



PTO Executive Committee Board Meeting
November 3, 2021

Attendees: Beth Carmody (Principal), Nissa Cox (President), Anne Babick (Vice President), Anna Anderson (Treasurer), Amy Kay (Communications), Michelle Cullen (Assistant Communications), Elke Rehbock (Assistant Treasurer), Jessica Newell (Secretary), Sara Dahlstrom (2020/21 President)

Call to order at 9:00am.

President's Report – Nissa Cox

District strategic plan is out for 2021-2025.

Bike safety - fall focus was on Skokie/Washburn. The spring will focus on bike safety for elementary schools. A bike safety rep from HW will be at future meetings.

Green Team - Mary Anne Melchoir has offered to be the chair. She'll go to future meetings.

Community outreach opportunity with the Greater Chicagoland Food Depository Food Drive for December.

Jessalyn Garvey is charing MLK Day of Service in January. Plans TBD. Meeting with a group of teachers this week to discuss.

Conferences - grateful for the teachers and staff for their time. Notes/treats for the teachers were well received.

World Travelers - Colombia was a hit! Maria Shideler did a great job. Next meeting Thursday night with the committee (5 people) to discuss the next country. Thought is Iran with the Sani family.

New Parent coffee - good turnout, approx 20 families attended. It was a nice check-in option for new families. Recommended to do this again next year, a week after conferences. Make it an annual thing.

Fall Cleanup - fun, productive, new families showed up!

Halloween/Ghost walk - classroom parties and Ghostwalk held indoors due to inclement weather. The teachers currently make the decision on who/how many can come and help.

Beth will be facilitating Winnetka Parent Institute (WPI) 11/4 at 9:30 am "Navigating Difficult Conversations" on Friday zoom.

PTO event: Yoga Sculpt taking place on 11/12 @ 8:45am. Going to make a push for RSVP's to get a general headcount but an RSVP is not required to attend.

Secretary Report - Jessica Newell | Approval of 10/6/21 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes emailed ahead of the meeting for review. Elke motioned to approve. Amy Seconded. All in favor. Minutes are moved.

Spirit wear was a success! So far no complaints or issues. A few items are backordered.

Sara looking into snow hats for a winter sale.

Principal's Report - Beth Carmody

Institute Day was great.

Working on SEL development with students. There's a group who are having a hard time transitioning back to school. Being referred to as "Pandemic flux".

Having a meeting Wednesday, 11/4 to discuss the US News & World Report school ranking results. They took data from IAR tests done 2 years ago (2019). HW ranks #648 in Illinois based on those testing results. The testing process consists of students on iPads for 5 days, 60-90 minutes. Testing is for 3rd/4th graders only.

Teacher Representative Report - Gary Wendt

Winter showcase taking place on Dec 13, 14, 15. We need volunteers to help hang art before the show. Jude Bamshad will reach out with times and Nissa will help coordinate.

4th grade chorus starts next Tuesday at 8am.

Vice President's Report – Anne Babick

School board meeting: strategic plan, fine arts curriculum resuming after 2020 pause, Right at School program before/after school (42 students) don't need funding.

Room parents - halloween celebrations went well.

Fall Cleanup - 50 people, 37 bags filled. Planted 15 new plantings in the butterfly garden. Lots of weeding. Planters done. School looks great!

Professional fall cleanup is scheduled and will be funded by PTO.

Meeting with landscape designers for NE corner ideas as well as ideas to bring together the front of the school.

Treasurer's Report – Ana Anderson & Elke Rehbock

Nothing to report.

Communications Report – Amy Kay & Michelle Cullen

Book fair will be held in person. Dates are: Nov 17th 2-8pm and Nov 18th 8-10am.

We are working to limit the amount of people congregating inside the RC and want to market that we are trying to keep numbers down. We will also offer an online shopping option. We will have a "Reader's Spirit Week" to drive enthusiasm with the students. There will be a theme every day related to a book.

Next Meetings:

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 16th (Anna)

Next Exec. Meeting: Wednesday, December 1st (Elke)

Meeting adjourned at 10:44am.