



Willard PTO Meeting

Monday, August 30, 2021, 0845 a.m.
via Zoom, per Pandemic Regulations

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74526436756?pwd=WE5MZlVhOUUnFwSUZrNUJ2RTNuQT0>

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Meeting ID 315 056 8033

Password: CGF5H6

1. Call to Order 0849
2. Report: Superintendent (Dr. Ed Condon)

Welcome. Dr. Condon hopes everyone is doing well and is happy to have students and staff back at work. Thanks to Diane and Christine to getting the school opened and off to a great start.

HVAC project update: installations took place over the weekend and hopefully the air will be up and running within 48 hours.

The school board has refined objectives and goals for the upcoming year. There are 3 tiers of objectives with subgoals under each tier. These focus on high quality teaching, covid interventions, and SEL learning. Each objective and goal has subcommittees and boards that weigh in on how best to support students and staff.

COVID mitigation: governor mandated that all staff must be vaccinated in schools, this is being monitored. Those who cannot be vaccinated will be tested weekly.

Screening at the schools will be launched soon. At this point, only middle school students will be screened, this will not be occurring at elementary schools.

Travel advisory – focused on trying to maintain as much in person instruction as possible.

Dr. Condon is looking forward to collaborating with the PTO this year. Thank you for all you do to make our schools fun and successful.

3. Report: Principal (Diane Wood and Christine Gerges)
We had our first town hall this year! Town Hall is going classroom to classroom and other classes will join via zoom. Students are making the best of the heat and getting to work. Ms. Wood reminded everyone to please label water bottles! Students are being

rotated through the areas of the school that are currently air conditioned and labeled as cooling stations. We are optimistic that the air will be working sometime this week and the kinks will be worked out for several weeks after.

Bench testing is starting with the beginning of the year. The testing is important so we can tailor our instruction to each student's needs. In October, there are group meetings that occur that help educators to decide who may need interventions that are not already in place.

Ms. Gerges commented on the high spirits of the students despite the heat. So nice to see all the children and parents and everyone doing what they need to be safe.

Ms. Wood commented that students are doing great with safety precautions. Students are eating in the gym in a triangle formation at each table. Ms. Clink and Ms. Wood will have a meeting later to create an allergy safe area for lunches. Sunbutter is presenting a problem and may join allergen list. We want to encourage a sense of community but also keep everyone safe.

Q: Veggie straws have sunflower seed oil, please be advised

Q: Will there be more bike racks? A: yes, they are on order and will be spaced out

The community has been so flexible with the zooms and social distancing – we will figure out how to have activities this year and Ms. Wood is so grateful for our community that is so involved.

4. Report: Presidents (Stephanie VanDerSchie and Anna Parks)

PYD report (Amanda Stephans and Megan Huckele)

Community coalition with Oak Park and River Forest. We have been identified as having high substance abuse problems in our community. This coalition has received a 5 year grant to help deal with the problem. Early intervention is seen as important in battling substance abuse. PYD is asking community to be involved and join in on education and panels that are offered. This is a community coalition and PYD would like parents of younger students to also be involved. We have joined with Glenbard coalition to see which of their activities we can use to our benefit. These meetings and book discussions are posted on facebook on the PYD page. Megan shared the link for the whole Glenbard series on the facebook page.

Q: Is there a reference link for statistics on drug and substance abuse problems. A: yes, these are listed on the PYD website and come from the Illinois youth survey that is sent out each year.

Stephanie is thanking all the new volunteers and the new board. There are several new members! New members/chairs introduced themselves – Anna Parks, Erin Llanes, Meredith Maienza, Ursula Canli, Rachel Dardis

Thank you to returning board, new board, and all PTO members and volunteers.

Welcome wagon signs had great response. Everyone is happy about reopening of activities.

