update Quickbooks. Would be nice to train someone for 6 months. Recommend not update it because I do many things manually. Good idea to go online.

7. Report: Vice President of Volunteers (Elizabeth Stoker)

Having issues with Sign-Up Genius. The offerings of our current plan have changed. To have the ability to link to the PTO website, we need to upgrade to something three times as expensive. You can't talk to anyone on the phone at SUG, unless you have the upgraded version! This will get sorted! The (lunch volunteer) positions filled up so quickly even though they weren't connected to the website. Have a few positions still open, but so many people stepped up. Will reach out to room parents to ask for help.

Would be great to send out a follow-up email.

SUG upgrade is a few hundred dollars. Currently pay \$270/year? Will follow up with actual numbers

C4K

Kelly and I decided to do something. Sweet Owl. Deborah Hidner speaking event through Roosevelt. She offers great information about how to handle screen time. April 20 at 7 p.m.

8. Report: Vice Presidents of Technology (Virginia Sara)

STEAM night sign up. Only nine families.

Skelly raffle up. Keep me posted on when to pull it down.

Need to check if RevTrak has a sign up option that we might already be paying for.

9. Report: Vice President of Communications (Gretchen Radach) Migration would have cost \$1200. But George is going to do it free of charge!

10. Report: School Board Liaison (Lindsay McIntyre)

See attached notes.

Denise presented the audit of Roosevelt. Katie Avalos asked for a similar audit at Willard and Lincoln.

11. Committee Reports

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

- Belongingness & Inclusion Planning: April 29, anti-racism work. Grassroots.  
Continue to work with the district. The group is being considered a resource through the SEL advisory committee.
- Yearbook: No report provided. Need to know deadline for Then and Now for the 4th grade pages. Avix extended deadlines for schools. Committee is sure they will get it in

ontime. Need to send a reminder about the photos. Stephanie will send reminder email to all 4th grade parents.

- Nominating Committee: This is a challenge. COVID fatigue. Possibly parents have forgotten all the things the PTO does. Need Co-president and Secretary. Elizabeth could mention PTO roles? Stephanie to work on a flier. Maybe a special edition of the Weekly Wizard like a job board. Give access to Google Drive files that nominating committee has been using. Appreciate all those ideas!
- STEAM: Ok with the sign-up staying open over the weekend to increase participation. The distribution of the kits. Detail of the projects? Table for materials pick up. Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday. Possibly in the tent, like where supply pick up was. Or in the foyer like backpack swap bin. That way Ashlie doesn't have to man a table. Can people sign up at a table? But then what about supplies? Rashida to talk with Ashlie.
- Staff Appreciation Need to reach out to committee chairs. Coming up during the first week of May. Is it Gen Jones? Get gift cards and little things to the staff. Can't really do food. Gift cards and cards and letters from the kids. Can we physically give things to teachers? Waiting to hear from the district about what they will allow. Did egift cards last year. Maybe dropping things to Sylvia.

12. Old News

13. New Business

14. Public Comment

15. Adjournment

\*\*\* Next meeting: May 3, 2021, 10 a.m. \*\*

## Board Liaison Report / April PTO Meeting

### *To note:*

- The primary focus of both of these meetings was lengthening the school day; during the BOW meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the lengthened school day plan was approved
- Lunch is the primary concern, as is student population density at RMS
- During the COW meeting, Denise Matthews also presented an audit on the special ed program at RMS ... Katie Avalos asked for similar audits at Lincoln / Willard

### **Committee of the Whole Meeting (March 2, 2021)**

#### *Meeting Notes*

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- Dr. Condon presented on efforts to get back to full day in-person and there were excellent questions by the board in response to both presentations.
- Denise Matthews presented on the audit of the instructional setting within the special ed program. Denise gave a comprehensive overview of the audit, including progress, opportunities and next steps at the middle school level and Katie Avalos suggested an audit be considered for the elementary level programs as well. There was good discussion about inclusiveness efforts and student voice considerations.
- Dr. Condon also gave an update on the Accountability waiver for assessments and the US Dept of Ed's decision to move forward with assessment testing. Dr. Thompson asked Dr. Condon to clarify assessment ratings and how that is measured noting confusion among some community members.
- Finally, the board approved to continue the D90 West Cook YMCA Power Scholars Academy Partnership for students over the summer.

