



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

Willard PTG Meeting

June 6, 2022

Attendance

Liz Colgan, Kaitlyn Whittier, Jon Smith, Robin Baughman, Jamie Ring, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Colleen Currier, Janet King, Tracy DeTora, Amy Casher, Susannah Benner, Kristen Lester, Yumi Suarez, Matt Lucey, Chelsea Chaudhary, Erika Woodhouse, Matt Taylor, Lee Halloran

Presidents' Welcome and Recap - Liz Colgan

Meeting called to order at 9:35am. Welcome to final PTG meeting of the year. We are wrapping up field day today-first time in 3 years we've been able to hold field day including parent volunteers- thanks to Katie Small and Wendy Krayser for coordinating! Starting now to plan for a 2022-23 calendar of events since we are hopeful we can host a full year of our regular activities. Thanks to all for a great year and for being flexible and bringing such great energy to the PTG.

Principal and Teacher Update- Matt Lucey and Jon Smith

Matt Lucey:

Thanks to Liz and Robin for their strong leadership during this school year which was one of transitions and required flexibility and thoughtfulness. We had a set of unique circumstances to navigate. Kindergarten parents were here last week and Mr. Lucey shared with them this is the best PTG group he's ever worked with so thank you to everyone that is part of the team's efforts. Training has begun for new hires for 2022-23 school year. David Corbett new PE teacher (coming from Marlborough) has been hired and Ms. Cole will be staying on as first grade teacher. Additional staff announcements will come before the start of the school year.

Sharing of the school improvement plan highlights. Four main areas highlighted (with some examples) for next year

1. Multiple paths of success

- a. Star 360 initiative helping to manage progress of students and also helps to identify dyslexia earlier.



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

- b. Language based needs use Wilson based approach (10 staff are certified in this program). Letters/sounds/reading. Willard focuses on science of reading, Foundations helps to identify these needs in each student. Utilizing the Ready to Rise program as part of intervention.
 2. Well-being (physical and mental health of staff and students)
 - a. Piloting a program called Dessa. Helps to monitor social well-being. Will assess 1 classroom per grade in hopes that it will help us identify how we can effectively support kids with different needs- what can be managed by teacher in the classroom versus requiring outside support/resources.
 - b. Responsive classroom – sense of community within a space. This is why we greet each child by name, we learn details of each child to address them as an individual (how is your instrument going, how is soccer, etc.)? Staff training to continue for this program.
 - c. DEI work is a commitment by the staff as well. Working through case studies/real life examples to strengthen our school community.
 - d. ALICE training is continuing for school safety and more details will be coming out in the fall on this measure.
 3. Inclusive culture
 - a. When international day was implemented, it was a watershed moment for our community. We strive to ensure each family feels a sense of belonging here at Willard.
 - b. Continuing with cultural competency club and book club for staff. New this year, school will be distributing an all-grade read for incoming 5th graders around care/empathy. Curriculum and library texts are all being assessed to ensure they represent an authentic culture.
 - c. Working with Andrew Nyamekye, DEI lead for the district, to have a teacher identified as school lead to support this work and keep the Willard staff informed and involved.
 - d. Working with restorative justice program
 - e. Continuing with our diversity in hiring commitment.
 4. Innovative environment
 - a. Keeping up with project based learning



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

- b. Establishing permanent outdoor learning areas
- c. Development of *Language and Beyond Classroom* in partnership with Landmark School
- d. Celebrate cultural and family celebrations (for example, during Ramadan- teacher sitting and socializing with students who are fasting in the classroom)
- e. Quiet Space opportunity at events*

*Erika Woodhouse provided the following update specific to the Quiet Area which she has led since its inception. It started with wanting to create an opportunity for all children to participate in school events while also having a chance to have a break and then re-enter the space. The area includes fine motor activities, bean bag chair, rain stick, etc. Part of our goal is to help people to be aware of the different needs of the community. Great success in the events we've held that had the space offered and we have identified 4 major annual events where this space is critical (i.e. science fair, international festival)...We have an equipment box to use in the space, but we are in need a stronger volunteer core- can we look at high school students or local college students? It's plug and play and just need to find some volunteers while also improving messaging for the community.

Mr. Smith: Elementary students really look forward to certain events and milestones during their time at Willard, many of which are hosted by PTG. Kids are always energetic on days when these events are happening. International day, ice cream social, spelling bee, etc... Just shows what a great community we have here. As a teacher, you want the kids to feel like these events are the biggest thing ever and they really do look forward to the opportunities that PTG creates for the Willard community. Teachers are using the funds we provide for many year-end activities. Teacher lounge activities are a favorite (so grateful for providing food items where teachers can gather and connect).

PTG Committee Updates

Spring Fling Recap- Tracy DeTora and Susannah Benner



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

Everyone agrees this was an incredibly well attended and successful event; group discussion about any suggestions or changes to consider for next year. Goal of community building was accomplished. Can we incorporate alternative pay options (venmo, etc.) for raffle tickets? Perhaps we charge for subsidized ice cream. Next year we will look to make drinking water available- can reserve water trough from the town if we want to explore that option. Timing of the year as well as afternoon time block worked well.

Staff Appreciation Update- Lee Halloran

Catered lunch from Wegman's this Friday; gifting each teacher a bread from Nashoba bakery. Will survey staff about preferences for next year's efforts.

Charity and Service –Janet King

Please share any ideas with charity@willardptg.org

As this is our first year of having this committee, wanted to review our accomplishments from the past year:

October- Halloween candy drive- 400lbs of candy donated for troops

November- 5th grade service bags made for Open Table

December – coat drive- we collected most coats of any Concord school- CMS won grand prize of \$2500 and is sharing some of that with Willard.

January- Souperbowl / Halfway Day \$464 collected for Open Table

February- Valentine's for community members

March- NuDay Ukrainian Supply Drive

April- Spring cleaning/white bin donations

May- 5th grade service day with 4 options for students (Gaining Ground, Harvey

Wheeler flower boxes, Council on Aging bulletin boards, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail)

5th Grade Committee- Robin Baughman

Everything is on track. Parent Social very successful with about 45 attendees. Held at a home with desserts/drinks. Students are going to Thoreau for a pool party Thursday with a rain date of Friday. Traditional celebration day next Tuesday which will include a slide show, students given their certificates and families are invited. Annual clap out on the last day of school (Wednesday the 15th). Yearbooks will be distributed next week.



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

Treasurer's Report -Colleen Currier

Busy month- Incoming funds: Amazon smile check, donation bin proceeds (\$500), Box tops, Raffle basket tickets sales. Outgoing funds: Assembly costs are being paid out, teachers have been sending in year-end expenses, 5th grade events, flowers for service committee, PTG insurance, library book purchases, Parent social costs, spring fling costs, teacher appreciation costs.

General Comments/Questions

Willard Weekly feedback- can we consider shorter blasts? Or change the formatting to include highlights at the top?

Grade level opportunity to engage parents versus school wide to help with communication about events, PTG involvement? Parent social may be moved back to the fall which would help with that.

Loved that field day was done by grade level (From parent volunteer perspective)

Board Member Officers for 2022-2023

Liz puts forth motion to vote on new slate officers, Robin Baughman seconds the motion. All approved.

Co-President: Robin Baughman and Kristen Lester

Vice President- Kaitlyn Whittier

Treasurer- Colleen Currier

Secretary- Jamie Ring

Meeting adjourned at 11:11am