



Winooski PTO Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 27, 2022

WSD Priorities: 1. Literacy; 2. Capital Project (playground and staff appreciation);
3. Parent/Community Education around Restorative Justice

Attendees: Kate Nugent, Kate SImone, Chris Freije, Laura Lee, Arica Bronz, Joe Smith, Lucy D'Aponte, Amelie Thurston, Rosa Potts, Jennifer Milizia

Welcome/Introductions

- Welcome everyone and introductions
 - Name, pronouns, anything else you'd like the group to know
 - Check-in question: What is a sure sign of summer for you?

Land Acknowledgement

"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." Amelie read the land acknowledgement.

Timekeeper: Amelie

Agreements:

- We agree that the PTO's work reflects the dynamic and changing needs of our school district (children, families, teachers, and staff).
- We agree to communicate with kindness and listen with the intent of understanding.
- We agree to respect each other's time.
- We agree that our voices and behavior as members of the PTO represent our school district.

Kate Nugent – Winooski Partnership for Prevention

- **Current projects:**
 - **Helping parents to make sure substances in the home are inaccessible to youth. The WPP community dinners have been focusing on this, giving away lockable canvas bags.**
 - **ParentUp Vermont (<https://parentupvt.org/>), VT DOH. Flow chart to help guide parents.**
 - **According to research, if young people wait until age 21 before trying substances, they have only 1% chance of developing Substance Use Disorder (including alcohol). References Iceland (reduced substance use rates to below 5%, compared to herd immunity through community work and policy [e.g., no advertising for substances]).**

- ***Arica asked about whether alcohol fits into the same statistics. Research shows that when families drink with their children before they go to college affects drinking rates after children move out. University of Washington, Kilmer, has done a lot of work on this.***
- ***Video about how communities are working together: ACADA Video.***

Secretary's Report

- March 2022 Meeting Minutes
- ***The group approved the March meeting minutes.***

Treasurer's Report

- March 2022

Revenue:

Interest \$0.04

Expenses:

Bank fees \$ 5.00
Misc. office supplies \$56.97

Boosters:

Senior night \$335.12

Funds Request (Iftar Dinner) \$500
Teacher appreciation \$728.14
Sporting tickets \$250

Balance at end of month: \$42,455.16

The group approved the Treasurer's report.

Committees

- Fundraising
 - Craft Show Fall 2022
 - ***We've received a FB message about the fall craft show.***
 - ***We don't know the latest about the status of the school space in the fall. The new gym and cafeteria are done. We need to do some exploration of the options (space and PTO labor and most realistic options).***
 - ***Laura to make inquiries with the administration. Also, what is the status of PAC reopening?***
- Inclusion and Outreach – ***No update***
- Teacher/Staff Support
 - MAY:

- 5/2-5/6 – Staff Appreciation Week
- **Laura sent a detailed Excel file and Sign Up Genius links this week for various tasks.**
- **Laura has the list of teacher/staff names for thank you cards.**
- The PTO will pay for all expenses upfront and will be reimbursed by the school.
 - \$3,600 for lunch on Friday covered by Employee Wellness
 - \$2,000 covered by JFK
 - \$2,000 covered by MS/HS
 - PTO will pay remaining costs out of the remaining approved dollar amount allocated to teacher/ staff support.

Helping with coffee bus: Chris is getting \$200 from AIG for teacher appreciation week. Meyers also gave us the \$500 donation.

■ JUNE:

- 6/17 (date updated) – Ben and Jerry’s ice cream truck (if not used during staff appreciation week) or other sweet treats.
- Boosters – **Senior blankets 12 @ \$48 = \$540 + shipping and handling. Boosters has about \$100 left in their line item. Where should this extra money come from? Boosters had \$4000 this year that funded senior sports gifts. A lot of the \$\$ went to the buses for MS games this winter. We might still be getting reimbursed for some of the bus \$\$.**
- **Will there be more expenses in addition to blankets? Senior photos (we don’t have an idea yet of how many kids there will be as spring sports are just starting up). Chris estimates \$190.**
- **Chris is able to present another funds request for May. We may also know more about the bus reimbursement at that time. Lucy suggests adding \$1,000 to Boosters line item.**
- **The group approved the additional \$1,000 to be added to the Boosters line item.**
- Events
 - 8th grade move up - Thursday, June 16th, beginning at 5:45pm
 - **Joe confirms that he can do the DJing for this event. We haven’t heard anything about 5th grade move-up.**

Previous Business

- **Joe updated by-laws 4/26 based on this month’s meeting with officers, Joe, and Rosa. [By-laws Updated 4/26](#)**
 - Next Steps: **Post link of most recent updates and vote to approve next month. Nicole Mace to review updated by-laws (Kate to copy her on the email with these minutes).**
 - Action Items
- Banner draft (see below): **We want to add email and FB info. Banner contains 7 different languages spoken in our community.**

- *Where would be good spots to post these? Emily would be a good start.*
- *Can we use the artwork for other things (swag? Website, etc.?)*
- *Lucy will explore an additional banner expressing thanks and appreciation for staff.*

New Business

- Officer elections
 - WSD support
 - *We need volunteers for officer positions, by-laws being updated to expand the pool of eligible candidates.*
 - *Laura talked to Sara Raabe (current PTO contact in Sean's absence) about the reality of our current situation vis-a-vis officers. Also, are there any options for teachers/staff to serve as officers? Sara is going to research best practices but this could take some time.*
 - *If we have two officers, Sara and Emily could help with outreach, etc. over the summer.*
 - *What if we do a 2 and 2 (2 senior members and 2 new members)?*
 - *Can we put a call out for Secretary and Treasurer specifically if Amelie and Laura are willing to stay in their current positions?*
 - *Is there any way to shift the workload to reduce the amount of time/energy needed?*
 - *Rosa suggested classroom reps to whom the PTO could funnel info/comms. This could help build up a resource group. It seems this would take a lot of coordination with the school.*
 - *Perhaps we need to be clearer about the dire state things are at.*
 - *Should we sponsor a meet-up in the park to get some new faces, younger parents (K-3)? Market it before the end of school.*
 - *Rosa and Laura to help get the meet-up groups going. Highlight safe interactions with school. We also need to coordinate with the library.*

Funds Requests

- N/A

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 18