### *Comments highlights:*

- RFEA requesting that decision-makers adhere to the guidelines established by the COVID-19 advisory panel – particularly no maskless activities in the school building. Requesting that decision-makers prioritize all plans where students eat lunch outdoors.
- Parent requesting that extra care be taken for a smooth transition for 4<sup>th</sup> graders entering RMS.
- Community letter asking for in-person lunch. Looking for creative strategies leveraging available spaces within the community to support full day in-person learning.
- Regarding Easter Seals Presentation, parent questions about students with disabilities:
  - o How are these domains representative of disabled student voices and perspectives?
  - o How are approaches listed different than what has been provided before?
  - o How is the district understanding students how/or how not the students with disabilities are valued in the larger district community?

- o How are we addressing the culture of the schools? Especially and RMS with participation of disabled students in all classrooms, and in the broader social environment?
- o When will the district begin an earnest discussion about how disabilities are approached in D90 and how students with disabilities fit into the equity plans?

*2 main presentations:*

**Denise Matthews – Easter Seals presentation highlights:**

- Audit of an instructional setting within special ed programming
- List of progress made includes full time teachers now in programs, additional training, classroom restructuring, strategies for supporting students remotely, monthly consultations, etc.
- Future recommendations include professional development and training for inclusive practices for students with IEPs, promoting greater independence, structuring the environment and peer mediated instruction and intervention.

*Board questions/comments on ES presentation:*

- **Katie:** The mention of 20% growth ... is that based on the goals that ES has given us?
- **Denise:** Yes, they gave us that target in 2019 and what they chose to do is to look at this year a little differently, so it was tough to compare. We began focusing month by month to measure progress toward full implementation 80% towards that... the growth in the pandemic, has been encouraging.
- **Katie:** Are the teachers seeing the outcomes in the student progress in the data they are tracking?
- **Denise:** Yes, we have been looking at progress made related to individual goals, seeing the work aligned to their grade level vs one size fits all... students being challenged leading to general education populations. At the middle school in particular, there is focus on life skills... ways to be independent. Seeing big jumps in assessment data in progress reports. The area of continued support is to really strengthen inclusion and what is happening in the general education settings.
- **Katie:** More professional development for specials teachers, gen ed teachers, are there any recommendations from them around school-wide culture, involving other students in the process, helping to create genuine relationships including the voice of the students in the programs?
- **Denise:** Looking at the classroom first, but by the end of the year if that is something specific, we want feedback on from them we can get that this is more of a starting place.
- **Katie:** Is there any discussion about having a similar assessment or audit done for the resource support or smaller groups at Willard and Lincoln?
- **Denise:** Great question, informally good things are being done but an audit of this sort wouldn't hurt.

**Ed Condon – Blended Learning Instruction Schedule Revisions highlights:**

- *Goal:* Lengthen the instructional day at both the elementary and middle school levels for the remainder of the school year, for both in-person and full remote learning option students
  - Implementation target after Spring Break
  - Overview of primary transition issues: lunch and recess, middle school density issues, accommodating full remote learners, YMCA Remote Learning partnership
  - Review of key partners and assets to support and inform decision-making
- *Next steps:*
  - Consulting meetings with Rush Infection Prevention Team
  - District-level administration planning sessions
  - School-level problem solving sessions
  - Quick-hit family survey including full remote family option, possible pick up at lunch, etc.,
  - continue collab with RFEA leadership
  - Designate Remote Learning/Instructional Planning Day to coordinate transition details for both remote and in-person learners
  - Revise/update program schedule information materials for families (i.e. D90 Blended Learning Handbook, individual school handbooks, etc.)
  - Provide status update for BoE and school community at upcoming BOE meeting on March 16
  - Continue comms ongoing progress/status with families and staff

