



MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Call to Order

- Megan Seliga Called to Order at 8:50 AM
- Minutes from 9/5/23 Approved

D90 Administration Report: Diane Wood on behalf of Dr. Condon

- D90 will do a Literacy Curriculum Review Process. Dr. Condon sent out an informational email on 9/28.
- Literacy Review Process will be discussed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 PM in the Roosevelt library. The public is encouraged to attend.

Principal's Report: Diane Wood

Benchmark Assessments

- This week is group planning based on IAR & MAP testing & observational data.
- Each Grade Team will come together for planning. Students may have subs while teachers attend their meetings.

Halloween

- Early release day from school.
- There will be watching zones assigned by grade level, so that parents/guardians will line the entire parade route.
- Class parties will be at 9AM.
- Room parents can connect with teacher to plan & finalize ideas.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- A hybrid model has been very successful
- Wednesday 11/8 will be in-person meetings; Thursday 11/9 will be Zoom meetings from 12:40 PM-4:40 PM and in-person meetings starting at 5:20 PM. Break is so teachers can eat dinner.
- 3rd & 4th Grades have child-led conferences.
- Teachers can sometimes personalize meeting times, if needed.
- Registration will be via Powerschool, two weeks from now

Misc.

- Thank you to Willard Dads for an awesome pancake breakfast.
- New library art work will be unveiled at Book Fair. Thanks to Emily Brown for all her work & creativity on this.

Presidents' Report: Camille McLamb & Megan Seliga

Opening Statement

- A collaboration between staff & parents is our top priority. Everyone's voice matters. We aim for a PTO that listens to each other and takes the opinions of others into consideration. Thank you to all our volunteers - keep up momentum!

Fundraiser Survey Results

- 70% want a casual event in a restaurant; 29% chose more formal.
- 61% chose appetizers; 31% chose self-serve; 6% chose sit down meal.
- Result: Casual, event space TBD

Treasurer's Report: Emily Nash

Status Report

- We're well-positioned financially, with over \$100,000 in PTO account.
- Large gifts chosen from 2019-2023 are all getting funded this year. After gifts, 2023-2024 will be set even without major fundraiser. PTO operates with \$35,000.
- Funds were not spent during the pandemic. Example: Gaga ball was approved in 2019 after Friendsgiving, but installed in August 2023.
- PTO was funded throughout COVID with no money coming in from Fun Lunch, events, etc.
- 2022-2023 school year was good and boosted bank account.

Large Gifts

- Purchases in this fiscal year (all paid for in August 2023): library art, gym mats, gaga ball

Reimbursement

- Reimbursement is now through Zelle. We'll pilot this throughout October and see how it goes.

Parent Question: Shouldn't the PTO Budget should be accessible to everyone? There needs to be more transparency. **Answer:** It's hard to look at the budget without context. We're in a strong financial position, with lots of money still to give.

Secretary's Report: Kathleen Luttschyn

- There is now a PTO Zoom account. Please reach out if you need access or would like to schedule a meeting.
- The email address for the Willard Secretary is now **WillardPTOSecretary@gmail.com**
- All Minutes and Agendas will be saved in folders on the Willard PTO Secretary Google Drive.

VP-Communications Report: Hadley Lewno

- No updates

VP-Volunteers Report: Rachel Dardis

Room Parents

- Responsible for the 3 class parties. They can divide & conquer those. Anything beyond is at their discretion.
- Teddy Bear Picnic is costly, so reach out to the entire classroom for donations. Not typically reimbursed. Teacher can cover or ask parents.

Parent Socials

- Parents can & have signed up to host the whole grade. This is great, but not necessary or expected.
- Hosts can be reimbursed for up to \$50. Alcohol is not funded by PTO.
- Signup Genius: Will be updated to Platinum Level for \$529.89 annually.
- Could send an email explaining Parent Socials, since this event is unfamiliar to many families. Could also resend info on how to signup as a host.

