

Winooski PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 17, 2021

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

Attendees: Kate Cappleman Sinz, Kate Simone, Lucy D'Aponte, Larkin Brown, Joe Smith, Joy Yonan-Renold, Amelie Thurston, Jolivette Anderson-Douoning, Laura Lee, Jess Audette

Welcome/Introductions

- Welcome everyone and introductions
 - Name, pronouns, anything else you'd like the group to know
 - Check-in question: What is your favorite thing about this time of year?

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."

ACTION: *Kate 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.

ACTION: *Laura recapped the PTO agreements.*

Secretary's Report

- October 2021 Meeting Minutes
- **ACTION:** *the group approved the October meeting minutes.*

Treasurer's Report

- October 2021

INCOME

Interest from bank	\$0.04
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EXPENSES

Insurance	\$303.00
Bank fees	\$ 5.00
Boosters/Concessions	\$169.94

Total Expenses **\$477.90**

CASH ON HAND **\$49,707.92**

NOTES:

- *McKee's money coming in for November (almost \$7,000, to be reported out next month).*
- *In November, \$800 will go to the PE department from the Walmart fund.*
- *Spent \$\$ on soccer boys' photos (Boosters).*
- *Donation to Global Majority Healing Department. We haven't written the check yet as Laura and Lucy want to meet with Coco to present her with the info.*
- *Update on requests from teacher stipends to date.*
- ***ACTION:** the group approved the Treasurer's report.*

Committees

- Fundraising:
 - *Kate reported out on the latest dog show meeting (November 14). The group is trying out online project management software (Trello). Arica has connected with Pet Food Warehouse and BEVS as supporters and to help get the word out. We need another judge. Nan Johnson might want to help out with the dog show/judging/etc. Laura and Kate to work on the plan for reaching out to potential vendors*
- Inclusion and Outreach:
 - *Group met this week (November 15). During the multi-stakeholder SRO group meetings, topic was raised about as to why PTO membership isn't more diverse. Laura to reach out to folks. Could we set up a listening session with PTO officers/members as listeners? Kayla Loving is interested in doing these. Could have a hybrid option. Laura to talk with Kalya 11/18.*
 - *Larkin Brown (WSD Multilingual Student Intake and Family Engagement teacher): Mentioned that Kayla had started a series of community restorative justice sessions at the Winooski library. Also asked about the possibility of interpretive services. She is working with the school to get ready to start parent workshops. Heidi McLaughlin (high school guidance) has been wanting to facilitate these (12/4-12/6), starting with info on resources. Could the PTO show up and give a spiel about being involved with the group? These events will be held monthly, so there will be other opportunities. Kate C-S and Larkin to connect.*
- Teacher/Staff Support

- *Laura still waiting for list of names of teacher/staff. Asked Emily for this.*
- *We will do the drawing tonight for those nominated for gift certificates (see below).*
- Boosters
 - *Chris not here, no update.*
- Events
- [Calendar](#)

Previous Business

- PTO logo
 - Imaj is moving forward with finalizing the logo (see below for draft version of the new PTO logo).
 - *Laura to talk with Greta to make sure we get all the files we need.*
 - *We should be able to start using the logo very soon!*
 - *Joy: Use the USPS to get the logo out to the city?*
 - *We should definitely use the logo on our bookmark project.*
- [By-laws Review](#) (e.g., meeting times/dates)
 - No feedback has been received in writing (deadline discussed in October was Nov. 3)
 - *Officers to review and propose changes.*
- Community Opportunity - Book Group (Kate Grodin and Kayla Loving) (**WSD Priority 3**)
 - [The Little Book of Restorative Justice](#)
 - “Community Outreach and Engagement” budget line item (\$700)
 - *Kate S. got some quotes and options from Scout about using their space for at least one event. The goal is to have this outside of staff contract hours. Aiming for first session in early December.*
 - *The school sent out a survey to gauge interest among teachers.*
 - *The staff already have book.*
 - *Can we collaborate with Kayla’s listening circles? Larkin suggested that instead of focusing on the whole book, the group could choose an excerpt that is translated and accessible to all community members to discuss?*
 - *Can we help provide some books for community members as well?*
- [Global Healing Oasis Donation](#) (GoFundMe)
 - *If anyone is interested in meeting with Coco, let Lucy and Laura know.*
- ECHO STEM program (spring 2022?)
 - Interest form submitted
 - *Waiting to hear back about our inquiry.*
- Bookmark competition (**WSD Priority 1**)
 - *Children can design bookmarks. There will be a drawing for mass production of bookmarks and each child will get their own bookmark made.*
 - *Laura met with Michael Eppilto who really likes this idea. Gave Laura some ideas regarding the best way to roll this out.*
- Mergen’s Foundation grant -- Status of application
 - *Laura sent the Google document to officers with draft.*

- ***We'll need to attach financial statement with application.***

New Business

- ***Vaccine clinic for 5-11 year old students yesterday. The school staff worked super hard to make it fun for the kids (Nurse Liz dressed up like a hippo!).***
 - ***One of the challenges was coordinating with parents who were showing up at the school.***
 - ***12/7 is the next vaccine clinic (9-3): school requesting parents or HS volunteers. Could we do Sign-up genius? Laura will circle back with PTO members after she's touched base with the school.***
 - ***Should we do a special appreciation for the health-related staff?***

Funds Requests

- Karen Greene Prom request (see below)
 - Asking for \$500
 - ***Budget for this year is \$1,000 (no vote needed). Last year we spent almost \$800. Can we clarify that we aren't expected to do the decorations. Should we offer them the whole amount or just what we asked for? And let them know if they need more. We will follow up with this!***
 - ***Joe is open to DJ-ing for this.***
- Matt Gile VT Book Awards request (see below) (WSD Priority)
 - ***Laura also spoke to Michael about this.***
 - ***Matt is asking for \$500 for books. This would help cover the purchase of books from each category.***
 - ***ACTION: The group approved \$500 for Matt Gile.***

Teacher/Staff Recognition Drawing (for 2 \$50 gift certificates to Misery Loves Company):

- ***Holly Harrington***
- ***Amanda Chung***

ACTION: Kate S. to email e-cards to Holly and Amanda after the meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15 (***Can we meet in person at school?***)



Karen Greene

to me, Heidi ▾

Thu, Nov 4, 2:11 PM (8 days ago)



Hello Laura and PTO;

I am reaching out to see if the PTO would be able to help support this years' prom by helping us with the cost of the buses? We are planning on holding it at The Mansfield Barn in Underhill on May 7th, from 7-10 pm. The students and I are so excited to be able to do a prom this year. We will be doing several fundraisers to keep the ticket prices as low as possible so as many students can afford to go. Any support you could provide will be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Karen

--

Karen Greene · WMHS Student Services

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Matt Gile
to me ▾

10:54 AM (1 hour ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

Hello Winooski PTO!

I'm launching a VT Book Award voting program and I was wondering if the PTO would be willing to sponsor! There are 3 State book awards in VT, the [Red Clover award](#) for elementary, the [Golden Dome](#) (formerly Dorthy Canfield Fisher) for middle grades, and the [Green Mountain Book Award](#) for high school. The awards are run by the Dept of Libraries and winners of each are voted on by VT Students! Would the PTO be willing to sponsor an order of the nominees for the library? Ordering the books we don't already have in the library would cost about \$500, but any amount of support would be appreciated.

I would also like to host an event at the end of the year for all the students that participated and voted, and I would love the PTOs help organizing and promoting.

Thank You!

--

Matt Gile · Librarian

pronouns: he/him/his

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