

Winooski PTO January 2021 Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Attendees: Laura Lee, Joe Smith, Lucy D'Aponte, Jennifer Milizia, Joy Yonan-Renold, Kate Cappelman-Sinz, Amelie Thurston, Sarah McGowan-Freije, Arica Bronz, Kate Simone

Welcome/Introductions

Timekeeper: Joe Smith

Land Acknowledgment

The PTO would like to acknowledge that we meet in community on Abenaki land. Our city of Winooski reminds us with its Abenaki name, "land of the wild onion" of the indigenous people that lived and stewarded the land of Vermont long before the Europeans arrived in North America. It is with respect and gratitude that we work towards practices of cultural equity to benefit current and future generations.

- *Joy read the land acknowledgement.*

Secretary's Report

- *ACTION: The group approved the December 2020 meeting minutes*

Treasurer's Report

December 2020

Revenue

None

Expenses

Program Expenses (JFK popcorn party) \$135.00

CASH BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD \$48,328.75

- NOTE: Adjustment to funds request (moving popcorn from November to December).
- *ACTION: The group approved the Treasurer's report.*
- *January expenses: Boosters annual fee due this month (\$20)*

New Business

- None

Funds Requests

- Heather Win - Premium Subscription to Pear Deck (<https://www.peardeck.com/>)
Heather is willing to use her \$50 teacher stipend towards this subscription
Cost is \$150 per year - if month-to-month billing is an option for the PTO, then we may be able to get the Premium for \$107.94 total (\$17.99/mo) for January through June.
- ***This is for all of the sixth grade for hybrid learning. School doesn't have funds for this. Will this set a precedent for others who want to use this? Can we pay for this for the whole school? Could the other 6th grade teacher use his stipend as well?***
- ***We request that teachers present to the group when they need more money than stipend. Can she come present this to the group? The request came through over the break and we haven't heard back regarding the request to explain.***
- ***Should we talk to Sean/leadership about funding this going forward if needed next year. He might be open to hearing about these options.***
- ***If we can get a sense that other teachers need access as well, could we help out a larger scale?***
- ***ACTION: Laura will follow up with Heather and MS/HS principals. The group is interested in voting on this over email so they can get moving on this. NOTE: Remote voting should work (among the participants of this meeting).***
- ***UPDATE (1/22): Laura reported back to the group that the school is purchasing a premium subscription for K to 12 faculty, so there is no need for a vote.***

Committee Updates

- Fundraising Committee -- ***Jess not present, but is interested in a fun run. Not sure how this would work with COVID. Maybe something in the fall?***
- Teacher and Staff Support Committee -- ***Committee is ready to send to printer. Sarah, Joy, Laura, Lucy, Kate, Amelie, Arica to help fill out. We will coordinate with Linda Casier (JFK) and Betsy (MS/HS). Quantity to be printed: 250 copies.***
- Community Inclusion and Engagement Committee -- ***Some committee meetings held since the last full meeting. 1) Education (reading "How to Be an Antiracist") and 2) nuts/bolts (want to start asking questions and meeting with people [listening project] to get a sense of what we need to be doing). We have drafted a survey/blurb to present to the subcommittee for consideration.***
- Boosters Committee -- ***Jean Berthiaume and Dennis Barkhum have decided on a different platform for the basketball games (free for everyone, so PTO will not be asked for \$\$). We'll be getting a \$400 check for admission to basketball games from last year.***
- Craft Fair Committee -- ***Nothing to report.***
- ***Talent Show?? Online platform. Joe could collect videos and would assemble them in one long video (with someone to emcee in between). Joe would need 1 or 2 people to help out. Aiming for March 25? How would we announce this (emails to teachers, FPF, weekly staff emails). Joe, Arica, Lucy, Kate***

Next Meeting

- February 17