



# WILLARD PTG

Communication | Enrichment | Community

## **Willard PTG Meeting**

**September 13, 2021**

### Attendance

Liz Colgan, Colleen Currier, Matt Lucey, Jamie Ring, Robin Baughman, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Susannah Benner, Karisa Lorenz, Meagan MacNutt, Janet King, Yumi Suarez, Tracy DeTora, Amy Casher, Kristen Lester, Kieran Nicholson, Matt Taylor, KC Camp, Roisin Carr, Kathryn McKenna, Emily Lines, Juli Davenport, Miriam Crowley, Kate Isaacs, Carly Bari, Erika Woodhouse, Adrienne Principe, Lauren Manthripragada, Jeanne Fahey, Erica Taylor, Reem, Jamie Patterson, Elizabeth, Gargi C

### Presidents' Welcome and Recap - Liz Colgan / Robin Baughman

Welcome back! Liz shared a big thank you to staff, teachers, and PTG /volunteers for all their efforts getting us going with back to school.

Updates to the PTG Board- Robin Baughman stepping into Co-President role, Susannah Benner joining board as Fundraising Chair, vote on new VP to occur later in meeting.

Introductions by board members and committee chairs to the group

### Principal and Teacher Update - Matt Lucey

Thank you to the PTG for ongoing contributions and working together to create a strong Willard community. Students are acclimating, but this year we have a bit less of a roadmap because we need to be revisiting policies every two weeks and there are changing guidelines. For instance, last week the DESE announced that virtual schooling wouldn't count towards school year, so we are now planning on how to manage. Next iteration of district guidance will come out this week about what we do now (i.e., test and stay program with onsite covid testing provided if positive case in a classroom versus virtual learning).

Plans are in place for school improvement plan but need to be updated.



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Mr. Lucey asking for PTG to announce/advertise 2 new members of Willard school council. If we only have 2 candidates, no need for election but if we have more than 2 we will have an election held via online survey. Time commitment is to meet for 1 hour, 6 times/year with a focus on the school improvement plan. It is a two year appointment and the council is comprised of 2 faculty members, 2 parents, 1 community member and Mr. Lucey.

Continue to modify and update COVID practices including pool testing. Last year, when we started pool testing, we independently contracted with the Broad Institute because town had the resources to do so. This year it's a statewide approach and there is a delay with contracting. Hoping for rollout the week of September 20, 2021. One class has had to quarantine so far and that class was able to have virtual learning because it occurred before the new DESE guidance came out. Overall, it is so good to have everyone back. Students are excited to make new friends.

Last year's remote learning academy was led by school specialists and now we are back to having those specialists doing work with small groups of students based on need- our school resources are back to that level of support.

Open circle has been a part of Willard for years however Open Circle is going out of business. Willard will be using that program this year and then during the school year investigating replacement programs. Plan is to get back to classroom exercises like pen pals and buddy programs to increase class interconnectivity. Also doing deep dives at interventions for struggling readers- fortunate to have several certified teachers to assist with reading improvement.

Cultural competency- looking at literature in library and classroom to ensure we are inclusive. Working with expert to ensure least restrictive opportunities in school for students with disabilities and also the co-teaching program.

Arrival and dismissal going well. Buses are working on keeping to the schedule. Question was raised about keeping the windows open on buses as parents are seeing they aren't always open. Mr. Lucey will raise with Transportation director.



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No cost meals are being offered again this year. Question was raised about menu options- the menu will be expanded soon to include more hot meals. The program is open to all students this year, regardless of need.

The school and district are investing in diversity, equity and inclusion work. Andrew Nyamekye will be in the school weekly and look forward to this increased interaction.

Reviewing 1:1 devices and being thoughtful about when/where we are using technology. Taking the best of what we had in the past and carry forward (i.e. online PTG which allows greater participation, back to school night being virtual enables all parents to engage though not ideal to not be in person).

2 new resource officers from Concord Police/Fire Department. Look forward to meeting them. The school's first fire drill occurred last week- successfully conducted.

Mr. Lucey again urges parents to participate in weekly pool testing for their children. The more we know the safer we are.

Sherry Loiselle's mother passed away last week. The PTG sends our condolences for Sherry's loss during this sad time.

Lastly, a new teacher representative will be joining as PTG liaison this year- TBD.

## **PTG Committee Updates**

### Staff Appreciation - Karisa Lorenz

Welcome back snacks dropped off for staff last week; planning new events this year in conjunction with COVID guidelines.

### Room Parents - Tracy DeTora/Colleen Currier

Rolled out room parent sign up last week- most classes are full as of this week and Tracy and Colleen will work with teachers for any outstanding needs.

