



## Willard PTO Meeting

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, 7pm  
via Zoom, per Pandemic Regulations

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3542037976?pwd=VGJlMFVSeU5jUnVXb2tQRVgxOEplQT09>

Meeting ID: 354 203 7976

Passcode: 406490

1. Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 0701.
2. Report: Superintendent (Dr. Ed Condon)

We have had a great start to the school year. Students are amazing at following covid instructions and Dr. Condon has enjoyed seeing them really adapt.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> party that is running the district's covid screening testing initiative had an issue with getting enough staff so that has been pushed back a week and should begin this week at Roosevelt. This applies to unvaccinated students and those who take part in certain high risk activities such as band, chorus.

All families will be receiving correspondence this week asking them to consent to screening for their students if needed during an outbreak.

We are proud that our employees have been vaccinated at a rate greater than 97%. We should end with about 98% completely vaccinated. The few employees with medical exemptions are being worked with.

Those employees who received the Pfizer vaccine more than 6 months ago are eligible for a booster shot. Those will be offered in partnership with Jewel-Osco on 10/14.

One of our main goals is making sure that each individual student's needs, including SEL, are being addressed. Testing is still taking place and schools are actively looking at any areas that need to be addressed, any holes in learning that occurred because of the last untraditional year. The teachers are actively looking at any educational and instructional impact that home schooling has had on students and curriculum is being changed and reinforced as necessary, especially for the younger students. This will be a multi-year response.

COW meeting tomorrow night 10/4. Summer school report will be presented by the principal and Dr. Hawley. G4G (Roosevelt) will also have a presentation about our district's progress and plan in 2021.

Activities in the district have been suspended through 11/1. This was a hard decision that Dr. Condon believes was necessary. Now that we are approaching this date, the administrative team is meeting tomorrow and will assess the regional COVID data and reassess this date and decide how to proceed. With the weather getting colder, it will be harder to keep windows open and to conduct activities outdoors so this will be considered when deciding when to open up activities.

Stephanie was impressed with summer school and said her children loved it.

3. Report: Principal (Diane Wood and Christine Gerges)  
Principals were not able to attend meeting. Ms. Wood sent her apologies and will meet with co presidents later in the week. No updates at this time.
4. Report: Presidents (Stephanie VanDerSchie and Anna Parks)  
Co presidents have been trying hard to ensure that the activities, such as Big Hearts Little Hands, that are integral to the school, do proceed in some fashion. Some activities have started: Kindly Wizards, Walking Wednesdays, Yoga, Legacy Sports. The responses to these activities has been overwhelmingly positive and COVID restrictions are being followed by students without complaint.  
FLIP is changing its name to "World Language Introduction". We are hoping to reintroduce this important program after winter break but it is difficult bc we will need to bring in outside teachers. This discussion is ongoing.  
Belongingness and Inclusion Committee has been working with Lincoln to see if we can coordinate.  
Bike and Walk to School week kicked off this week. We have a lot of participation at Willard with walking to school in general. There has been an amazing coordination with staff and volunteers outside the school handing out tshirt ties for bookbags.  
Lindsay reported there were over 200 bikers and walkers on day 1!
5. Report: Secretary (Erin Llanes)  
Minutes from September meeting were sent out to board. Do we have a motion to approve minutes? Stephanie motioned to approve minutes. This was seconded by Anna.
6. Report: Treasurer (Carrie Ryan and Ursula Canli)  
We are hoping for a modest profit this year after a loss last year. Budget was sent to zoom group through chat. Losses last year were small, we are financially sound and Stephanie thought we did a great job maintaining the budget and keeping spending to a minimum while still donating to local food pantries and the school.  
Presidents and Treasurer had an in depth conversation prior to meeting on the budget for the rest of the year and they think we are making some good decisions on when to safely open PTO activities and get some movement back to the budget.
7. Report: Vice President of Volunteers (Rachel Dardis)

Via Stephanie: 2-3 room parents have been placed in each classroom. The informational email detailing room parent expectations seems to be very effective and has taken the place of the mandatory room parent meeting.

Fun lunch is also filled with volunteers.

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

Yoga registration goes live tomorrow and will stay live next week as well unless it fills up.

New families are having difficulty with signing up for activities via RevTrak because so many are not present in the system. Ginny is looking into this to find out how to add these families. Dr. Condon told Ginny to reach out to Amy O'toole with any issues. Dr. Condon also offered his help if needed with this situation.

New families are experiencing stress and confusion over signing in on time and then not being able to sign up. Stephanie suggested including in the yoga registration blurb to contact Ginny if there any issues to lessen the running around parents have to do.

9. Report: Vice President of Communications (Gretchen Radach and Meredith Maienza)

Gretchen is taking a class for WordPress and is hoping to give our PTO website a facelift and make it more attractive and easy to use. Brenna Brown is working on new logos for the PTO as well which can be included.