VP-Technology Report: Nikki Kidd

- Nothing to report

School Board Liaison Report: Erin Dowdall

Overview

- Committee of Whole Meeting was 9/5. Board of Education Meeting was 9/18. Lots of housekeeping.
- Stephanie Rath is the new D90 Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator.
- Board also reviewed their 6 strategic action objectives. These objectives can be found [HERE](#).
- Next Committee of the Whole meeting is Tuesday, 10/3; next Board of Education Meeting will be Monday, 10/16 in the Roosevelt library.
- **D90 Literacy:**
 - Lucy Calkins Curriculum was the hot button topic, with a debate on whether to remove it or whether removing it is outside the scope of the Board's role.
 - The D90 Literacy Curriculum will go through a review process. Dr. Condon sent out an email with a D90 Literacy update. The curriculum will be evaluated using an accelerated, multistep process.

Belongingness & Inclusion: Megan Seliga on behalf of Chairs

- Committee just met & created an event checklist to plan inclusive, accessible events. Ingrid Payne will share with the Chairs of each PTO committee.
- Checklist is a working document and Chairs can give ideas.

Parent Question: Can we send out Survey after each event to gather info? Would be a useful tool to be helpful for next year's Chairs. **Answer:** Good idea, will take to committee.

Community Fundraising: Meredith Maienza

- Had first meeting with Ingrid, Ashley, Camille.
- Looking into more casual venues for the Fundraiser.

Green 4 Good: Ginny Sara

Walk/Bike to School Week

- 533 participated, this week is around 200.
- Open up again in the Spring for any volunteers who to help cut strings. Groups of 10 or 20.
- We need a new sign or banner. **Emily Nash:** You do have a small budget & reusable sign would be a good idea.

Costume Drive

- 10/5, after school.

Parent Question: Is Bike & Walk promoted during the week? **Answer:** Teachers do it on their own.

Family Care Committee: Megan Seliga on behalf of Chair Ashley Graves

- Goal is to preserve the initial spirit of Kindly Wizards
- Ideas include: meal trains for families suffering a loss, a community service project by grade.
- Could include a note in Wizard Weekly looking for Parent Volunteers.

Chess Club: Clelita Mathole

- Will return in February
- Signup will likely go out 1/16 or 1/17
- Chess Club will run for 6 weeks. Current plan is to have G1-2 and G3-4 in another, with around 12 kids in each room.
- Parent Volunteers would be great for class management. Ask and get background checks.

Parent Question: Will Kindergarten be considered, now that they're full day? **Answer:** Will look into it, may need 3rd class.

Yoga: Camille McLamb on behalf of Chair David Driscoll

- Will start in January, date TBD
- Taught by Nina Helgeson, who also teaches Yoga at Mann.
- Runs for 6 weeks, after school for an hour.
- Cost will be \$80, of which \$10 will go to PTO.
- Will likely be held on Tuesdays.

World Languages: Megan Seliga, on behalf of co-chair Brenna Brown

- Classes start next week, 10/10.
- French & Spanish are sold out.
- Arabic still available.
- All the waitlist requests were accommodated
- All supplies in, other than one notebook

PING (Providing Instruments for the Next Generation): Jen lerardi

- PING ensures that all students in D90, D97, & D200 can participate in instrumental programs.
- Starts in 4th Grade, but kids are eligible throughout Middle School and High School.
- In addition to Instruments, Camps and Lessons are also eligible for funding.
- Initial sign-ups have happened, but PTO could increase awareness of PING in the Willard community.
- PING is funded by individual donations, PTO donations, and grants. If Willard does chose grants, PING would love to be considered.
- Next year, PTO can get word out about PING earlier in the school year, ideally before the Band Info Meeting.

Pancake Breakfast Recap: Megan Seliga, on behalf of Chairs

- Great event and very successful. Thank you to all the Dads!
- There was a dairy-free option which was really nice.

Box Tops for Education: Camille McLamb

- Box Tops is now an easy-to-use app. Just download and then scan your receipts.
- Willard is already registered, since we participated before the pandemic.
- Check is mailed to PTO 2x a year.
- Advertise in the Wizard Weekly.

Family Culture Fest (4/18): Megan Seliga, on behalf of chair Meghan Mulcahy

- Currently in planning. They do have volunteers.
- Money leftover from World Languages can be used for Family Culture Fest.

Katie Avalos, D90 Board Member

- Thanks all for everything you do and creating the community we want to have. Happy to answer questions.
- Available to fill holes in volunteering for events, if needed.

Adjournment: 9:55AM