### Willard Weekly and Website - update from Liz on behalf of Samantha Jaddou



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Submissions due at 6pm on Tuesdays for that week's Willard Weekly. If you have a blast or series of blasts you can send all at once to the team indicating preferred dates for publication. The committee worked over the summer to update the Willard PTG website. Please notify Samantha if you see anything that needs updating. PTG also implemented Google suite to host PTG board member/committee notes/project information to support role transitions.

## Treasurer's Report - Colleen Currier

Over the summer, Colleen finalized prior year's financial statements. Upcoming school year budget will be voted on at end of today's meeting. Waited for fall to review/approve the budget (versus Spring in past years) to try and have more accurate view of events we can hold this school year that require funding.

## School Photo Day - Meagan MacNutt

School photo day to be held Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup>. This year may allow for parent volunteers but TBD. As of now, should be able to have full class photos versus the composite approach from last year. Will be using Coffee Pond again as the vendor.

## Annual Appeal - Yumi Suarez

Annual Appeal officially launches next week. Will send out specific letters this year- one for new families, one for 5<sup>th</sup> grade families. Will assess whether there will be an incentive this year- welcome any suggestions for this approach.

Question was raised about whether PTG members have an opportunity to address parents at back to school night (not possible this year), there is potential to host a PTG welcome back zoom where PTG projects, including the annual appeal, can be communicated to parents.

## Sponsorship - Susannah Benner

Looking for advertisers- have some commitments already for this year. Already seeking ideas/opportunities for silent auction items as well. If any school community members are interested in advertising in the Willard Directory or elsewhere, please contact the Sponsorship Committee.

## Social committee- Darcy Heintz-Perkins



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Ice cream social- Excited to be bringing this back this year. Event will be held Sunday 9/26 from 2-3pm. Team is in the process of selecting a vendor and volunteers from school community (PTG and possibly others) will be “scoopers.”

Committee raised the hope to once again host a parent social with a conversation about hosting in the Spring versus Fall. It was suggested that with ongoing COVID cases occurring outside of school setting, may be best to host in the Spring.

Recommendation was made for the affiliated auction to be held as a silent, online auction versus in person to generate greater interest from the community.

## Book Fair -Darcy Heintz-Perkins

PTG will work with Silver Unicorn again this year in an effort to support an independent bookstore. The book fair will be virtual and the shopping link will be active from October 18-23<sup>rd</sup>. Silver Unicorn will organize the Willard School link and book selections. Teachers/School Librarian will be provided the link a few days early to sign up for books they would like to have in the classroom. This year, Silver Unicorn will provide a display of some of the book fair books as a way to generate interest and excitement with the students.

In years past, PTG received 25% of the proceeds from running the book fair. Because of the large volume of work involved in putting on a virtual fair, we will receive 15% of the profits. However, a donation button will be added to the check out page to try and increase financial contributions for the purchase of school library books. Meeting attendees suggested increasing non-book items available for purchase (journals, gift sets, etc.) as well as some books curated for adults. Follow up to Silver Unicorn about whether there could be an in-store shopping opportunity for Willard families also.

## Charity and Service - Janet King

New committee, will organize and promote ways for students to get more involved in community service opportunities and charitable initiatives. Parents can let Janet know of any opportunities that may exist in town- students may be able to actively participate in town events this year as well. The committee is hoping for a monthly service activity/project. Please share any ideas with [charity@willardptg.org](mailto:charity@willardptg.org)

## Suggestion for a possible new committee

Kate Isaacs raised an idea to form a new committee to support new plantings/gardening around the Willard campus. Willard tree may need to be removed due to poor health. Can assess whether group can use Garden Club funds to



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buy replacement tree or seek a donation from a local landscape company. Suggestion to connect with gardening club at other elementary schools and past Willard gardening club participants.

## New Business

Voting in new VP – Kristen Lester has agreed to be VP for PTG for the 2021-2022 school year. Liz Colgan motions to vote, Colleen Currier seconds the vote. Meeting group supports Kristen's nomination. Congratulations and welcome, Kristen!

## General Membership Questions/Comments

-First SEPAC meeting occurring tonight

-Willard directory is being finalized now- can be ordered via PTG for \$25 and will be delivered a little earlier this year.

Question raised about expectations for budget since some events are still TBD- will be discussed in closed session

Liz Colgan thanks the group for joining- meeting formally closed at 10:48am

## 2021-2022 Budget Closed Session

2021-2022 Budget reviewed by Treasurer Colleen Currier in a closed session. Budget was voted for approval (Liz Colgan motions to approve, seconded by Amy Casher, attendees unanimously approve new school year budget).