

Winooski PTO Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 23, 2022

WSD Priorities: 1. Literacy; 2. Capital Project (playground and staff appreciation);

3. Parent/Community Education around Restorative Justice

Attendees: Laura Lee, Kate Simone, Arica Bronz, Michael Eppolito, Daisy Berbeco, Joe Smith, Amelie Thurston, Lucy D'Aponte, Rosa Potts, Jessica Audette

Welcome/Introductions

- Welcome everyone and introductions
 - o Name, pronouns, anything else you'd like the group to know
 - Check-in question: What is your favorite animal and why? Or
 What is a fun fact about yourself you'd like to share with the group?

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." Arica 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

- February 2022 Meeting Minutes
- ACTION: The group approved the February meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report

• February 2022

Revenues:

Interest from Banks

0.04

Expenses:

Boosters Premier bus (\$3,295 total): \$1,670 (partial payment)

Masks \$1,626.40

Funds Request (see bus request) \$ 2,380 (partial payment)

Gifts/Teacher appreciation (V Day) \$ 461

CASH ON HAND \$44,330.35

Lucy suggested adding a line item to the budget in the future for "Donations." ACTION: The group approved the Feb. meeting minutes.

Committees

- Fundraising:
 - Based on calls Laura made, Myers made a \$500 donation to support teacher appreciation week and MLC will also donate something for Teacher Apprecation Week.
 - Chris will also reach out to his contact at AIG.
 - GoFundMe launched (on Facebook, Kate to send link to Emily Hecker to post on WSD PTO page)
 - Hype Nutrition may be open to donating to WSD.
- Inclusion and Outreach
 - No meeting for a while.
- Teacher/Staff Support
 - MARCH:
 - 3/17 Staff lunch from Three Brothers
 - Laura, Arica, Chris: Very well received by T&S. Jaycee and Emily H. also helped. We needed way more food than originally ordered. We ended up placing two additional orders from 3 Brothers.
 - APRIL:
 - 4/11 Grab and Go Breakfast
 - MAY:
 - 5/2-5/6 Staff Appreciation Week
 - Committee meeting held on 3/20 to discuss staff appreciation
 week specifically. WSD admin is providing input and working on
 details of the week. We will meet again once we know specifically
 what they want to keep, change, toss and how much money the
 school has to contribute.
 - \$500 donation from Myers
 - Laura incorporated notes from the 3/21 meeting into a Google doc file shared with administration.

- Jaycee put Sara Raabe's notes into a schedule. Jean, Kate G., Sara contributing to schedule.
- Coffee bus (Meets Coffee): Lucy has a contact. On schedule for Wednesday of TA Week.
- We will follow up with folks who've expressed interest in supporting efforts in future invites to committee meeting.
- JUNE:
 - 6/6 Ben and Jerry's ice cream truck (if not used during staff appreciation week)
- Background on committee: Officers met with WSD administration in summer of 2021 where admin shared district priorities. T/S support was emphasized at that time.
- Survey sent around last year (minimal response).
- Boosters:
 - Lots of gratitude from the school community about \$\$ for buses.
- Events
 - 8th grade moveup 6/16 @ 5:45

Previous Business

- By-laws Review
 - Next Steps
 - Action Items
 - Joe leading off the process. Need to finalize so we can vote on them. These also have implications for officer elections and moving forward for next year.
 - 4/6 @6: Joe, Kate, Laura, and Amelie. Proposed edits need to go into a working document before that meeting.
 - Current by-laws:
 https://www.wsdvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Winooski-PTO-By-Laws
 -2017-amended-April-2018.pdf
 - Comments on by-laws: ☐ PTO By-Laws Review

New Business

- Michael Eppolito Director of Curriculum
 - New ELA and Math Programs
 - 2nd year with WSD.
 - Looking for ways to connect with the community and share information and process around the curriculum.
 - Current literacy process: WSD is currently using Fundations to teach foundational skills. Looking into adopting a new knowledge-building reading program to help students (primarily for elementary and MS students). The current options are:

- 1) Wit and Wisdom: Each school year is broken down into 4 modules.
- 2) Expeditionary Learning. Similar structure to W&W, also KB. Work with a handful of modules/year.
- Goal to make a decision by May.
- For PTO: Are we interested in looking at these or know someone who is interested? Michael would love to hear from folks.
- Joe: What about HS? Michael: The team is working on HS but it will be less obvious (cleaning up behind the scenes and then will move onto talking about the next steps). Joe would like to be involved in these discussions.
- Daisy: Thanks to Michael for going through the process. Is interested in additional info regarding the materials. Suggests reading out to Equity Director who has such good ideas about who to include. Michael is already working with her.
- Arica is also interested in participating. Suggests making sure literacy coaches are included. Who else is at the table? Who is developing the content and what kind of representation is creating the content? How do we make sure we're meeting the students who are behind AND those who are ready for additional challenges.
- Folks interested in pursuing this topic supplied their email addresses in the chat.
- Lucy asked a question about the first slide (Dibble). This assessment took place in February (not pre-COVID).

Officer elections/situation

- Current by-law language includes requirements around who is eligible.
 Should we update the by-laws to change those requirements? Change parameters/barriers to change ratio.
- Language in by-laws reflects 2 years per officer per role.
- Maybe by-laws can be more flexible to help grow the PTO.
- This organization will not be sustainable without expanding membership.
- Daisy: Ensure continuity and transition, conduct individual outreach.
 Increase visibility using social media. She could provide support as needed to help with recruitment efforts.
- Looking at other schools (Milton) and how they manage their PTO.
- Re-examine teacher responsibilities vis-a-vis committee requirements.
- Family members looking for connections with other parents/guardians. Are there older community members? People with skills to offer (e.g., spreadsheets). Daisy is excited about recruitment!

Funds Requests

None

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 27