*Other meeting highlights:*

- D90 signed on with 3/4 of school districts across the state requesting the state board of ed withhold the accountability testing – not due to concerns over accountability or not wanting the data – but because of bandwidth challenges and we already have accountability testing within the district.
  - The US Dept of Ed – made waivers for accountability but not for assessments. So that time will be spent administrating those assessments (waiver on accountability means we will not receive a new assessment rating)
- Board member Dr. Thompson asked Dr. Condon/Dr. Hawley to expand on assessment ratings, growth and achievement efforts, learning loss
  - MAP assessment tool is most flexible and a better read – the middle school was able to administer in the fall and we were able to get year to year data
  - Our students (aggregate) they did just as well or better as previous years
- Approval to continue with West Cook YMCA Scholars Power Academy

**Board Meeting (March 15, 2021)**

*Meeting Notes*

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- Debbie Lubeck approved as Director of Student Services, to start July 1
- Dr. Condon took the board through the lengthened school day plan for elementary and middle school, to begin April 6. Includes how to manage for lunch and recess.
- Barring problematic rates of quarantine or school-based COVID transmission resulting in lengthened day, the return of all RMS students in person will be week of April 26. Final date TBD.

- Fall 2021, in-person attendance for all students who are not at risk of severe illness or who live with people with increased risk
- Dr. Hawley took the board through the Center for Applied Linguistics Program Evaluation Report that reviews current services, student performance, professional development opportunities, curriculum resources, family and community, equity and inclusion. Notable next steps are to include EL teachers on IEP teams for students with dual needs and to establish a process for tracking EL students' rate of progress over time.

*Comments highlights:*

- Disappointment/concerns about the possibility of unmasked indoor lunch.
- Concerns that middle schooler isn't getting more days of in-person.
- Request for student voice in the plan for longer in-person days.

**Ed Condon – Lengthened school day review and feedback:**

- **Rich:** This plan adheres to our phased approach commitment
- **Barb:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is the largest class that RMS has had. Attempting to deal with the student load even in the best of circumstances – wants everyone to understand the challenge this poses and makes a difference in what can be safely offered.
- **Judy:** Can you clarify that going home for lunch is off the table?
- **Ed:** Yes, it is. We feel we can accommodate students on site safely.
- **Nicole:** For the families that wrote in tonight, that had concerns, can they elect to have their lunch outside? Will they have options?
- **Larry:** They probably wouldn't have that option. Because if there is thunder, we need to have an inside option. Our hope is to get them out for recess as much as possible. We will be flexible for what is working.
- **Nicole:** Hepa filters, how long will it take to circulate that air .. an average class room in the district along with other aids, the number of times exchange per hours is 11.8
- **Ed:** That varies by location
- **Cal:** They should know something in the fall for the age bracket 12-16
- **Katie:** Has there been any discussion about the kids being on zoom all day with the extra length?
- **Ed:** We have not recommended that children not participate in the lengthened school day. We have recommended that parents contact administration if needed.
- **Katie:** Do you have thoughts on what the most significant challenge is?

- **Ed:** The safety of lunch – the gravity of lunch is highlighted in ISBE – they were adamant that the 6ft be maintained.
- **Katie:** Will there be additional communication to parents that outline quarantining to lunch?
- **Ed:** Principals will send information out and Dawne is updating the handbook
- **Katie:** If we are not able to get all RMS students by the end of April that there is some consideration with kids with IEPs if we can prioritize that need to be
- **Nicole:** How can we get more of the student input – how do we get that feedback?
- **Ed:** SEAP is about to launch a feedback survey – however it’s anonymous. That’s a good question – we are not always aware, and we will talk about tomorrow
- **Stacey:** Acknowledged the effort and collaboration with teachers and nurses. The value of a teacher leaving a zoom open to socialize, is that opportunity for full remote.
- **Larry:** Students are very frequently talking online through their google accounts, but we don’t have specific plans for social activities – something to think about
- **Stacey:** Especially at the elementary level – that they can find times to socialize
- **Katie:** I do want to express the importance of people following the rules – we are doing everything we can – we are trying to keep our students safe and keep this system in place
- **Nicole:** Ed can you go over again what the expectations are and what’s expected when they return
- **Ed:** Families who are traveling are to an orange state or out of the country will need to have a negative test before returning. It’s posted on our site.
- **Rich:** Motion to approve the d90 expanded in-person delivery model
  - Board approved