



**Washington School PTO
February 26, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members in Attendance

Michael Paskin
Kim Kotnik
Shannon Shroeder
Tara King
Vanessa Campos
Cari Menchaca
Dustin Todd
Lilia Hine
Jessica Gin
Elizabeth Wagner
Erin Muslera
Kimberly Yaegar
Anna Stump
Gillete Hall

Staff in Attendance

Christina Giguere
Nancy Lusk

Parents in Attendance

Sarah Matheson
Susan Dunton
Negar Haley
Matt Genovese
Megan Bright
Beth Slifirski
Jessie O'Sullivan
Catherine Brozowski

1. Michael Paskin, PTO President

Michael welcomed everybody and called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He will give updates throughout the meeting.

2. Christina Giguere, Principal



Our next Wildcat Meeting is Monday, March 4th. The students will bring their books and come out onto the blacktop, as it will be ‘Dr. Seuss Read In’ morning and pajama day too – books, chairs, pajamas, the entire school reading together.

The variety show is this Friday – all are welcome. 2 performances, 10:15am and 1:15pm. Ms. Lusk, Ms. Esparza and Ms. Llewelyn have been coordinating. Parent Teacher Conferences are March 18 – 22nd. 1st through 6th grade will be released at 12 pm that week (Movie Days available after early release).

Teen Vaping – woman who works for the county comes for free, to talk to the parents - signs of kids getting into vaping. April 3rd at 6:30p, here in our library. We are also hosting a digital citizenship – cyber safety. Information on the awareness of screen time, device use, how to be safe on line. Our staff already uses digital citizenship in the classrooms, want to offer the education to families.

Playground Supervisors – we are in need of 2. Angel’s last day is Thursday and Florita’s last day is next Thursday (Mar 7th). Applicants are needed - 3.5 hour day. Posted on district site. Volunteers are welcome too – even 20 minutes at lunchtime would be helpful.

Standardized testing is starting – ELPAC (English as a second language) – 1:1 in speaking. In a group for reading, writing, listening. March 11 – 22nd, 2nd through 6th graders will all take the ELPAC.

3. Jessica Gin, Move-A-Thon Update

Friday March 15th, minimum day. Keep Calm and Move-A-Thon is our theme. Sara Farrar will be managing the PledgeStar online donations. Roya has stepped up for the 6th grade ‘Color Run’. All stations have their materials. Michael Paskin handling the army crawl station. Looking for a power source for Boom Chaka, the bubble machine and the Inflatable ornament (in lieu of the balloon arch). Suggestion to touch base with Cliff Hubbard. Kim Kotnik and Elizabeth Wagner offered their generators. Are there more than 5 EZ ups? Wildcat Willy shifts: 4 @ 40 minute increments – looking for volunteers.

4. Tara King, Treasurer

We are on a tight ship. May or June could go negative, however with Party Book events, the Come Sail Away (SBYC) fundraiser and the Brick Legacy Program, it’s possible to break even. MAT- We need to net \$70K, (so \$85K gross. The 18 sponsors will cover those costs.) March 22nd is the last day to turn in donations/pledges. Will be counting the money the next day.

5. Party Book, Sarah Matheson

- Mother Son Bingo April 13, Lead Host: Kathy Trujillo
- Camp Out, Sage Hill April 26-28 Lead Host: Kelly Malazzo \$65/pp
- JR CHEF May _, Lead Host: our own retired Mr. Nitikman!
- Come Sail Away, SBYC May 18, Lead Host: Brady Charrette \$50/pp Silent Auction



6. Dustin Todd, IT Chair

Dustin is working on uploading these Party Book events and SWAG. The calendar has been updated. Meeting Minutes posted. www.WashingtonSchoolPTO.org

7. Elizabeth Wagner, Volunteer Chair

Taking a back seat while the excitement of MAT is well underway. Walk & Roll is running nicely each Wednesday morning. Jamie Crystal is chairing Science Night on Wednesday, April 24th. There are many exhibitors. This is a free event, while the Bake Sale will benefit next year's CIMI trip.

8. Michael Paskin, President

Brick Legacy Program: There has been a bit of delay with Dennis Thompson. (Photos are shown of what the brick wall could look like. Bricks forming a tree. "Our Community is always Growing"). Susan Dunton speaks from her experience with a Donor Wall at Roosevelt. "What about children or families who feel left out at the public school they attend every day?" Questions about price and positioning of the Brick Wall are discussed. Lilia Hine (advocate and translator for our Spanish speaking community), shares her perspective from both sides. "The Wall is not to show off, but so that every child who attends Washington is successful." At Washington, we are trying to balance (with delicacy) a responsibility to fund raise AND the responsibility not to make children feel bad. We can make the wall more about community. Monetary donations as well as the idea of exceptional achievements/volunteerism? Sarah Matheson uses the example of Math Superbowl and other outstanding recognitions. After discussion, the Brick Legacy Program is a fundraiser, we need the funds this year and moving forward. A BRICK sub-committee is created: Susan Dunton, Negar Haley, Erin Muslera & Tara King.

9. Kim Kotnik, Vice President

In light of Mrs. Giguere's resignation, Michael Paskin and Kim Kotnik met with Santa Barbara Unified School District Superintendent (Dr. Cary Matsuoka) and Assistant Superintendent (Dr. Raul Ramirez) on Tuesday, February 26th to discuss our school's urgent priorities and the challenge of Principal recruitment and retention. Michael and Kim conveyed a desire to retain Mrs. Giguere if possible and to provide additional support to make the Principal job more sustainable and higher impact for Mrs. Giguere or whomever succeeds her. Our school needs an assistant principal, additional psychologist time, additional playground supervision and yard duty. This and other support would allow the Principal to substantively engage in our school's instructional quality and academic performance. Dr. Matsuoka and Dr. Ramirez are aware of these challenges and conveyed that they are not unique to our school and will be addressed by the District in an incremental, equitable fashion consistent with available funding. They report that funding is not currently available for these needs at the Elementary level. Next year's budget may allow for some improvement including the possible addition of an assistant principal sharing arrangement whereby the AP would be shared by two or more schools. A discussion ensued about whether PTOs can or should help support these needs.

Michael and Kim also communicated that Washington has longstanding repair and maintenance needs, citing the evacuation of Mrs. A's class, leaking roofs along a row of at least 3 classrooms, and other potential health and safety-related issues that have been ignored for too long. Dr. Matsuoka and Dr. Ramirez stated that they intend to respond to these issues. Michael and Kim reiterated that these



critical needs are causing academic harm and serious health/safety concerns among parents, teachers and staff.

Michael, Kim, PTO Board and interested parents will follow up with our District to continue advocating for our needs. It was agreed that District level support issues will be added as a regular item to our PTO Board's monthly agenda with appropriate follow up actions to be determined.

Open Discussion:

Matt Genovese is a Washington parent and an endurance athlete. He has a fundraising plan to run for 24 hours to raise money for our school. His plan is to run approximately 50 miles, spanning all 26 of the public schools in the unified school district. From Ellwood to MUS. This will take place from Thursday March 7 at 8am to Friday March 8th at 8am. The start and finish line will be at Washington School campus (not to disrupt class time). Run to Fund.

Justin Mack, STEM Lab teacher, has requested Membership renewal (due in April) for our Kodable School Plan. Membership renewal is \$800. Kim Kotnik makes a motion, Cari Menchaca seconds. Motion is PASSED to renew our Kodable School Plan membership for next year.

Next meeting: Tues March 19th. Meeting adjourns at 9:10 pm