



### Willard PTO Meeting

Wednesday April 6th, 2022, 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 0850.
2. Report: Superintendent (Dr. Ed Condon)

COW meeting was 4/5.

There were 2 presentations.

Center for Applied Linguistics was presented by Dr. Hawley. This group was evaluating our English Language programs and gave suggestions on how to move forward with meeting the needs of our families and students.

Roosevelt Block Schedule was also presented – how this schedule has been working and how it will work going forward. Because of COVID mitigations it has been helpful to teachers to have longer time frames with their students but there has been limitations on how well block scheduling could be leveraged bc some instruction models like group projects and small group learning have not been able to be used to their full advantage.

Willard Young Authors did a wonderful job presenting their writing and Dr. Condon congratulates them.

Changes in COVID mitigations:

Self testing has been launched. This is in its initial stages.

District is accepting home covid tests; the school is still offering tests for those unable to visit their MD or obtain a home test.

Field trips will resume. Not all classrooms will be able to participate but those that do will need to follow covid protocols at the destination.

Parents that paid for milk will be refunded soon, we hope to return to providing milk next year.

Dr. Bolton will be giving a talk on student mental health on April 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm. This will be an inperson talk.

Fall student registration information will be sent to families on May1st.

Q: Are there any circumstances that masks would return to the schools? It is difficult to obtain test results right now and families are not really reporting results. A: We have seen a small increase in D90 this week after Spring Break, including a small increase in River Forest. The CDC is asking the schools to make decisions on hospitalizations and county numbers so if on a macro level, if cases spike, districts may be asked to require masks or encourage masks. Right now we are at green level; even at yellow level, districts are not being guided to return to masking. The IDPH has stressed however that school districts still have a responsibility to keep students safe. The state Board of Education did send communication making sure that school districts still had safety protocols in place for next year.

Q: It has been increasing difficult for those immunocompromised to feel safe especially given hospitalizations is a lagging indicator. Dr. Condon acknowledged this was a sensitive and difficult time and sympathized.

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

4<sup>th</sup> graders are taking first IAR tests of the series. This is assessing for readiness and Ms. Wood made sure the students were aware that this test lets us know readiness not perfection. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders had great strategies and were excited. The testing takes place over the next 2 weeks and make ups are interspersed into this time frame.

Spring Events are making a comeback.

June 9<sup>th</sup> is 4<sup>th</sup> grade celebration including 4<sup>th</sup> grade recognition. We need to make decisions keeping in mind we want to get back to normal but COVID safety protocols will still need to be maintained. For example, there will be no food served this year.

Some families and students are still wearing masks in order for everyone to feel comfortable and included, the distance protocols will need to be maintained and this is difficult to do during eating. 4<sup>th</sup> grade may make a celebration video. There are exciting other video and music components being discussed. Scavenger Hunt will be taking place that afternoon.

June 10<sup>th</sup> will be the last day of instruction and we will be holding the 4<sup>th</sup> grade clap out at dismissal.

Field Day is Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> in the afternoon. We are unsure if parents will be welcomed as volunteers. Classrooms will be cycling through in smaller groups.

Class parties will be the week of June 6<sup>th</sup>. Classrooms will be signing up for outdoor areas. No food will be served except the Freezy Pops. Any snacks on approved snack lists can be served outside.

Ice Cream social is June 7<sup>th</sup> outside.

Emails will be sent to 4<sup>th</sup> grade families this afternoon with this information. Room Parents will be asked to coordinate parent volunteers.

We may be returning to 1 hour lunch next year and are returning to some pre covid protocols but hand sanitizers for example are here to stay for the time being. Please continue to send full water bottles bc water fountains are difficult to maintain safely. Plans are still coming together for next year.

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

We need volunteers for the fourth grade video/picture compilations. Please let Stephanie know if you know a parent of 4<sup>th</sup> grader who has video editing experience. Diane also offered to put a note in her update asking for volunteers.

Ice Cream social is exciting bc its optional, outside, and can be maintained safely.

World Languages (FLIP) – we would like to bring this back including Spanish, French and Arabic. There are 3 teachers interested in teaching. Stephanie would like someone interested in taking this over from her, esp someone with a 1<sup>st</sup> grader.

The incoming Slate committee will be emailed today to start to put together and finalize the PTO slate for next year. If you know anyone who is interested in participating please email Stephanie.

There will be a PTO job fair coming up outside where people could step up and find out which spots are available.

5. Report: Secretary (Erin Llanes)

Minutes have been sent out and I didn't receive any corrections. Stephanie moved to approve the minutes, Carrie seconded.

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

We need to do a better job of communicating the budgets to Committee Heads. This used to be done during the face to face meetings. We did have meetings prior to covid, setting budgets and updating slate but this has not been held for the past couple years and Stephanie acknowledges that budget meetings definitely should return next year. The whole system will hopefully be updated and streamlined next year – Stephanie and Anna are in discussions. We are hoping next year there can be one place (slack) where all budgets, information, etc can be uploaded so committees and heads can find information quickly and efficiently in one place. Anna would like to start with small trainings on the program and decisions made on what we are using going forward.

There was a discussion about the importance of meeting people face to face and hoping that in person informational meetings could take place in some form going forward.

7. Report: Vice President of Volunteers (Rachel Dardis), update via Stephanie

Room parents will be receiving an email about end of year parties. Information is forthcoming.

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

There was a pop up fun lunch that was successful and well received and families did participate by donating a lunch to other students.

Will committee hand offs still take place next year? It is possible this may return in some form.

9. Report: Vice President of Communications (Gretchen Radach), shared via email and copied below

Summer Newsletter

Let's consider making this electronic for three main reasons.

