



## **Westergard Elementary PTO General Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 31, 2021

**Start time:** 3:30 PM

**End time:** 4:30 PM

### **Attendees**

<b>PTO Board</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Parent</b>
Jasmine Croarkin	Ben Dickson	Erica Orme
Judy Ashby	Melisa Chavez	Melissa Hemmert
Amber Badik	Donna Green	Liz Kang
	Michelle Banbury	Tracey Rogina
	Sarah Johnson	Will Burrows
	Dani Meyer	
	Jean Zordell	

### **1. Call meeting to order**

- 3:30 PM by President, Jasmine Croarkin

### **2. Voting on meeting minutes**

- President, Jasmine Croarkin motioned to approve meeting minutes from the May 25, 2021 general meeting

- Second to the motion to approve made by Vice President, Amber Badik
- All in favor: 15, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

### **3. Budget Update**

- Presented approved budget for 2021/2022
- Opening Balance: \$91,388
- Discussion was had on ways to spend the \$15,000 technology allocation.
  - Some teachers need new computers. Computers are back-ordered: it may be a long time before we get replacements.
  - District will be replacing all computers in the near future, some feel it might be a waste for PTO to spend money on old technology. With those experiencing computer issues we might be able to temporarily fix issues with new power cords, fans, updates, etc.
  - Some Active Boards are also not working correctly. Mr. Dickson would like to slowly replace all Active Boards with TV's--will need to consider if we want to put more money into old technology.
  - Other suggestions for use of funds are: laminator, cricket machines, ipad covers, etc.
  - Teachers suggested that we come up with a survey to send out to all teachers and staff to gauge what is needed.
  - Action Item: Amber will create a survey to evaluate what is needed and send out to all staff.

### **4. Principal Report**

- Our Art teacher Crystal will be stepping down.
  - One idea presented as a replacement is to purchase an art curriculum like "Art in Action" and have Art class run by an art docent and parent volunteers.
  - Another idea is to look for a replacement art teacher. Crystal already has an art plan/curriculum, if we find the right person, they may be able to execute her plans.
  - Reach out to local colleges to see if there is any interest.
  - Parent (Will Burrow) in attendance is an Artist and offered to aid in search--would like to see if we can set up a meeting with Crystal to get a better understanding of the position.
  - Need to check to see if the position can be paid directly from PTO or do we need to hire as a substitute and pay through the district.

- Action item: Ben reaches out to Rollen Melton to see how they pay their art teacher.
  - Action item: Amber to reach out to Will with additional information
- Volunteers back in the building
  - we talked about some of the events and how we need to rethink them with current capacity issues (fall event, Santaland)
- The district has a schedule to complete technology refresh, which means all the computers will be replaced. They are planning to replace all laptops but that does not include the boards. As a district we have moved away from the boards and are doing touch screen televisions. Cost is about 50,000 dollars if we were to replace all the projector boards in the school. We would gradually replace the boards with TV screens. If PTO buys the TV touch screens, we will not maintain them. The district would buy but we would pay for it.
- Official headcount of children is at 487, last year we were at 360 including distance learners (used to be 700 before the pandemic). Close to another additional allocation in fourth grade and parents have been notified there may be another teacher and their children may be moved during the year.

## **5. Fall Fundraiser: Otis Spunkmeyer**

- Tracey: Otis Spunkmeyer – usually raises between 20-30 thousand dollars.
  - Kicks off on the ninth with a video assembly and sales stuff goes home with the kids.
  - The sales go until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September.
  - We are allowed to have volunteers but they need to sign in and get contact info for tracing in case of an exposure. Volunteers needed are for the Count day (5-8) and delivery day (as many as possible), sign up with times. Alternatives to scrambled pick up: Possible drive by, manage the door and only let a few in at a time, limit the amount of people in at one time.

## **6. Fall Events**

- Fall Festival: Trunk or treat, still dependent on covid restrictions. Leadership pending.
- Shake Hands with a Hero: Previous event write up was provided. Mrs. Zodell to lead and organize the event with parent volunteers.

- Santaland: Amber and Kendall- event will move to Friday rather than a Saturday to limit crowds. Event will run like a book fair where classes will visit separately.

## 7. Events for the Spring:

- Wildcats and watercolors: people are willing to help but there is no one to lead it. It may be something we can only do every other year instead of offering possible alternative options so we are not missing a big part of our income.
- Jog-a-thon can become a lucrative event instead of just for fun. In a previous Jog-a-thon we sent out a communication stating that this is how we pay for our PE teacher and if every kid donated \$16 dollars and donation came in like crazy for \$16 dollars which added up.

We can do that again so there is a more specific focus to the fundraising.

- Look into a company hosting the event by using Apex or a similar company. FYI: if you use a company you cannot have another fundraiser within a restricted time period.
- Often they offer to do a physical activity with each class. Some parents are concerned that it can be up to a 40/60 cut but they get kids excited and actually earn more money even with the cut. No fuss fundraiser was pretty successful, possibly done again if restrictions are in place.

## 8. PTO Board and Volunteers

- We need a secretary: easy job, if you are interested in the positions.
- PTO board positions for President, and Secretary are available at the end of the year if anyone is interested.
- **Action Item:** Include call for volunteers in the newsletters and a QR code for access to the FB page and the volunteer list. Jasmine to prepare.

## 9. Contact us:

- Visit our new PTO website: <https://www.georgewestergardpto.org>
- Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestergardPto>

## 10. Adjournment: 4:10

Next meeting **Nov 16, 2021**