

# Wallingford Elementary School

## Parent-Teacher Organization

January 12, 2021

### AGENDA

Audra Bach	Gabriel Savage	Sarah Rodowicz	Kim Graham
Candice Rogers	Janine Berstein	Jessica Diamond	Beth Benzing
<i>Online Lessons (?)</i>	Joni O'Connor	Jennifer Griffin	Fran Yan
Kelly Whitehead	Allison Collings	Melissa Carden	Jency Weeks
Christie Cari	Sara O'Reilly	Jess Trout	Patty Briganti
Kristine Magargee	Elizabeth Schwartz		

**Call to Order - 7:01 PM**

**Approval of minutes from 11/10/20 meeting**

**Committee Thank You's**

- Our Weekly/Monthly Working Committees: Treasurers, Secretary, WES Mail, Website, Car Line
- Restaurant Night: Theresa Birardi
- Hour of Code: Lindsay Goldsmith-Markey, Beth Benzing & volunteers
- Spirit Wear: Jency Weeks, Kellie Garson
- Lost and Found: Jess Trout
- Book Fair: Sarah Rodowicz, Colleen Glackin

- Foreign Language: Amanda Weinberg, Marisa Brant
- Homeroom Parent Coordinators: Stephanie Cavanagh, Janine Berstein and all of our Homeroom Parents
- Bingo Night: Kate Shaughnessy, Jessica Diamond, Susan Kenney
- Visiting Authors: Joni O'Connor
- Milk and Cookies: Mrs. Gaur, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students and parents, all cookie-bakers
- Turkey Drive (Citizenship): Lisa Hill, Erin Thomson
- Staff Breakfast - Janine Berstein - They did a nice Breakfast for the teachers the day they came back from Christmas Break. They spent about \$400 on this which is double which they usually spend because of packaging things separately.

**Treasurer's Report:** Submitted by Fran Yan

This report spans: 11/8/2020-1/11/2021

We started the period with a cash balance of \$48,642.31

We had deposits of \$580.78

And withdrawals of (\$4,412.62)

Leaving us with a balance of \$44,810.47

Highlights

Deposits:

\$319.40 – Amazon Smile

\$250.00 – WES Directory

Withdrawals

\$573.40 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Scholastic News (Mini Grants)

\$102.58 – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (Mini Grants)

\$2,175.00 – Foreign Language Club (paid to teachers)

\$1,469.64 – Teacher Appreciation (Halloween Gift / lunch)

### Reminders

Deposits have all been labeled, please continue to do so

### Total Expense vs. Deposits SYTD – 07/1/20-11/8/20

Expenses: **(\$15,959.05)**

Deposits: \$21,147.95

Net YTD: \$5,188.90

### **Committee Reports (Committees at work have the opportunity to report, share good news/ feedback, ask for help/advice/input**

- **Spirit Wear** - *Jency Weeks reported* - We sold \$350 in spirit wear before the holidays. They were hoping for \$450-500. Some parents commented they didn't see advertisements for it. Maybe do a video to interact the kids for spirit days and even include some parents with the adult items.
- **Fall Book Fair update/Spring Book Fair** - *Sarah Rodowicz reported* - We didn't make as much as we normally would. We could consider 2 options: 1.) Have families order from the scholastic flyers sent by teachers instead over a book fair or 2.) Change to a new company, Children's Bookstore.

Candice would like to have a book fair, even raising \$200 is worth having it.

Kim Graham suggested looking into scriptlet for 10% of sales, where each child can make a book to buy. She didn't do much research, but just thought of it while on Zoom. Sending the information to Sarah.

Sarah said it was a mess to sort the books when they received them from Follett and she will look into what SRS did. They used Children's Bookstore for their fall fair, and it was successful.

- **Pancheros Spirit Night** - *Candice reported for Theresa* - Iron Hill didn't return calls so they did Pancheros. The event raised \$115.22. She wants to know if people want to do another one before April's Swarthmore Pizza Night.

Melissa Carden said, a lot of restaurants are closing so they just don't have the time. If we don't have a personal connection we may have trouble getting it going.

Someone suggested another plant sale in the Spring. Maybe a head of Mother's Day.