1. Incredibly time consuming (detail below)
2. Easier to find a replacement for the Communications role (it's a lot to ask when the role throughout the year is also a weekly commitment)
3. Expense (\$890 for printing and postage)

Here's what is done in the summer (the majority of weeks in the summer have at least one task and requires significant coordination of vacation calendars - presidents, communications, committee members for flyers, printer staff, school staff for calendars, labels, envelopes)

- Compile dates, headshots, committee member names, flyers from Fun Lunch, Welcome Wagon, and potentially Block Party (if it comes back), District Calendar, etc. 6/19
- Drafts for approval 6/26, 2nd round 7/6
- Formatting, proofreading for Forest printing 7/15
- Liaising back and forth between all members and Forest. 7/17, 7/20
- Delivery includes picking up at Forest, purchasing postage stamps, pick up of labels/envelopes from Sylvania. 7/27
- Stuffing envelopes, sealing, labeling and finally posting the envelopes. Back to the office to drop extras. Receipts to Carrie for reimbursement. 8/3
- 2nd wave of mailing for new families (repeat labels, stuffing, etc.) 8/10
- All of the information is then updated manually into the website so the work is done in its entirety again and cannot be just copied and pasted into Wordpress due to formatting restrictions.

It would be more time and cost efficient and a better vehicle for last minute updates, etc. if a Welcome *Weekly Wizard* email would link to the website and flyers (and maybe even an electronic calendar!) like we did for Roosevelt last year.

### Past Objections

Inclusivity. The vast majority of our updates throughout the year are electronic so I'm not sure this is still relevant. It is also the primary mode of communication for D90.

New families. I've learned that Roosevelt runs a list of incoming 5th graders and new students and provides the PTO with email addresses (Sylvania is already running addresses/labels so we could eliminate this label step for her also). Parents can always opt out if they do not wish to receive communication.

Q: For Diane, are there many families that do not receive digital information?

A: Very few families or perhaps no families do not have electronic access.

Both Dr. Condon and Ms. Wood felt that electronic copies would actually reach more families than physical copies.

Ms. Wood did suggest that perhaps paper copies be made for new families.

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

No report beyond what Dr. Condon reported. Katie does recommend watching the video of the meeting and presentations as there was a lot of information.

#### 11. Committee Reports

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

- **Girls On The Run** (Sara Smith)

8 week total program, twice a week – 15 girls, 4 coaches

The national organization did sent money for healthy snacks to be provided  
The run is downtown with a celebration at Grant Park prior to the end of the 8 weeks, Saturday  
May 14th  
(Stephanie told committee members to please ask PTO for money for healthy snacks)

- **Staff Appreciation**

We do not have a chair and the members are stepping off so what can we do with this committee? Staff Appreciation day is coming up.

Diane had some ideas:

A lunch in the library is always nice and appreciated

Some small tokens, like coffee day or snack day

Little notes on the mailboxes, feel good notes

Families can be encouraged to do something creative for their teachers everyday – like draw a flower, bring a sweet treat, etc.

Diane suggested that this is a committee that can be changed and things do not have to be done like they always have been – staff is very appreciative

Week of May 1<sup>st</sup> is Staff Appreciation week

- **Big Hearts Little Hands**

No update

- **G4G** (Lindsay McIntyre), update provided via email and copied below

Green4Good is busy partnering with Lincoln and Roosevelt for the community bike exchange as well as preparing for Earth Day.

The community bike exchange is this coming Saturday (April 9th) from 10 am to 1 pm at Roosevelt. We have shared information through our Facebook group and the Wizard Weekly. Four ways to participate in the bike exchange:

1. Bring a bike or bike accessory and exchange it for another bike.
2. Bring a bike or bike accessory and donate it to the event.
3. Bring yourself and a donation (recommendation of \$5-\$40 cash or Venmo) and ride away with your new-used bike or bike accessory!
4. Bring your bike and register it with the Village of RF Police Department.

Drop off your bike and/or bike accessory this week at 730 Lathrop Ave so that we can have the bikes organized, cleaned, and ready for the start of the event. When you drop off a bike, we will log it, so that when you arrive at the event we will know that you have already given a donation. Broken bikes and good used bike accessories will also be accepted (any "leftovers" will be donated to Working Bikes).

Earth Day - yay! Although we're out of school on the actual day (4/22), we'll be doing fun activities all week. Here's how we will be celebrating:

- Walk/bike to school week (with t-shirt ties again!); note - we don't have school on Earth Day 4/22 so this will be a 4-day event; sign up here if you can!
- Cloth mask / used shoes recycling drive (students to drop off their cloth masks and shoes in the office for textile recycling; shoes must be in pairs)
- Earth Day Read Aloud: Videos of parents reading environmentally-friendly books available to teachers via a google drive (a fun resource for teachers to be able to

access whenever they need a quick break ... also a way for parents to be "in" in the classroom)

· Earth day scavenger hunt (we thought it would be fun to give students an activity to do outside while they are off of school ... do you all recommend putting it on Seesaw or creating a printable? We could promote recycling the document if we decide to print it.)

*It was suggested to put any activities on SeeSaw*

- **Fundraising** (Meredith Maienza)

Update via Stephanie – about \$1500 has been raised so far.

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

No update

12. Old News

13. New Business

Q: What happened to Hero Boys? A: We lost our parent who was in charge, the family stepped back from volunteering. We could ask for a Hero Boys volunteer in the Weekly. Suggestions were made to ask several families who were previously interested. We could also pivot to a running club not necessarily Hero Boys.

14. Public Comment

15. Adjournment at 8:05pm.

\*\*\* Next meeting: May 2nd, 8:45am \*\*\*