



### Willard PTO Meeting

Wednesday January 5th, 2021, 8:45am  
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 8:47, welcome back from break.
2. Report: Superintendent (Dr. Ed Condon)

Welcome back. Sending wishes of health to everyone and their families. Of course there have been spikes in covid in our school community as in the rest of the state and country. Thank you to all three PTOs for their support of the vaccination efforts and events. They could not have happened without PTO volunteers.

School status, we have a significant number of staff out with covid. We are maintaining adequate staff to continue our programs. This has taken some creative solutions but everyone has been working together to keep our high quality education standards in place. Nurses have been working hard at contact tracing and helping care for students in a high quality way during this pandemic. The medical staff has stepped up to the challenge of being a medical resource to our families and the community.

Screening testing is still occurring at the middle school but the numbers are decreasing as the vaccination numbers go up. The district is considering switching to an opt in policy which would still allow unvaccinated students to test. There is an option of providing home kits for unvaccinated students as well. The reliability of these tests is being looked into. The announcement from CDC about shortening isolation and quarantine times is being discussed, but school communities have not been included in these suggestions so we are keeping with the IDPH recommendations at this time.

We are continuing to support community vaccination and booster shots. This would perhaps mean a new partnership with a company with more flexibility than Jewel Osco. The partnership so far has been beyond amazing however.

BOE will be meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>. One topic is the Easter Seals program event.

IAB, BOE equity committees are still collecting volunteers for their student input cohort and we will be sending out one more volunteer request and then move forward.

We are putting together a communication on District 90/school safety and how we have implemented safety protocols after the safety review that had previously been performed. We are collaborating with community members to hold a District 90 parent university event – SEL, building positive relationships in the community and online safety are some topics we are planning on addressing.

5 essential survey will be sent out soon.

D90 has an elearning plan in place that can be offered in the case of inclement weather or other emergency. This would count as a day of instruction so that days do not have to be tacked on at the end of the year. The full learning plan is published and a note will be sent out to families.

Q: Do we know the percentage of D90 students vaccinated? A: About 47% of 12-15 year olds.

Q: Is there a way to streamline physicals and vaccinations uploads? A: It is helpful if parents handle the upload bc it would preserve confidentiality as well as take the burden off the nurses.

It has been suggested that physicals be uploaded in this same way and maybe the importance of this be related to the community.

Q: Is the 47% based on reporting in powerschool? A: Yes. Another way to find out would be for the nurses to access the data base but this is a time intensive project.

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

Happy New Year. Reminder about snow gear. Students must have snowpants, hats, gloves, boots to play in the snow. Instruction is miserable if students come in wet after recess. Please remember to label all of your gear because this is very important this time of year as lots of gear goes missing and dropped.

If it is 10 degrees or above, students are outside. The weather channel app is the resource that the school uses.

Tennis shoes – kids need tennis shoes for gym, they cannot participate with boots. If families are able to keep a pair at school, that would be wonderful but they are welcome to bring them back and forth to school.

Q: Is it possible to keep a bin of shoes for gym? A: Probably not logistically, but the school does allow kids to wear snow items from the lost and found although they must be returned.

Today after school, young authors workshop is being held via zoom. Zoom link can be found in the classroom seesaw.

Fourth grade band and orchestra rehearsals are starting in the mornings. This will be school specific to keep numbers low and will occur in the auditorium so social distancing can be maintained.

Backpack swaps are being reimplemented for students who are home quarantining. These backpacks and the materials they contain are important for students to be fully engaged. The backpacks will be available 24 hours after the school is notified of the absence.

We are heading into the winter benchmarks as far as assessments and standardized testing. This will be spread out over the next month so we can find out where students are at educationally.

Q: Is the quarantine period still 14 days? A: No its 10 days. The shorter window is put in place for asymptomatic, negative tested students.

Q: Does this change from school to school? A: Doctor clearance does, however, trump the quarantines. We try to be consistent across the district in answer to the broader question.

