



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

Willard PTG Meeting

April 5, 2021

Attendance

Janet King, Liz Colgan, Rebecca Lemaitre, Colleen Currier, Alex Ruhmann, Tracy DeTora, Robin Baughman, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Samantha Jaddou, Meagan MacNutt, Susannah Benner, Alexa Anderson

President's Welcome & Recap (Janet King)

- March meeting Minutes were approved and posted to the [PTG website](#).
- In honor of Homa Tavangar's speech for International Festival, the PTG purchased a set of her Global Kids cards (from local publisher Barefoot Books) for every classroom and the library, as well as for each family who presented. Thank you to Sharim Afnan for the idea!
- We now have PTG logo stickers that can be used for Book Fair gifts to teachers and other events. It is on file at AlphaGraphics for future printing.
- Thanks to Matt Lucey for his schoolwide email in support of the PTG and about the Annual Appeal, and which resulted in several more donations.
- Janet officially welcomes Robin Baughman as the Board's new Auxiliary Member.
- The Board votes on printing costs for a book that will feature a work of art from every student at Willard (title TBA). Susannah asks if the art is to be done at home or in school, and it will be the latter. Sydney Pressley will take pictures in school. Parents can choose to opt out their child. Janet motions for a vote to approve the budget for the book and Robin seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Talent Show (Alex Ruhmann)

- 6 people have signed up as announcers, and 7 groups have signed up for acts.
- Logo competition winners is a (first-ever!) tie between 5th graders Camy Cox and Emily Perrotta.



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- Alex raises a larger discussion about declining participation at all PTG events, even pre-dating COVID. The group discusses if it would be helpful to have a principal's message in each Willard Weekly, as with the previous administration, or other ways to boost readership/participation rates.
- Susannah suggests having all communication arrive in the Willard Weekly, instead of the multiple emails that currently go out. Sam confirms that past issues of the Weekly are on website, but many parents might not know this. Open rate for the Weekly has been consistently 50% back to 2018.
- Possibility is raised of each grade taking ownership of an activity next year i.e. kindergartners = Game Night, 1st grade = Math Night. Alex discusses how engaging parents is the biggest challenge since teachers are already so busy. Robin offers perspective from a previous school's PTO with overall more engagement, and suggests a social media presence.

Social Committee (Meagan MacNutt)

- K-2 Parent Socials: These were postponed due to a conflict. Consensus is that the event should be rescheduled sooner rather than later. Room parents will email their classes and see what night works best the week of April 12-15. Thank you Meagan and Darcy for organizing these events!
- Kindergarten popsicle party: We'll need to write a COVID safety plan if the event is held on Willard grounds. Alexa confirms that other schools are allowed to meet at local playgrounds. Decision is made to table the event until August; given all of the back to school communication in August, Matt Lucey could integrate the popsicle party and other info into one email.

5th Grade Committee (Susannah Benner)

- All 5th graders including remote learners now have their t-shirts (thank you Susannah!). Yearbooks are coming together and Candace Root has come on board as tech advisor.
- We're in a holding pattern on a few events like the Clap Out until the date in June is closer
- Sydney Pressley has agreed to be the liaison between PTG and 5th grade classrooms



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Willard Weekly & Website (Sam Jaddou)

- Updates to website: Talent Show logo competition coming off; 5th grade celebration info to be added.
- Group discusses the idea of a “welcome package” button to add to front page of the PTG website; please send ideas for what should be included.
- Robin and Sam will look into a social media account for PTG, encompassing Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Treasurer's Report/Annual Appeal (Colleen Currier)

- Annual Appeal now has donations from 103 families and matches from 9 companies, with net just under \$25,000 after expenses.
- Finances this month included: teacher reimbursements, 5th grade t-shirts, banner and stickers for PTG use, Global Kids cards for classrooms

Staff appreciation (Robin Baughman)

- Administrative professionals will enjoy lunch ordered in on Staff Appreciation Day.
- Bus drivers to enjoy a grab-and-go from Dunkin Donuts and gift cards. Students will also make cards in the classroom for their drivers.
- Teacher Appreciation Week: planning includes a make-your-own flower bouquet, cupcakes, and one larger item TBD. We are consulting with Thoreau and Alcott for an end of the year idea, perhaps including a food truck or coffee truck service.

Next meeting May 3, 2021, 7 p.m., Zoom