



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

Willard PTG Meeting

December 7, 2020

Attendance

Janet King, Liz Colgan, Rebecca Lemaitre, Carolyn Hallinan, Tracy DeTora, Todd Benjamin, Susannah Benner, Colleen Currier, Matt Lucey, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Robin Baughman, Meagan MacNutt, Sarah Bettencourt, Alex Ruhmann, Jeanne Fahey, KC Camp

Welcome & Recap (Janet King)

- Janet welcomes everyone to the meeting.
- October Minutes were approved via email and are now posted on PTG website
- Willard hosted a table at Concord Rec's drive-thru Halloween. Thank you to Susannah Benner, Tracy DeTora, Sue Reynolds and Sydney Pressley for handing out candy!
- 5th grade food drive collected 1,200 pounds of food. Thank you Meagan MacNutt & 5th Grade Committee!
- Book fair wrapped up, and all teacher wish list books were purchased. Thank you Darcy H-P and Rebecca Comjean! Darcy adds that Silver Unicorn bookstore called it their most successful virtual event to date.
- Pinwheels were huge success, thank you Susannah Benner!
- Maura Torre helped start the Box Tops holiday contest. Stuffed animals from past Willard carnival might be the prizes for winning classroom.
- Sad news of the passing of Willard dad Patrick Mahicka; the PTG sent Concord gift cards to the family.
- Board meeting schedule has been announced for remainder of school year; Janet extends a thank you to past presidents and the current board for keeping things going through this pandemic. On to 2021!

Social Committee (Meagan MacNutt & Darcy H-P)



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- Meagan presents idea to make Beach Blanket Bingo virtual; apps for Bingo exist but the limit would be 30 families per Zoom.
- Susannah suggests having each Zoom be by class. Discussion about Kahoot for grades 3-5 and Bingo for grades K-2.
- Alex suggests room parents can help coordinate and/or fill the need for more volunteers (number calling, writing down prize winners).
- Plans are underway for January parent class Zoom socials; still sorting through the details.

Principal Update (Matt Lucey)

- Much of the work now is attending to health & safety needs; Mr. Lucey reinforces how spectacular the parent community has been. He recognizes the frustration for those who've had to quarantine or test, calls everyone's patience/willingness to work with Willard extraordinary.
- Good news: No transmission at school, the protocols are working. 1/3 of the way through the year!
- Board of Health nurse Tracy McGean has not seen at-school transmission in any of the four towns where she works. Next challenge will be winter break; reminder that if you leave the state you need to be tested when you return before coming back to school.
- Staff can no longer park at White Pond and now will park on local side streets, with approval of Concord Police.
- School Improvement Plan is going to be on broader themes this year as each relates to meeting the challenges of the COVID pandemic. Areas include: paths to success; inclusive culture; and innovative environment. These presentations will be at next week's School Committee meeting.
- Alex asks about logistics of snow days. Moving forward, a snow day will be a remote learning day instead.

Fundraising (Susannah Benner)

- Pinwheels netted \$500, only 17 are leftover. The link to purchase will be pulled from the website.
- Minted and Shutterfly are underway; Minted provides updates and has raised \$850 so far.
- Overall we've had \$3,600 in direct fundraising this year, including ad sales.
- Raffle baskets will likely be organized in spring. The group discusses how raffles are accessible, versus auctions and the worry some families could outbid others. These will be classroom raffle baskets.



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Staff Appreciation (Robin Baughman)

- Gratitude Garden came out wonderful with over 100 rocks painted and donated. Rocks can still be added any time.
- Next gift for the teachers will be commemorative coffee mugs. These will be stuffed with candy and have a cute saying (TBA!) just before holiday break. Thank you Lauren Endicott and family for collecting the rocks and coming up with the mug design!
- Possible idea for 2021: Teachers can make Amazon Wishlists for mid-year supplies.

Room Parents (Colleen Currier)

- All spots are filled, including remote rooms. Special thank you to Sarah Bettencourt for taking two rooms!

International Festival (Rebecca Lemaitre)

- Announcement will go into Willard Weekly this Thursday letting families sign up for a weekday Zoom event or country presentation on Saturday Feb. 27
- Homa Tavanger to deliver keynote to parents on Monday night Zoom to kick things off.

Talent Show (Alex Ruhmann)

- Logo competition for the Program will kick off in January. Further details are TBD!

Treasurer (Colleen Currier)

- Annual Appeal is up to \$14,000 from 74 families. Thank you to all who have donated and please look into company matches!
- Overall, PTG is halfway to fundraising goal for year
- Expenses likely to total more than \$35,000 with much of that going to teacher funds, 5th Grade celebration, and Staff Appreciation. Assemblies are not an expected expense this year.

SEPAC update (Sarah Bettencourt)

- At a recent SEPAC meeting it came up that there are class parents for the sub separate programs at Thoreau. SEPAC is interested in the idea of having class parents for the sub separate programs at Willard. Since class parents are under the umbrella of the PTGs, rather than SEPAC, Sarah Bettencourt brought this idea to the Willard PTG



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Questions

- Todd Benjamin asks about the PTG's role with regards to getting kids back in the classroom fulltime.
- Janet and Matt Lucey explain that the PTG is a non-profit dedicated to uniting the community through social events, enrichment, and staff appreciation. It is a support committee, not a policy one.
- The School Committee and superintendent Laurie Hunter can answer any further questions.

****Next meeting**** January 4, **2021**, 7 p.m., Zoom