- **Hour of Code** - *Beth Benzing reported* - Hour of Code was a great success. Thanks to all of the families who participated with their children, and to the many parents who helped to run Zoom support room sessions. We had a lot of thank yous from kids, families and volunteers for offering a little connection to normalcy in this difficult year and we were grateful to be able to connect with the amazing international efforts to help educate children in computer science. We appreciate Mr. Savage's and the teachers' cooperation & support in helping us get information and resources into kids' hands, and for allowing us to set up and run the Zoom help rooms. Thanks also to the district tech folks for working with us to get the webpage up and running, for managing the unanticipated, last minute challenges with SeeSaw. Most of all--thanks to all the kids who coded, for an hour...or many more! We believe in all of you.
- **Visiting Author** - *Joni O'Connor reported* - She sent a thank you to Josh Funk after the event. Martha Lambertsen reached out to Joni and said the book sales for his books were good. We had about 330 people logged on to the Zoom. Hena Khan is scheduled for our next author visit, March 3rd . She cut her cost since it is virtual. It is also before the release of her new book - *Amina's Song*. She will waive the fee for the 3rd-5th grade visit, if we buy 30 of her new books through Children's Book World and we would pay

\$500 for the K-2 visit. We will also get credits with the Children's Book World with the order of those 30 books. The books are being promoted through Mrs. Chafetz in the library and the classrooms. The topic for K-2 (11:15am - 12:15pm) is Introduction to Islamic Culture and the topic for grades 3-5 (2:15 - 3:15 pm) is Finding Your Voice.

- **Bingo Night (February 18th)** - *Jessica Diamond reported* - There will be two sessions (75 families per session). Pizza offering with Wawa drinks just like past events. You can order participant packs on the PTO website in advance. On the night of the event you will do a drive thru at the school like car line and pick up your packages and food. The 50/50 raffle will also be online.

They want to sweeten the pot with themed gift baskets (local businesses, outdoors, at home family night, nice meal to cook, arts and crafts) by grade. \$20.00 or less per item. Items will be able to be purchased on Amazon and sent to Jessica. They plan to email sign-up links out through the Homeroom Parents.

Hoping to be able to make some money for the PTO from the 50/50. This will be raffles with Mr. Savage. Audra suggested selling the 50/50 during the carline, but will need to make sure people have the exact amount.

They were not going to have people muted. It was suggested to have everyone muted. Then unmute when they say Bingo. It will be easier to find the person then. They were thinking about giving out spirit wear for a "Bingo" instead of books. February 18th is the new date, it will not be held in January this year.

- **Math Night** - *Beth Benzing reported* - "Math Night" this year will be "Math Week" -- a family celebration of good old-fashioned fun together around mathematical ideas. The "event" will consist of a combination of materials sent home to families and materials posted digitally to help families come together to play, laugh and explore on a schedule that is convenient to them. Math Night has always been about providing activities that children do with the caregiver who accompanies them to the in person event in order to

bring joy and mathematics into family relationships. Our plan is to equip families with some basic resources to enjoy exploring mathematics with their children at home, since doing so in person is not a realistic possibility this winter given COVID safety issues.

International Math Day, also celebrated as "Pi Day," is March 14. This day is also Albert Einstein's birthday, and has become a time for folks around the world to come together and rejoice over a love of mathematics. Since the dates of Math Night have not been posted publicly yet, we would like to shift our WES celebration of mathematics to line up to the worldwide celebration. We aim to have materials in families' hands in time to use at times that are convenient for them during the week of March 8 - 12, building excitement towards Pi Day on Sunday, March 14.

Post the OA stuff to be picked up during the week. Needs to state Hybrid and OA for WES, so everyone is included.

