



Willard PTO Meeting

Wednesday February 9th, 2022, 7:00pm
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 7:01

2. Report: Superintendent (Dr. Ed Condon) notes via Diane Wood

Tonight is the district inclusivity advisory board meeting so update is via notes.

We have essential objectives teams. At the last BOE meeting, Tier one objectives were discussed and we are moving onto tier 2 objectives. Thank you to the administrative team for their leadership on these topics.

February 21 and 22nd are non attendance days. The 21st is Presidents Day. The 22nd is a day of learning and strategizing for staff.

COW meeting was an informational meeting on the math program at the middle school. The take away is that there are at least 6 different levels of math; each student will have a place based on where they are in their math learning.

Thursday February 10th is Parent University via zoom and it will be recorded and posted.

Inclusivity survey is open to the 28th and Ed asks all parents to please fill out and submit to ensure that all families are heard from and can feel included in district activities and learning.

February 15th is another vaccination clinic. Boosters and 2nd shots will be given.

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

Thank you for following all arrival and dismissal rules for the safety of students. Double parking is not allowed. The bus is unable to pick up kids if cars are parked in the bus lane. Police attendance is helping but there are still outliers.

Tardies are way down this week so thank you for getting your students to school on time.

Please schedule your parent teacher conferences. They are on zoom and are a way to keep up with your students progress and learning. Report cards will be available on PowerSchool.

Please register for kindergarten.

Please register as soon as possible when registration opens, even for grades 1-4 so that it is easier to determine class size and room placements, etc.

Students are loving playing in the snow. The first day it was warm enough to go out, the cheers were heard throughout the school. Thank you for donating snow clothes and for sending clothes with your student so they are able to play. The donated clothes have been put into a “library” for students who need a pair of snowpants each day.

For Valentine’s Day, if your child is participating, a valentine must be provided for each student. Class lists will be sent home. No food can be sent at all.

Young Author submissions are due Tuesday the 15th.

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

Thank you for all the volunteers this last month and for providing so many fun activities for the students. Thank you to the rest of the PTO executive board.

Wolves hockey game is coming up in March. Thank you to Meredith Maienza for planning this activity.

We will be finishing the library remodel with help from art designer Emily Brown.

We are getting a game called GaGaBall. This is a corral type area where the kids can play. Funds from auction will be used. Please do not tell the students. The 3rd graders have been discussing this and writing notes to Diane so they will be excited.

We have some key roles opening up on the PTO – vice president, spirit wear, belongingness and inclusion. If you plan to continue in your role or plan on leaving please let us know.

Do we still have the Family Care committee? Right now the role is being performed by Stephanie but can be opened up. It does require a lot of confidentiality.

Ginny would like someone who can be a liaison between her and Mrs. McCleese or whoever her successor will be.

Diane suggested there be a spot on any sign ups for parents to donate money for scholarships.

5. Report: Secretary (Erin Llanes)

Minutes from January have been sent out, I did not receive any corrections, but I did fix the date. Stephanie motioned to approve minutes. Minutes approved.

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

Budget has been worked with and revised. See report provided by Carrie.

How much do we charge for Legacy Sports? \$85

Stephanie wonders if we should increase to \$90 just to move out of the red. We should revisit in the fall. Scholarship students are cutting into any profit so that we are not coming out even. We are happy to provide these scholarships but wonder if there is a way to raise some money to cover the costs.

Carrie also mentioned that we will probably need a fundraiser to get our numbers into the black. Anna reported that it may not be possible to get a fundraiser raised in the short amount of time we have left in the year. Perhaps we should hold the fundraiser in the fall in order to give us more time. Now maybe we can have a small fundraiser such as a walk a thon so that we have some way to raise money but so that it does not take away from the fall fundraiser. All agree that

if we wait til rules about masking, meeting in person, etc are more stable it may be easier to hold a fundraiser.

Carrie suggests cutting back about \$3500 to make our numbers even.

Gretchen suggested putting up a note in the Weekly asking for a donation for PTO and see what happens.

Stephanie suggested we should perhaps think about what to spend the money on before asking for money. We want to keep good will up in the school community and hopefully keep faith in the PTO before asking for money. Stephanie suggested doing a better job of advertising what we are spending on or saving for. If we end this year in a deficit, we feel okay with it because we have a fundraiser in the fall.

7. Report: Vice President of Volunteers (Rachel Dardis)
No report
8. Report: Vice Presidents of Technology (Ginny Sara)
Mrs. McCleese appreciates the scholarship spots and gifts
9. Report: Vice President of Communications (Gretchen Radach)
No report
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:

- **C4K** (Kelly O'Keefe)

Walking Wednesdays – can we start that up after Spring Break? Yes, per Diane. Maureen Spielman is a founder of connect for kids. She had communicated with Kelly asking what is going on at the elementary schools and has suggested a book called “The Conscious Parent.” She was interested in doing a book talk if parents were interested.

Stephanie loves the idea and thinks we should move forward with reading it. The format will need to be decided as changes occur in state laws, etc. Kelly would like to get started with trying to get the book at libraries, etc and getting the logistics worked out. Anna suggested putting it out on social media.

- **Chess Club** (Clelita Mathole)

Chess Club is going great. We are at 4 out of 6 weeks. There are 2 full classrooms with one instructor per class.

Students are well behaved and instructors are doing a great job.

Clelita thinks we can definitely have 3 full classes next year.

- **Green4Good/Green Team** (Lindsay McIntyre)

Facebook swaps did not really take off so is being dropped. Earth Day activities are being planned.

- **Fun Lunch** (Ellen Douglas)

Mulata has been eliminated as a fun lunch option because kids not like it and were hungry. The parents who ordered were supposed to be sent an email to reorder for that week.

- **Legacy Sports** (Colette Basil)

No report but the classes are continuously full and students love it. Many kids sign up continuously but there are some who sign up for one at a time.

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

We had 84 tickets sold, 80 paid for at \$10 a ticket, so we came in way under budget. We did 4 projects over zoom for 1.5 hrs. The students seemed excited and engaged. I would suggest predicting about 100 participants next year if format is kept the same.

Thank you to Carly Grant and Kay Brown for helping to organize and present. And to Ginny and Gretchen and Stephanie and Anna for all your help and advice. It was a large undertaking but went well at the end of the day. I received several thank you emails from parents and pictures from excited students. Carly advertised on FaceBook which I think increased sales.

- **Enrichment/Storytown** (Julianne Nery/Camille Lamb), update sent and copied from email

The first enrichment program for the school year happened a few weeks ago. Storytown Improv Theater did a live assembly via Zoom, where they created a musical on the spot, with input from the students! I tuned into the morning session, and it was pretty amazing, sort of like Whose Line is it Anyway, complete with actors and a musician. They asked for ideas from the students, which each class's teacher was able to provide via the chat. And then sometimes, they would put up a poll, such as "who should be the main character," and each class would vote. So, it seemed very interactive and touched on educational elements, like components of a story, and weaved in some social/emotional lessons into the plot of the story. The feedback we got back was very positive. So, definitely think it's one to keep in our back pocket for the future.

For our next enrichment assembly, we are looking at doing a science-related program, since our understanding is that there won't be a science fair this spring. Julianne has contacted Science Explorers, which does a 50 minute live virtual assembly of experiments with explanations of science concepts. They provide supplies to students to do some extra experiments after the program. We are in the process of coordinating with Christine and Diane and are going to try to plan it for March.

Let us know if you have any questions!

12. Old News

13. New Business

14. Public Comment

15. Adjournment at 8pm.

*** Next meeting: March 2nd, 7pm ***