10. Report: School Board Liaison (Katie Avalos)

No report

11. Committee Reports

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

- **School Picture Day** (Brenna Brown)

Provided via email, copied here

1. Reminder was included in the 9/26 newsletter and will be sent in the 10/3 newsletter
2. Reminder was posted on Willard FB group
3. The Van Gogh picture order forms were sent home in student backpacks on 9/28/21
4. Sylvia Olivares has emailed the excel file with all student names, grade, class, and id number to Heidi at Van Gogh
5. Heidi at Van Gogh has confirmed they everything they need
6. Willard is only allowing one parent volunteer to help Van Gogh coordinate this year due to covid. I am planning on being at Willard all day to help Van Gogh and have notified Sylvia Olivares and Diane Wood
7. Retake day is scheduled for Nov 10<sup>th</sup>

Q: Are pictures indoor or outside? A: Inside

Q: In the future could the website and school code be include in the WW? A: Yes.  
Thank you for the idea, Carrie

- **Yoga** (Kelsey Wilson)  
Yoga is in the gym and we have a returning instructor, “yogadad.” Ms. Wood was helpful in setting this up and believes in mindfulness and yoga as an alternative to traditional sports so a big thank you to Ms. Wood!
- **Fun Lunch** (Ellen Douglas)  
Via Stephanie:  
We have settled on a system of 2 volunteers for 2 hours on Tuesday and Friday. We will, however, be doing some streamlining going forward. The only problems have been with the vendors and students having missed lunches. Some changes will be made in limiting choices, eliminating soup for example which is always cold. We will also be looking at which restaurants are having the most issues and perhaps eliminating them. We will also be ordering lunchables to keep in the fridge, PTO sponsored, for emergency use if a student does not have a lunch or receives the wrong lunch.  
We did receive our first check for \$1000 earned in the first 8 weeks.
- **Spirit Wear** (Kimberly Hlavin)  
Spirit wear is late. There have been supply chain issues. Kimberly has reached out to her vendor but has not heard back as of tonight. She is unsure when the spirit wear will be in and has been corresponding with any parents who have had questions about delivery.  
We did have a lot of orders, sales were good and profits should be in soon.  
Q: From Carrie, does the vendor give us an itemized list in how profits are being calculated? A: Yes, each item has its own receipt. There are also some fees for bagging and processing. Kimberly will make copies and get them to Carrie.
- **Legacy Sports** (Colette Basil)  
Provided via email, copied here  
-All spots for both groups (1/2 and 3/4) were filled within a couple of days.  
-There was an issue for several new families because their school ID numbers (which are needed to register) were not recognized by the PTO website. Ginny Sara was able to manually enter them in, but it did cause stress/confusion for several families who were trying to get a spot.  
-Haven't heard from any parents with issues, so assuming all is running smoothly!  
-Last day for Grade 1/2 is Friday Oct 22  
-Last day for Grade 3/4 is Wed Oct 20
- **G4G** (Lindsay McIntyre)  
Provided via email, copied here  
Walk/Bike to School Week: Today kicked off our Walk/Bike to School Week. We're challenging students to walk or bike to school every day this week. For

students that do so, we're passing out strings/ribbons made from recycled t-shirts. They're colorful and fun to tie on backpacks.

We have flagged this event with Office Ransom and he has pledged to have greater police presence around all 3 schools, when possible.

Thanks to the parent volunteers who are passing these out on each corner — and the teachers who are coming out to help too. We look forward to announcing the total # of students who walked/biked each day.

Sustainable Swaps: Last month we kicked off our Sustainable Swaps on Facebook by encouraging parents to post and pass along their spirit wear. We had 5 items post and all were snatched up by members of the Willard community. We knew our first post would be a little slow, so we're happy with the results.

On October 1st, we encouraged parents to “swap” costumes. We've already had quite a few costumes listed, and we hope this is a great COVID-friendly alternative to our costume exchange.

In November, we'll swap winter gear.

Pumpkin Smash: The annual pumpkin smash is at Roosevelt Middle School on Saturday, November 6th from 9 am – noon. We'll be promoting this event so Willard families can “green their Halloween” by composting their pumpkins. Green4Good is a sponsor, but we likely won't need to provide volunteers ... only promotional support.

Green Team: We are in discussions with Ms. Smart about if a Green Team club will be doable this fall. If not, we're looking at an alternative start date, post-vaccine.

- **Staff Appreciation**

We had a parent resign from this position but Stephanie has someone taking over and they are being eased into the role with help from 3 veteran parents.

12. Old News

None

13. New Business

Welcome to Ursula who is training with Carrie for Treasurer. Ursula is happy to be here and will be around for awhile as her youngest is 3!

14. Public Comment

15. Adjournment 7:51 pm

\*\*\* Next meeting: November 1<sup>st</sup> 08:45\*\*\*