



## MEETING MINUTES

### Tuesday, February 6th, 2024

#### **Call to Order**

- Call to Order by Megan Seliga at 8:45am
- Motion to approve Minutes from January 1st meeting. Motion approved.

#### **D90 Administration Report: Diane Wood for Dr. Ed Condon**

- Strategic Plan Review: This was done in January.
- Committee of the Whole Meeting will be tonight 2/6. The Security & Safety Team is meeting with multiple stakeholders. There will also be school improvement planning with all D90 principals, as well as equity action planning.
- Literacy Curriculum: D90 teachers are elbow deep in new curriculum materials, and are also evaluating with IL State and D90 rubrics. Teachers are evaluating different elements of each program and what each brings to students. Teachers from every grade are involved in this process.
- Director of Curriculum: We're currently reviewing the first round of candidates from a hiring firm and will meet with 5-7 people. Once that round is completed, 2-3 candidates will meet with staff, admin team, and parents on the hiring committee. We hope to have a contract by spring break.
- President's Day (2/19) is a holiday. The next day (2/20) is also off for students, as teachers have a professional training day.
- Thank you all for everything you do.

#### **Principal's Report: Diane Wood**

- Kindergarten Info Night:
  - We'll outline a typical day in full-day Kindergarten.
  - Intent to Register: There will be an Intent to Register form for parents, but they'll still have to fully register their student(s) later. Please encourage families to register early so that Willard staff can plan accordingly: the earlier we know enrollment rates, the better for grouping kids, etc.

- Incoming Kindergartener Events: We're trying to get the kids together earlier, possibly with a parent component. Students have to be fully registered to attend events. The first event might be in April, with another one in August for families who move/register during the summer.
- Parent Suggestions:
  - Erin Dowdall: A parent component is a great idea for getting to know faces, etc - especially for parents of first kids. It would also help parents to know what actually goes on in the screening.
  - Emily Nash: Perhaps students don't need to be fully registered for the 1st screening process? Also, you could have an administrator walk through the process. Perhaps Devin Howe or a proxy could attend?
  - Nikki Kidd: It would be helpful to know possible days for screenings, so that parents can put it in their calendars. We got a call 4 days before our child's screening and couldn't do that day.
  - Translations: Translation services should be available.

### **Presidents' Report: Camille McLamb**

- Bylaw Revision (The new Bylaws were handed out to all in attendance):
  - Inclusivity & Equity: We added a line to emphasize our commitment to inclusivity and equity.
  - Officer Roles (p.3): There have been a few changes to the term for our officers. The Treasurer and Technology roles will now be two-year commitments. They're also renewable.
  - Nominating Committee (p. 5): This was how we're supposed to fill chair and officer positions, per old bylaws, but it's not how we've been operating. We're going to keep in place for now and start implementing. It's hard to fill these roles with only 1-2 people giving suggestions. Hopefully this committee will be a great resource.
  - Motion to Approve: 2/3 vote needed. Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
  - Deadlines: Per bylaws, this committee needs to be in place by March 1st. Corina Davis, Erin Dowdall, Courtney Healy, and Jen Ierardi have all volunteered so thank you to them. We hope to have a new slate in mind by early April.

### **Treasurers' Report: Emily Nash**

- The PTO is in a good financial position.
- Après Holiday Fundraiser: We grossed about \$5,000. We'll hopefully raise even more on upcoming virtual fundraiser.

### **VP-Technology Report: Nikki Kidd**

- PTO Website Proposal:

- We have to move the website from where it's housed, which is currently a local server donation by a local dad. It's becoming risky and could fail, given the speed at which tech changes. After review, Squarespace is a better choice than Wix. Cost: \$16/month. \$192/ year.
- Google Workspace: We also need a Google Workspace to with aliases, email addresses etc. It will help PTO keep information organized. Roosevelt already has one. Cost: \$144/year.
- Domain: We'll have to pay for new domain. Cost: \$20/ year
- Combined Costs: \$350/ year for website and workspace combined..
- Motion To Approve Budget: Motion approved
- There's a trial site in progress.

