



**Winooski PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

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

Attendees: Laura Lee, Kate Simone, Lucy D'Aponte, Chris Freije, Joe Smith, Joy Yonan-Renold, Kate Cappleman Sinz, Amelie Thurston, Jessica Audette, Arica Bronz

Welcome/Introductions

- Welcome everyone and introductions
 - Name, pronouns, anything else you'd like the group to know
 - Check-in question: What did you do when it was -10 degrees this weekend?

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.

Secretary's Report

- December 2021 Meeting Minutes
- ***The group approved the December meeting minutes***

Treasurer's Report

- December 2021
- Treasurer's report
- ***NB: Lucy filed taxes for 2021!***

New Business Pt. 1

- [Global Healing Oasis Donation](#) (GoFundMe), Coco: **PTO donated money last month. Marigold House is in Winooski (Hall St.) and is being renovated for community use (including by the school). Coco is a healing justice worker, into wealth redistribution. Working with local contractors and artists (March through June). Contactor is New Frameworks (queer-led, local). Spoke to Winooski Strong recently about how to incorporate school representatives. Have held 6 different offerings this month. Examples of services include listening circles and storytelling. Liberatory framework. How are decisions made about program offerings? There are currently 12 practitioners working together to determine the course of operations.**

Committees

- Fundraising –
 - **DOG SHOW update: Due to the needs of the school and the small size of the PTO membership, it seems to make more sense to support the teachers/staff/students this school year instead of the dog show.**
 - **Easy fundraisers: info on web page for donations, ongoing gofundme page. Gofundme does charge a fee, it's necessary to withdraw funds on a regular basis.**
 - **For Facebook posts, we would have the option to schedule boosting.**
 - **We have a PayPal account. What about Venmo? Can we have both?**
 - **Use events as opportunities for sponsorship (e.g., breakfast for teachers). Need to be clear about intent and could break down into tiers for potential contributors (e.g., \$10 buys 3 breakfasts, \$25 buys 10).**
 - **Joy has some really great ideas and is willing to participate. Who could lead this?**
 - **Amelie can set up a gofundme page. Joe is also willing to draft some language for posting to various spots.**
- Inclusion and Outreach: **No update.**
- Teacher/Staff Support
 - **Feedback on support needs: Helping track down KN-95 masks for younger kids (Laura can reach out to Emily to get more info on that). Providing treats/breakfasts (regularly/weekly?)**
 - **Can we come up with a rough calendar for when we're going to do this in the future?**
 - **Vaccine clinic/volunteers? Are there multiple opportunities? Laura to contact Emily on this.**
 - **Next Friday (1/28) Kate S., Laura, and Lucy will explore distributing breakfast of some kind.**
 - **Next meeting 1/30, 4-6. All are welcome.**

- *Chris mentioned that Costco gives out donations. In the past we've gotten donations for water. He will reach out to them for this. He can also check in with Vermont Bagel. Jess will look into donations from Price Chopper and City Market.*
- Boosters: *Senior Night is coming up for B/G basketball teams. We aren't doing admissions for basketball games this year.*
- Events
- [Calendar](#)

Previous Business

- PTO logo update:
 - Next Steps - *Let's get a banner made. Think about what kind of swag we can use. Lucy and Kate can work on this.*
- [By-laws Review](#)
 - Next Steps: *Review comments/questions. Term limits, voting rights, membership. Comments open until next week. The group will check in before the February meeting. Joe will send around an email to the officers to schedule.*
 - Action Items
- Community Opportunity - Book Group (Kate Grodin and Kayla Loving) (**WSD Priority 3**)
 - [The Little Book of Restorative Justice](#)
 - *This is on hold at the moment.*

New Business

- Teacher concerns/PTO email: *Mary Carlton sent an email to the school board and CC'd PTO regarding concerns about communications from school about change in COVID protocols.*
- Budget Flier: *School asked PTO to write a blurb for the flier that goes out in support of the proposed school budget. The officers feel comfortable stating that the group supports WSD priorities. Specific things they're focusing on include: expanded pre-K (more slots), year round school bus program, and enhanced program. If we're included in the flier, does that mean we implicitly support the budget? The group would need more time/info before approving this. Laura to reach out to Emily to explain that the group as a whole is not comfortable including an article of PTO in the flier without having time to review the piece and the other content.*

Funds Requests

- Andrew Wild (MS Science teacher): Updated request on 1/17 to \$117.68. *New request submitted due to technical issues (needs a wifi-connected device instead of bluetooth). The group approved this request.*
- Chris/Boosters: *Request for funds to cover transportation (premier coach) to middle school basketball games. Amount needed is \$5,710. Boys have 4 away games, girls have 5 away games. Transportation to/from all nine games would be covered. Chris is proposing using \$2,500 from the Boosters line item and is requesting the remainder be*