



**Washington School PTO
August 28, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members in Attendance

Michael Paskin
Kim Kotnik
Shannon Schroeder
Cari Menchaca
Tara King
Vanessa Campos
Erin Muslera
Kimberley Yaeger
Elizabeth Wagner
Dustin Todd
Lilia Hine
Anna Stump
Kristie Chapman
Gillette Hall

Staff in Attendance

Christina Giguere
Suzanne Dalton
Laurie Yarnel
Isabel Esparza
Elizabeth Mortensen
Karen Slotnick-Lastrico

Parents in Attendance

Negar Haley
Stephanie Reussner
Christina Mendez
Hanna Saarela
Nicole Albada

1. Michael Paskin, PTO President

Michael welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. Introductions were made across the room. Every parent, guardian, teacher and principal that represents a child at Washington is automatically a member of our foundation. Along with the 17 other parent and faculty representatives, we make up your Board of Directors and are here to be a voice for you, our community and our school.



We encourage each of you to continue advocating for your child's education, to speak candidly with us, and to join us in our volunteering and fundraising efforts. Meetings are held monthly during the school year and all PTO members are invited to attend.

2. Christina Giguere, Principal

New Mission Statement: We prepare students for a world that is yet to be created.

Back To School Night - Thursday September 6

- Simultaneous interpretation
- Parent Engagement
- 5:30 in Auditorium, Christina will then turn over to PTO
- 6 and 6:30 classroom presentations

Teachers/Staff SURVEY summary: Results were discussed.

Strategic Plan for Student Achievement Goals:

- Teachers will work in Professional Learning
- Restorative Approach to discipline
- Decrease Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy
- Washington school will increase our English Learner families sense of school safety and school connectedness by 5% and will increase our reclassification rate by 10% and we will support English Language Learners by improving tier 1 instruction, utilizing the new ELPAC data to purposefully group students for designated ELD, incorporating GLAD strategies across the curriculum, and focusing on reading and writing with evidence.
- Foster a love literacy through a school-wide focus on reading, with all grade levels having AR goals.
- Washington will empower all students' 21st century skills through hands on problem solving, design thinking, and coding in our STEM Lab with a credentialed STEM teacher.

Mental Health Initiative - Partnership w/ CALM

SPECIALS (Art, Music, PE and STEM) started this week. We're off to a great start.

3. Kim Kotnik, Vice President

Kim provided an update about the Classroom Support project undertaken last spring to review the curriculum specialist/teacher assistant program. PTO representatives will now work with Christina and teachers to maximize student time and the educational impact of this program. This is the largest line item in the PTO budget amounting to approximately \$200,000 annually.

It is likely that Washington will have fewer CS/TA positions but more "student hours" this upcoming school year. Alternative sharing arrangements including multiple grades and math vs. literacy specializations are under consideration. If parents (and teachers) are concerned about funding fewer



positions, communication should emphasize the Board and school's commitment to maintaining or increasing student hours, and making those hours more purposeful/tied to student learning.

Business Booster Sponsorship Program: Business Booster sponsorships are available again this year for \$1500 (Wildcat family-owned businesses and small businesses with fewer than 10 employees) or for \$2000 for large businesses. Sponsors receive a nice banner prominently displayed at school, promotion via Parent Square, school marquis and social media, and our gratitude!

Kim (and any others interested) will update our 10 year old Parent Handbook this year.

4. Tara King, Treasurer

Tara introduced Vanessa Campos, who has been voted in as our Board's Financial Secretary.

Tara reported that the budget is 90% finished, waiting to finalize from the decision made with Curriculum Specialist/Teacher Assistants.

Fall Enrichment (a variety of fun, after school classes – which are optional care) begins Monday September 17. Fall enrichment runs through December. Enrichment class providers collected their own money and then paid the school. This worked well last year. Space for classes (rooms) has been worked out by Rosa. Tara and Christina will meet with Rosa to confirm the rooms. The schedule will be ready to pass out at Back to School night (Sept 6). The PTO offers scholarships.

Wildcat Wear was a huge success at the Back to School picnic last week. We raised \$1300. Tarin (who designed last year's Move A Thon t shirts) designed this year's logo. Next Up: PRIDE Fridays, a merchandise table will be set up and Back to School night, Sept 6th.

5. Shannon Schroeder, Communications Chair

The PTO will continue to communicate weekly via ParentSquare on Fridays. There will be a submission deadline on the Tuesday prior to Friday, to allow Shannon to compile and edit the information and have it translated by Lilia Hine. Shannon received authorization to use 'google translate' in rare, time sensitive circumstances.

6. Dustin Todd, IT Chair

Dustin walked us through the new website. www.washingtonschoolpto.org There are web-enabled buttons for Donations (1 payment or periodic) and Wildcat Wear – for purchases. He urged everybody to send the website link to Family and Friends to donate to PRIDE. The site will automatically send our 501(c) tax id information for donations. There is also a Volunteer button. Amazing new site, thank you Dustin.

7. Elizabeth Wagner, Volunteer Chair

Elizabeth is working on organizing parent interest with volunteer matching. Opportunities/positions are still available.



Walk & Roll Wednesdays will begin on Wednesday Oct 3. Walk and Roll celebrates the students walking to school or riding their bikes. Smoothies given the 1st Wednesday of the month. Little Hubs/Group areas are established to meet up with others.

8. Erin Muslera and Kimberley Yaeger, PRIDE Co-Chairs

The PRIDE campaign will kick off Tuesday Sept 4th (after Labor Day)! Willy the Wildcat will be making an appearance to each classroom that Tuesday morning to generate interest with the students. We are asking that every family donate \$600./ per child - to our largest/major fundraising event of the year. This year, we will encourage donating to be done online. There is a lot of excitement about PRIDE Fridays. Pride Fridays will take place from 8-8:30am and will be for the students to get excited and participate. The donation is \$1 for a student to participate in these activities below. Wildcat wear will be available for sales in front of the school. Board members will be at the front and back gates to answer questions about PRIDE on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of September.

Sept 7: Chalk Art

Sept 14: Tape up Coach V.

Sept 21: Lego fire walk

Sept 28: DUNK our PTO President!

9. Other Business and Discussion

- Curriculum Specialist Update:

We've hired 3 credentialed Curriculum Specialist/teacher assistants. We have a requisition to hire 3 more. The board supports 6 CS/TA, as those opportunities to hire become available. Christina shared that typically the potential for CS/TA gets stronger after school has started, so she is encouraged. We want to be good stewards with the money that we are spending on salaries/asking Washington parents to donate. We (classroom support project) are looking at sharing across grade levels. We want to maximize the CS/TA effectiveness. The board will continue to work with the Washington administration to ensure their hours are being spent with the children. PRIDE raises about half of what we need.

- Fundraising forecast and Event planning:

Party Book: Fundraising as well and bonding. We have 2 candidates in mind to Chair this committee. The Goal is to offer a manageable number of well-planned, diverse and accessible events that strengthens bonds among all members of the Washington school community. While one or more events may contribute to fundraising goals, the primary purpose is community-building and memory-making.

- Appreciations:

Thank You to Anna Stump. The Back to School picnic was a wonderful event. Appreciation for Elizabeth Wagner and Jessica Gin (not present) for the amazing job with our Beautification Day.



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- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.