



WESTERGARD PTO

MEETING MINUTES

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| LOCATION: | Westergard Library |
| DATE: | 09/16/2025 |
| ATTENDEES: | Kiki Hatch, Parent/Sec. Rudy Grant, Parent. Abigail Gusiff, Parent. Jen Isenberg, Parent. Ian Krieg, Parent. Jenna Nasset, Parent/Treas. Will Burrows, Parent/Pres. Rebekah Haferd, Parent/Fund. Sam Cromwell, Parent. Erick Miller, Parent. Kelly Emo, Teacher/Parent. Dani Meyer, Teacher. Angelica Ronquillo, Parent. Daun Vaswani, Parent. John Stern, Princ. Marie Haws, Teacher. Kimberly Leedwig, Parent. Chris Appling, Parent. |
| TIME: | 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm |

AGENDA ITEMS

Call the meeting to order

Meeting was called to order by Will Burrows and seconded by Kiki Hatch.

Welcome to PTO

Will welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions of the Board Members were given. Will discussed the purpose of PTO including fundraising, art lessons, and community events. Made note that parents are invited to give feedback and help make decisions.

General Business

Will explained that the shed has been cleaned out and PTO is looking for interested members to help build shelving to organize the shed. Kindergarten shed bought by PTO. PE shed will need to be cleaned out so it can exist only for Fernando's supplies.

Principal Update

John Stern gave a welcome and discussed his appreciation for the tight knit community of Westergard and for the support of the PTO, parents, and teachers. John passed out a school report card and mentioned that the school rating went up from 3 stars to 4 stars. Chronic absenteeism is a large focus for the school. Math is doing well. ELA proficiency is a major focus of the school, especially at the younger levels. John mentioned that parents have the right to opt out of testing. However, if it falls beneath a certain threshold, the school's rating can be penalized. Mr Stern went over upcoming dates, Sept 24 is walk to school day and a Coffee with the Principle. Nov 4 Family STEM night.

Fall Semester Dates

Will passed out a list of rough dates. Focusing specifically on the Trunk or Treat—proposed date is Thurs Oct 30th, 6-7pm. Mentioned we will be accepting donations of candy, can be dropped off at the office. No homemade treats. Shake Hands with a Hero is determined by the school, not the PTO. Holiday Event is not going to be a Santa Land. Will gave background information on SantaLand. It got out of hand in terms of storage and what the kids were bringing home. This year we are trying to put together a team of volunteers to get the holiday event off the ground. Dec 13th from 9-Noon for event. Ms. Meyer mentioned book fair in December to keep an eye on. Rebekah mentioned that Jen Isenberg (parent) is going to spearhead the event. Thurs Sept 18th at 7pm in cafeteria will be a meeting for planning the event.

Art Program

Will explained the volunteer art program that he created and how it runs through the PTO to allow there to still be an art program at the school. Will is looking for volunteers to help stock the crates. 4th and 5th graders have funding to pay for Arts for all Nevada to do the art teaching. Discussed finding volunteers to help by connecting with Will to share information and make an email list to reach out for help. Parent shared her interest in helping out and is glad that there is some infrastructure in place to create an art program for the kids.

Budget Update

Jenna the treasurer gave an update that PTO has paid the PE teacher's salary and has supplemented front desk worker Megan's salary so she can stay longer during the day. PTO brought in \$20,000 more than it spent last year. This year we will have a QR code to encourage donations throughout the year and make up a need for \$13,000 this year. Parent mentioned interest in having a program that encouraged donations in a raffle based system. Will explained our fundraising system of Cookie dough sales in the Fall (no longer doing that). Fun Run in spring would be another big fundraiser. Those companies took large cut. Now that Rebekah is hosting our own fun run, we have the volunteers to make enough money to cut out the Cookie Dough fundraiser entirely. Mentions of the \$500 stipends for all of the teachers, specials, and clubs. Does place pressure to earn those funds so we can continue to put money in the hands of our educators. Now that we have been hitting goals, we have future plans to save for bigger projects. Mentions of other special funding requests like the phonics boards for the lower grades, Mystery Science etc. Current annual budget of what we are expected to spend is \$68,000. \$55,000 is what we expect to raise based on previous year's donations. We hope to earn more based on corporate sponsors, restaurant nights, and QR code availability.

Fundraising Update

Sept 25th Yogurt Beach fundraiser coming up. Nov 13th Panda Express. Mrs. Meyer mentioned an Ace's game fundraiser. Parent, Rudy, mentioned connecting with Rebekah about a restaurant night. Rebekah shared that she is planning on reaching out to parents about corporate sponsorship if they own a business. Mrs. Emo mentioned Amazon Associate program, Rebekah to connect with her later to work on that program. Reminder that all events will have a suggested donation QR code. Parent asked about Tax status of PTO. It is a 501 C3, non-profit. You can get the Tax ID info to write off donations.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

Opened floor to questions- Who is leading the holiday event...Jen Isenberg. Are there going to be committee chairs for the events? Trying to have event chairs who are not board members so that the board members don't burn out. Next meeting? Oct 21st maybe 7pm. Trying to give access to different parents.

Adjournment/ Next Meeting Date and Time

Thank you to all for being here. Will motion to adjourn, Kiki to second. Meeting adjourned at 4:26pm