### **School Board Liaison Report: Erin Dowdall**

- Committee of the Whole Meeting (1/9):
  - Literacy Curriculum: They're wrapping up review of critical research and current best practices. There's also new research on comprehension in digital versus print sources. The next phase is the rubric and how they'll score each program. They're also looking at implementation and roll out, with the pilot programming to follow in the fall. There's still a long timeline and they're trying to figure out what makes sense for adequate review. There are parameters around teacher training. It will be a very transparent process.
  - Parent Question, Emily Nash: How will the new Director of Curriculum impact the literacy pilot program? Katie Avalos (D90 Board Member): It will be down to two choices by then, so new DOC will have a role in the pilot program It's usually a teacher-driven process (teachers opt in) and there's usually one program that stands out.
- Board of Education Meeting (1/22):
  - Summer School: This has been running at a deficit for years and there's been cost of living increase of 5%. D90 needs to lessen deficit while keeping the philosophy behind summer school intact. Also, ESY (Extended School Year) is legally required and is the most expensive piece. Labs are not required. There can't be financial barriers to students/families. Costs might increase to 7.5%, which is about \$5.
    - Parent Suggestion, Emily Nash: Perhaps summer school could be registration by week instead of for all four weeks? The flexibility may lead to increased enrollment.
- Please send Erin an email if you have a topic you'd like her to bring to the Board

### **PTO Support for Asylum Seekers Fundraiser: Katie Avalos (D90 Board Member):**

- Task Force: In March, Good Shepard in Oak Park opened its doors to migrants. For months, people have been housed at the YMCA and Carlton and funded by Oak Park. It's a lot for the employees of Oak Park so a task force was formed. We've committed to housing people for a year, and costs are conservatively projected as \$1,000,000. The state may be able to offset some of these costs, and we're also collecting donations. We have people donating from \$10 to \$10,000, and donations coming in from all over including CA and AZ.

- Willard Fundraiser: Currently being organized by Megan Kelly, Corina Davis, and Ginny Sara. It would make the most sense to do a dollar & change event, possibly in March or early April. Donations have to be for the fund as a whole, not individual families.
- Resources: Kelly O' Keefe went to library and pulled resources about immigration process, to make sure that teachers have access to them. We need student materials that don't put a lot of work on the teachers.
- Parent Suggestion: Emily Nash: Cultural Night might be a good connection. We could have migrants cater, but we need to pay in cash. Also, whatever we raise, the PTO can match. This usually helps boost donations. Katie Avalos: I can connect Willard to catering families.
- Grant: Ms. Huska is putting in for a teacher grant for 2nd & 4th grade service project to make blankets.

### **Running Club: Megan Seliga for Mihaela Zahariuc:**

- Running Club will begin after Spring Break
- We have 4 volunteers and they're starting to get organized.
- Days/Times TBD.
- Running Club will do Willard 5K fundraiser.

### **Enrichment: Camille McLamb:**

- Smartypants event was a great success. We should definitely use this vendor again.
- Next enrichment will likely be a bike class.

### **Grade Level Experiences: Camille McLamb:**

- Raised \$1000
- These were a very last-minute plan - a big thank you to the parent hosts who came up with creative ideas for each grade.
- Experiences will happen throughout the spring.

### **Virtual Valentine Auction: Megan Seliga:**

- Auction Link: The auction will go live this Friday 2/9 at 8am, so please look for that link. We can also do a text push. and send a reminder Sunday before it closes at 8pm. We'll need to time the reminder before the Super Bowl.
- Thanks so much to the teachers for their generosity.
- Another shot at Principal for the Day (There will be two this year). Look for the link. Some events will be sign up parties.

### **STEAM Night Update (1/25): Camille McLamb:**

- It went very well. We did things differently and it was definitely higher tech than in the past.
- Vendor: We did have a few issues with the vendor and will probably not use next year.
- We may start doing this event every other year. We'll talk about this going forward.
- We made \$500 from raffle, which was a nice offset for the cost of the vendor.

### **Wolves Game Fundraiser (2/25): Megan Seliga**

- Upcoming, please look in Wizard Weekly for more information.

### **Willard Dance (3/8): Andrea Cheronis**

- Inclusivity: There will be a quiet room like last year.
- Decorations: No balloons or props this year. Kids just destroy and/or ignore them. Emily Nash: If we do need to purchase items, they can be ordered through the PTO Amazon account and shipped directly to Willard.
- Volunteers: Signup Genius info will be sent to the Wizard Weekly. We'll need lots of chaperones. Dance will be 90 minutes long.
- Focus will be the Dance - there won't be an accompanying fundraiser.

### **MISC.**

- Yearbook Photos, Courtney Healy: Please send any yearbook photos to the yearbook liaisons. Diane Wood: We can tell the teachers also. There's also a Google Drive for these photos.

### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 9:50am.