

**Winooski PTO Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

ATTENDEES: Laura Lee, Kate Simone, Jennifer Milizia, Lucy D'Aponte, Joe Smith, Lydia Mongeon, Chris Freije, Sarah McGowan-Freije, Jessica Audette, Amelie Thurston, Nikki Cabral, Arica Bronz

Welcome/Introductions

Timekeeper

Secretary's Report

- ***ACTION: October 2020 meeting minutes approved***

Treasurer's Report

October 2020

Revenue	
Interest	\$0.04
TOTAL REVENUE	\$0.04
Expenses	
Boosters (Senior Soccer Day)	\$387.96
Gifts and Appreciation (baskets for teachers)	\$180.87
Teacher Grants (5 teachers)	\$227.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$795.83
INCREASE/DECREASE IN CASH	(\$794.79)
CASH BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD	\$41,342.64

- 11/18: Lance McKee gave Sarah the latest batch of \$\$ from McKee's pull tabs (\$7,295)!! Sarah deposited in the account, will get info to Lucy.
- Winooski Baseball League submitted a request for \$80 from us. The group clarified that this is for the annual calendar where PTO shows up as a sponsor (funds request \$). This is a fundraiser for Little League.

- ***ACTION: October 2020 treasurer's report approved.***

New Business

- **Winooski Mutual Aid call for clothing donations**
 - Kate to post to the PTO Facebook page and send flyer around with meeting minutes.
- **Claussen's fundraising program**

- Winter fundraising offer. We could sell poinsettias (take orders). We get a discounted price (small \$8.50, large \$27.50) and sell for whatever amount we wanted (keeping the profits). We would be in competition with a lot of sports teams. Jess had looked into this with another company. There are some options for online orders. This would work better at the craft show. The group decided to not pursue this for 2020.

Funds Requests

- **WMHS Yearbook - \$500 requested**
 - Jess Bruce made a request for \$500 but was not at the meeting to present. In previous years we've budgeted \$200. According to the funds request form submitted, their fundraising efforts have been greatly hampered due to COVID. It's unclear what they can't do. Could she come to the meeting to present on what's changed?
 - ***ACTION: The team didn't approve the \$500 but are willing to provide the \$200 we'd budgeted for.***
 - ***UPDATE: Jess emailed after the meeting to say she had been unable to attend due to scheduling issues. She should be able to come to a future meeting to discuss.***
- **Popcorn for JFK - \$135 (anticipated cost - \$5 per bag/27 bags)**
 - Joan Benjamin requested this for movie time at the elementary school for 11/20.
 - Shaw's: 14 servings/bag. At 27 bags = \$135. Will this be enough? We can buy some extra to be sure.
 - We contemplated having someone else operate the popcorn machine, but we can't be sure they could do this safely.
 - ***ACTION: Laura to head to Shaw's after meeting to pick up popcorn and will deliver to the school later in the week.***

Committee Updates

- **Fundraising Committee (Jessica)**
 - Boxtops: Lucy has a bunch. The requirements are pretty onerous. Is it worth still doing? Should we try to revamp this?
 - Bulb and flower online order for spring?
 - Amazon Smile is an option for fundraising (share a link with people and we get a percentage of sales for purchases made using the link). There is a Boosters option for this. Can we do this for PTO? Jess will work with Lucy to explore options.
- **Community Inclusion and Engagement Committee (Arica, Kate, Laura, Amelie)**
 - The group met this week and talked about goals.
 - 1) Outside training options on dismantling white supremacy (for community, school, PTO members). What is going on with the administration/school board? How does this fit in with our mandate? What is our role here? The school board meetings devote time to community discussion. They meet every second Wednesday.
 - 2) Mission statement for committee and/or PTO. How can we better convey our inclusive nature and better reflect our community?
 - 3) Outreach to non-English speaking families to participate in PTO activities. Need to draft a blurb for translation for families (Laura).

- 4) Reach out to WSA for ways the PTO could support them and school. Exploring ways to reach out further potential meetings? Laura met with K. Kollegaard and liaisons to provide context. One option is to work through focus groups (smaller groups asking how people would like to get involved).
 - In-person connections are key to getting folks involved, which is difficult. One approach is to reach out to students and get them involved.
 - This is like PACTS, which was more about some of these community connections. Can we be a committee along these lines to serve that role?
 - Howard Center has a person-centered training called “What’s Working and What’s Not Working.” Jess has information that she can send along for the group’s consideration..
 - Reflect on ways to make the meeting vibe more welcoming. What are the barriers and how can we make it better?
- **Teacher and Staff Support Committee (Arica, Kate, Laura, Joy)**
 - Facebook live event to distribute teacher gift basket went pretty well!
 - The committee sent a survey around to teachers and staff. We received 4 responses (suggestions included: encouraging parents to order books from Scholastic, encouraging parent feedback, and providing \$\$ for classroom materials) Teachers expressed thanks for stipend and suggested that PTO make an appearance during in-service (half) days to market who we are better to teachers.
 - Committee will get together soon.
- **Boosters Committee**
 - No sports spectators are allowed so not much has happened.
 - Thoughts of reaching out to Sean to allow parents to watch games remotely. Jess says they use Periscope for hockey. What is required for this? The group had talked to Jean Berthiaume and Kate Grodin about this (in the event that we need funds). Facebook live is also an option, and files can be saved to web page.
- **Craft Fair Committee**
 - Nothing to report.
- ***Kate to include committee list with meeting notes.***

Next Meeting

- December 16