5. Report: Secretary (Erin Llanes)
No minutes as this is the first meeting of the year.
6. Report: Treasurer (Carrie Ryan and Ursula Canli)
Net loss last year which is expected but we have plenty of money to get through the year. There is a covid friendly fundraiser in the works to help with this.
7. Report: Vice President of Volunteers (Rachel Dardis)
Report from Stephanie: SUG went live with room parent sign ups and we only have 2 open slots! This is amazing and some classrooms may even welcome a 3rd room parent.
Q: Roosevelt is also having record number of volunteers.
8. Report: Vice Presidents of Technology (Ginny Sara)
A donation button will be added to web store and legacy sports sign up will be live soon. A note can be sent out highlighting the donation button and PTO dues after legacy sports.
9. Report: Vice President of Communications (Gretchen Radach and Meredith Maienza)
Website migration has been completed which should offer increased security. The front page will be refreshed to look new and modern. Websites will have increased functionality. This website upgrade was provided to us free of charge from a community member.
10. Report: School Board Liaison (Katie Avalos)
No update

11. Committee Reports

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

- School Picture Day (Brenna Brown)
Picture are coming up October 6th. These will take place indoors this year. We don't have info yet but packets will go out about 2 weeks before picture day.
- School Supplies (Emily Gass)
No issues to report. Supply delivery went well. Teachers pivoted well to having students bring in their supplies at the start of the year. It was nice not having the boxes stacked in the school.

Q: Anna thinks maybe we can communicate why the home delivery was so helpful to encourage nicer participation from parents. A: Yes, a note can be sent to families with more indepth instructions and explaining boxes a bit more.

Ms. Wood also commented how nice it is that parents do not have to run out to buy supplies and that having boxes delivered to home also cut out the need for

some volunteers that were needed previously to hand out boxes. We can however look at the boxes and find out which supplies are important to have and which can be left at home. Consensus is that all supplies can be sent to school and an email will be drafted which communicates all the info and further explains what exactly to do with the supplies in the box.

- Fun Lunch (Ellen Douglas)

Marla's lunch is starting tomorrow. We are also working with how to provide those students who receive free and reduced lunches with their food.

Q: Can this be added to standing bar on weekly so that it can be clicked on for ease of ordering each week.

Ms. Wood: Thank you to PTO for funding fun lunches for all students

- Spirit Wear (Kimberly Hlavin)

Webstore is up and running. No changes from last year. Working on getting more XS sizes available. Some XS have been added. The system works well with not having to preorder product and leads to less waste and lost profits.

Q: Maybe it would help to advertise Fridays as spirit wear day to encourage more purchases.

Will also contact Roosevelt on how their spirit wear sales are working.

Backpack flyer can also be sent out to highlight spirit wear.

Ms. Wood will highlight spirit wear as an option for Fridays and special days with her weekly blurbs. She is also encouraging families to sign up for and open the Wizard Weekly to be in the know about not only spirit days but all Willard activities.

Meredith - talk off line to Stephanie about printing donated shirts so all students can have a shirt

(Side note: 534 parents are signed up to get Wizard Weekly – 513 opened it)

- Welcome Wagon (Jane Norrington)

Signs were placed on yards, new families were identified, the signs in general were a huge hit.

- Yearbook (Megan Mackie and Emily Brown)

There has been frustration that yearbooks have not been delivered. COVID put delivery and production behind. There was also a delay because of the lack of photos and school activities. This being said, the yearbook committee worked so hard – each student was photographed personally by committee members!

- Legacy Sports (Collette Basil)

Very popular activity is returning! This is our first activity sign up for the school year. It will run for 6 weeks and be advertised in Wizard Weekly next week.

- G4G (Lindsay McIntyre)
Trying to reenergize G4G this year. Lindsay met with Lincoln and Roosevelt PTOs to get some great ideas. Val Smart is working with the committee. Some new ideas:
 1. Supporting district PTO activities
 2. Offering green concierge services to classrooms and teachers
 3. Parties for the Planet: earth week, walk/bike to school weeks
 4. Walk/bike to school ties
 5. Green team clubs involving the students
 6. Monthly sustainable swaps advertised through facebook

12. Old News
13. New Business
14. Public Comment
15. Adjournment 10:13 a.m.

*** Next meeting: October 4th, 7pm, via zoom***