- **Cultural Arts - Book Club** - *Melissa Carden reported* - "So You Want To Talk About Race" book club for adults. The book is under \$11.00 on Amazon. There will be a book discussion on February 25th for anyone who would like to participate or be involved. It is a great way to come together as a community to talk about these issues, which could ultimately translate to conversations with our students. Jessica Diamond offered her help, since she does cultural diversity stuff for work.
- **Gift of Giving** - *Kelly Whitehead reported* - During the Valentine parties kids usually make cards and put together breakfast bags that go to Caring for Friends. We will be changing that timeline this year. They will wait to do it after the Presidents' Day weekend. The teachers will have to do it without parent volunteers. There will be more information at the February Meeting.
- **Car Line** - *Cindy Bean reported* - It has been challenging. They thought more people would have volunteered since people are working from home. Cohort A is locked up.

Cohort B has been a struggle. Fran has been taking up a lot of slack. Getting some momentum when word of mouth is used and people know it is only a ½ hour. It was suggested to reach out to HR Parents to reach out to the parents in their classrooms for help.

- **Citizenship - Shoe Drive** - *Candice reported for Erin Thomson* - First, a quick update on the food drive. The community was very generous and Lisa Hill was able to fill every inch of her car with donations. She dropped it all off to CityTeam the week before Thanksgiving.

They are now working on logistics for a shoe drive. They usually do a drive every spring. They are thinking along the lines of Spring Cleaning. The company will send bags for us to collect in. They can collect for each size - Toddler, Child and Adult for Hurricane Relief and other charity organizations that they donate to.

- **Foreign Language** - *Candice reported for Amanda and Marisa* - The 2nd semester will run from February 22nd - May 10th. They hope to keep mostly the same students since many of the teachers planned it as a year curriculum. We have some students from SRS joining in the Mandarin class since their school was not offering one. If we have new student interest, we can look at forming a beginner class.
- **“Advertising” for events** - *Candice reported* - Looking for suggestions for getting the word out to WES families both in the Cohort and in the OA about the events that the PTO is doing. If you have suggestions contact her. They have been using social media, email, etc.
- **Box Tops** - *Kristine Magargee reported* - It is at a ¼ of the amount we usually collect. Giant is no longer doing their rewards program for schools so we have lost that extra money. We have made the switch to the app, which is encouraged by Box Tops, but the digital cuts out more student involvement so trying to think of ways to get students and families involved. Considering sending some flyers home physically for the students.

- **Spirit Week** - *Candice reported* - We are trying to think of when to do a spirit week so that everyone can participate. We used to have these - maybe organized by the student council.
- **MLK Fundraiser** - *Candice reported* - The 2nd grade teachers are still interested in doing the MLK fundraiser that has been done in the past. Send a \$1 in for the chain link that goes around the school. The information has been sent in WES Mail and will be sent by HR Parents later this week.
- **Nominating Committee** - *Patty Briganti reported* - Email her if you are interested in keeping your position or wanting to be in a different position for the 2021-22 school year.

### **Principal Report: Mr. Savage**

Thanks to everyone for being here and thinks it is meaningful for everyone. It brings normalcy. He thought the Visiting Author, Josh Funk, was funny and they think they figured out the tech problem for the next visit.

There is an In-service day after the MLK Holiday next week. Deirdre, with the district, would like pictures of anyone participating in service projects on MLK Day.

Mr. Savage went over four items:

1. The transition of Online to Cohort and Cohort to Online - 24 people switched to in school and 6 to OA. Teacher placements are supposed to be ready by January 29th, but he believes he will have it finished sooner for transition on February 1st.
2. He went over Dr. Palmer's email about Covid Cases and has a plan ready to go, in case they have to close down. They feel they can switch within 24 hours.



3. January 29th at 4pm - report cards will be released. He brought up that parents have been emailing him concerned about the amount of Special Asynchronous work. He said that the parents should contact the teachers directly. They are willing to work with them.
  
4. Cultural diversity within our district and WES - Teaching tolerance, diversity, equity and inclusion. This will be done through the PBIS model and a Committee has been set up among the teachers. He likes to do things for the long haul and do it consistently and build on it.

**Open Floor (A time to share new ideas, ask questions, general discussion)**

Beth mentioned that her and Lindsay were talking and wanted to ask if Hour of Code and Math Night should be separated for responsibilities in the future. Candice said that she thinks they did it combine because Math night is every other year, but maybe it is something to consider. They plan to discuss more off of Zoom.

**Adjournment - 8:20 PM**