



**PTO Executive Committee Virtual Board Meeting**  
December 2, 2020

**Attendees:** Beth Carmody (Principal), Sara Dahlstrom (President), Nissa Cox (Vice President), Sandra Carlson (Treasurer), Brenda Miller (Assistant Treasurer), Annie Cudney (Communications), Amy Kay (Communications), Nicole Roberts (Secretary)

Call to order at 9:03am.

**Approval of 11/11/20 Virtual Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes emailed. Annie motions to approve. Brenda seconds. All in Favor. So moved.  
**\*11/11/20 Minutes saved to Drive. Nicole will send 12/2/20 minutes by 12/9/20.**

**11/24/20 School Board Meeting Update – Nicole Roberts**

Likely two weeks of remote instruction after winter break. Strategic planning resumes in February. Since Covid uptick, 50% of planning time is for hybrid, 15% for extended in person and 35% for full remote. Next meeting, Board will vote on allowing superintendent to require non-invasive Covid testing of employees or students at Board's expense. No intent to require testing currently. 82% of survey respondents would allow child to be screened (4% said no, 13% unsure). 70% of staff respondents indicated that student screening would give them greater peace of mind and that they would also be interested in staff screening (10% not interested, 20% unsure). Board narrowly approved a screening pilot (antigen test) of 50 students and 50 staff member volunteers at Washburne, potentially during return from winter break. Administrative resources will need to be diverted from other areas for pilot.

FY 2022 tax levy will be on 12/15/20. Expect drop in D36 tax portion (though overall tax bill may rise for other reasons). Levy request reduced by 4.38% due to retired debt service from refinancing and money the schools gave back. Covid impact felt in FY 2023, set by this year's CPI (expected to decrease over 1%). 2.7m budgeted for Covid expenses. Possible future referendum for 4-5M in additional funding for FY 2024.

109 full remote students in K-8, plus 122 temporary. 17 pods flexed to remote. 1% of students shifted to remote in second trimester. Our learners are on track to master critical grade level curriculum. One or two weekly SEL concerns through Crisis Go per building. Remote learning remains challenging with special ed students. Increasing check points with staff. Improvement in meeting target homework times. Elementary workload well calibrated. Remote teachers created resource document and website for

sharing remote learning practices. Washburne increased access to teachers during advisory hours. After school help center runs daily. Updated streaming procedures for seamless transition to remote.

Board approved money for new water heater and hiring of Denise Mathews as Director of Students Services, Inclusion, and Equity.

### **Principal's Report – Beth Carmody**

School governed by IDPH, so recently issued CDC guidance will not shorten post winter break quarantine unless adopted by IDPH. PTO can ask parents to stay informed about quarantine procedures using the Item. School has full remote plan in place, but instruction during post winter break quarantine will likely follow the current hybrid time schedule. Consistency is important for students, staff, and parents. Some virtual fieldtrips may be included to enhance learning and offer screen breaks for instructors. A half day on Monday, January 11, may be needed to allow time for teacher planning.

IDPH determines need for and duration of any class quarantine based on time of symptom onset. One class was recently required to quarantine for two days as a result.

Staff appreciated video thanking them. PTO on track to bring holiday checks, in usual amount, to school on December 14th.

Beth will post excerpts from new family Q&A on website to give glimpse into HW. Beth has been corresponding with two international families planning to move here.

### **President's Report – Sara Dahlstrom**

**Spirit Wear:** Second sale brought in \$3,000.

**Movie Night:** Kristen Ellis organizing. Teachers will distribute treats. PTO will promote event with “dress as your favorite character” day.

**MLK Day:** Jessalyn Garvey exploring options. Covid protocols complicate service project. Considering a diversity and inclusion speaker for all elementary students. Perhaps Friday assembly accompanied by reading materials and project suggestions on Schoology. Jessalyn can contact Beth Martin and Trisha Kocanda for speakers.

**Magician:** Requests date change to January (TBD, perhaps mid-day show).

**Book Fair:** \$7,700 in sales as of yesterday (45%, roughly \$3500, in funds for books to RC). Amy has teacher wish list books to deliver. RC will receive same percentage of subsequent orders.

**\*Item will run themed Book Fair adds with link (“order for holiday delivery,” etc.).**

**WGST:** Celebrated 2500th episode. Gary Wendt provided wish list of items to update, including blazers. Need IT help to outsource archiving and develop process for saving new material. Also need to redo studio to be student driven. Teachers currently given nominal stipend for running WGST. PTO can explore ways to support teacher involvement. This year, school may offer every fourth grader one opportunity to film. Additional opportunities will require funding. Artist in Residence funds are only temporary. **\*Beth will talk to Brad Goldstein about whether developing this**

**program in the other elementary schools is desired. Beth will copy Annie on tech communications to streamline Item request for community archiving help.**

PTO will develop fundraising campaign around WGST. Showing past episodes could attract interest, perhaps a montage prepared for release next year. **\*Sara will ask Gary for new permissions to show first episode.**

**Treasurer's Report – Sandra Carlson**

Sara connected with Sandy previously.

**Vice President's Report – Nissa Cox**

Nissa asking room parents to contact teachers about end of the year party/activities.

Nissa will draft email notifying RP that PTO teacher gift only supports the holiday check, and send to Sara for review. Room parents reached out to new families in their pods.

Many positive connections.

**\*Nissa will determine procedure for physical gifts to teachers and staff, including those outside of child's class, and share that information.**

**\*Nicole will submit Yearbook Item blurb requesting pictures from Movie Night and the winter holidays.**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:50am.