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

Small PTO fundraiser has been finalized. We will sell tickets to a Bulls game that is taking place outside. Everyone who attends will receive a hat. Would like to get started on a spring fundraiser and would love for it to be related to a specific goal. This goal is currently being evaluated and needs to be approved by the district. There is a small group in place that is ready to go to work on it if it is approved.

Big Hearts/Little Hands will hopefully also move forward in some way and a video/art will be delivered to some local older communities. Anna is hoping we can keep this on a small scale to not overwhelm staff during this time. Hopefully all grade levels can be included and involved in performances as well as decorations and cards, leading to smaller input per class and teacher. We are having a volunteer shortage and hopefully this is not leading to parents becoming isolated. How can we as a community reach out and become more collaborative and encourage parents to participate.

There was a comment that the Fun Lunch period is extremely long this year. Diane said she thinks we could break down the volunteer periods into 2 one hour slots to encourage participation.

5. Report: Secretary (Erin Llanes)

Minutes from December have been sent out, I did not receive any corrections. Anna motioned to approve minutes. Gretchen seconded.

6. Report: Treasurer (Carrie Ryan and Ursula Canli)

No report.

7. Report: Vice President of Volunteers (Rachel Dardis)

As far as room parents are concerned, there have been many questions about reimbursement and how much can be spent. All teachers were contacted by room parents at the end of the day and all parties went well. Parents are so eager to get back in the classroom however. Diane shared that all teachers were so grateful and we must maintain keeping parents out of the classroom at this point. Stephanie is happy to revisit the policy and how much can be reimbursed. The budget will be revisited in the future and communicated to room parents.

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

Chess Club sign up will be live next week on Monday,  
Steam sign up will be live next week also.

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

Update on website. Gretchen took a class and learned that she will need to take several more to be able to work with the advanced coding present on the site so it will stay as it is for now.

Thank you to Gretchen for taking the class!

#### 10. Report: School Board Liaison (Katie Avalos)

The meeting at the end of December was focused on covid and quarantine time periods, as well as school mitigations.

Katie reminded us that not all school districts have active zoom participation among quarantined students, that it is often purely passive. When we consider this, the 24 hour window that families must wait on to be provided with classroom supplies is not that long. When we consider the amount of participation our quarantined students are able to engage in, we are truly lucky. How do we increase student voices in the district? The student representatives will be integrated soon into our equity discussions.

#### 11. Committee Reports

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

- **Chess Club** (Clelita Mathole)

No report, although link for sign up will be live on Monday,

- **Kindly Wizards** (Madeline Weldon-Linne)

Two projects have been completed. At Thanksgiving, cards went out to Beyond Hunger families with the gift baskets. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was the Team Seas project. Our goal was met and we had a lot of participation. Going forward, there will be no “in person” kindly wizards until at least after Spring Break. Being remote is great in including more of the student population, no one needs to be turned away. Madeline would love to start a new project based on thanking Ms. McCleese. She is retiring at the end of the year. Her impact on the community has been huge.

- **Yoga** (Kelsey Wilson)

No updates, seems to be going well.

- **Fun Lunch** (Ellen Douglas)

Splitting up lunch volunteers into 2 one hour periods will be discussed and hopefully can increase parent participation.

- **Spirit Wear** (Kimberly Hlavin)

There was a table set up before winter break to move old product. The remaining masks were given to the school to hand out to students missing masks.

- **Legacy Sports** (Colette Basil)

No updates, winter session taking place in the gym and going to plan.

- **STEAM** (Erin Llanes and Kay Brown)

RevTrak will be live next week. Price point will be \$10/student up to \$20/family to cover supplies that will need to be purchased for the new activities.

A note will be in Wizard Weekly.

STEAM night is Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 via zoom.

12. Old News

13. New Business

Camille has been working on an enrichment program for the students. This is through Storytale Live and will be held virtually January 21<sup>st</sup>. This can be personalized to the school so can include a Wizard for example. The production will be cast to each classroom and will be available to quarantined students via link.

14. Public Comment

15. Adjournment at 09:52.

\*\*\* Next meeting: February 2nd, 0845 \*\*\*