



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

Willard PTG Meeting

September 14, 2020

Attendance

Janet King, Alex Ruhmann, Colleen Currier, Matt Lucey, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Susannah Benner, Liz Colgan, Robin Baughman, Rebecca Lemaitre

- Janet welcomes everyone to first meeting, grateful for our time because the current situation is nuts!

Approve Minutes (Janet King)

- Motion to approve March minutes, Alex seconds. Minutes are approved.

Teacher Fund (Janet King)

- Janet proposed an increase to the Teacher Fund from \$9110 to \$12,000
- These are classroom funds allowing staff to buy whatever will help them teach. If teachers go through the district it can take a long time. PTG reimburses after they submit their receipts.
- Liz seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

Principal's Report (Matt Lucey)

- 87% of kids are back in the building – a great start!
- Reminds us that the planning began last May and Willard was able to open even if it looks a lot different thanks to so many individuals. Asks what questions the PTG has/feedback from parents
- Alex voices the concern that teachers have to park far away. Lucey explains the need for year-round surface. Staff can drop off their bags and supplies.



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

- First fire drill will be this morning at 10.15, the only time kids don't use designated doors.
- There hasn't been a single mask issue.
- Reminder that school is rolling out the technology for each student, and asking for people's patience.
- This week was about getting kids back in door and feeling safe. The school has so far avoided illnesses.
- Alex asks about the plan if there is not a spike in cases, for Willard to go back full-time. Willard can go all remote if needed, or quickly move forward to more students in-person. Next chance to reevaluate will come in November.
- Biggest challenge will be lunch, which likely can't happen until a vaccine. The other big challenge is Specials teachers who would be "super spreaders", teaching all 417 students.
- Darcy passes on the gratitude that parents are feeling.
- Half the students are being driven. It has been slow, safe, and good!
- Susannah asks about the COVID screening check-in app. Willard did not register for the app (an added expense). Lucey believes there is an option at high school to use a smart device and will let people know how to do this.
- New staff: Alison Corwin in front office. New K teacher Tatiana Cochis. Elise LaCroix is covering 4th grade this year for Robin McManus. Amy Delaney is a long-term sub.

Fundraising (Susannah Benner)

- In lieu of Parent Social, Susannah suggests selling pinwheels in green and white school colors. These would be 9 inches wide mylar
- Alcott and Thoreau could participate with their school colors. The effort would create school spirit and unite students at home with those learning in-person
- Ordering 500 costs \$2,000; price-point for selling is debated, somewhere between \$10 and \$15. Would need to sell 120 to 160 to break even.



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

- Idea is proposed to package these for businesses like Sorrentos.
- Lucey loves the idea: visible and creative. It could be a town-wide effort if Fenn, CMS etc. come on board
- Payment would be through Paypal, contactless
- Discussion of option to purchase for families who can't afford the pinwheels. There would need to be a sign-up mechanism and a way for these families to pick up, which the Counselor would have to coordinate
- 2 Directory ads have sold for a total of \$625 with other potential ads in the works. We should meet the goal of \$1600.

Parent Social (Suasnah Benner)

- Meagan MacNutt and Darcy Heintz-Perkins had the idea to offer a bottle of wine/boxed dinner and do individual class Zoom nights.
- Room parents could set up each Zoom. Room parents will be filled by Tuesday September 15.
- The Auction has been tabled until November/December. Alex cautions that auctions do better in person because it's more social. Susannah points to other online versions that have done well.
- Need to look into legal rules: an online raffle is gambling under federal law but an online auction is not.

Book Fair (Darcy Heintz-Perkins)

- Will be virtual, Oct. 19-23, partnering with local business Silver Unicorn Bookstore. Darcy will provide further update.

Communications (Sam Jaddou)

- Sam asks that all Board members/committee chairs review perspective pages on website and let Sam know if edits are required
- All PTG board/committee chairs have new Gmail accounts; documents should migrate to Google Meet and Google Drive
- Willard Weekly submission deadline is Tuesday at 5 pm



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

- Sam would like to propose we all reimagine the value we can add to the community during the pandemic, whether sharing remote learning templates, car-pooling etc.

Recap (Janet King)

- Cancelled events from spring included: Talent Show, Family Math Night, Pajama Jam, Raffle, all Before and After school classes, 5th grade pool party, and more
- We had just started composting in February (thank you to Candace Root!) but now on hold
- Managed to have a 5th grade car parade (thank you to Matt Lucey!)
- Thank you to room parent coordinators (Tracy DeTora and Colleen Currier) for making end-of-year gift giving easy and safe
- Thank you to Gwen Shipley and Katie Lyneis for organizing the ordering of school supplies
- PTG Budget meeting on Zoom in May, but decision was made to wait until September to approve the numbers
- Janet was part of Dr. Hunter's task force over the summer
- Sam Jaddou set up G-Suite on Google for Willard PTG
- Peony Keave moved away, Darcy Heintz-Perkins was voted in as new V.P.
- Susan Wagner enrolled in diff. school so will not be on Board as Past President
- Welcome to new Treasurer Colleen Currier and new Secretary Rebecca Lemaitre
- New expense line added to budget called the "Counselor Fund" which is set aside for families in need. This can be accessed confidentially for any PTG related items and events. The Board approved this over email.

Staff appreciation (Robin Baughman)

- Karisa Lorenz made planters that say "We're Willard" and are filled with mums. Planning to distribute today or tomorrow to all classrooms



WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

- Other suggestions: shuttle service in inclement weather from parking lot; buffet lunches or food truck. Reasons to be Cheerful has an ice cream truck.
- Thoreau School ordered blank yard signs and had kids decorate them, a possibility for Willard also

New Families (Janet King)

- Thank you to Kim Dolliver and Jess Hartz!
- 20 new families agreed to be contacted and received gift bags

Other Updates (Janet King)

- Willard Directory is on track for October
- Committee Chairs know they don't have to hold their event. Most can be moved to spring, held virtually, or cancelled this year
- School Photo Day will be May 13 (thank you Meagan MacNutt and Meredith Benvenuto!)

****Next Meeting**** October 19 at 7 pm, Zoom