

Wass Elementary PTO Meeting October 12, 2021
Held In Person in Media Center, 7pm

Attendance: Ashleigh Jennings, Sara Burch, Erin Voss, Tina Catron, Sandra Guilbault, Chintein Shah, Archana Sharma, Hajra Siddiqui, Harpreet Singh, Ayessa Potts, Megan Guilbault, Matt Miller, Heather Miller, Principal Matt Jansen

1. **Welcome:** Mr. Jansen welcomed all in attendance and the meeting was held in Wass Media Center. Start time 7pm

2. **Secretary's Report:** Harpreet Singh

Auction report: The PTO auction raised an all-time high of \$2,736. We are thankful for the generosity of Troy Police Officer Julian, Mrs. Clos, Mr. Jansen and Mr. Cavataio and all the bidders/winners for making this event a success. All the money earned goes right to our Wass students and staff.

Last Meeting: The last meeting was held on Zoom, and we had 19 attendees.

New Meeting Dates: We will alternate monthly between Zoom and in-person meetings. Please join us if you can. The following are the meeting dates for this academic year: 11/30 (zoom), 01/25 (in-person), 03/08 (zoom), 04/12 (in-person), 05/24 (zoom).

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Matt and Heather Miller

We received \$120 from the Amazon Smile program. If you are interested, please link your Amazon account to Amazon Smile program which gives a portion of your purchases to Wass at no extra charge to you. We raised \$495 at restaurant night at Jet's Pizza (Sterling Heights location). Thank you for all your support. Each teacher received \$150 for supplies for their classroom from PTO, \$300 for new teachers. Ashleigh Jennings set up a Sign Up Genius for Staff Appreciation and with all the money that was collected Matt Miller will update the amount on that line item on the PTO budget file.

4. **Committee/Event Updates:**

Restaurant Night: Melissa Destross. Jet's Pizza (Sterling Heights location) event held on September 30th. We raised an all-time high of \$495. Thank you to all of the generous Wass families for supporting the PTO staff and students! Our next restaurant night will be at Noodles & Co (Troy) please look out for the event and details in Wolf's Howl.

Skating Party at Skate World of Troy: Mrs. Skinner has booked a tentative date, March 7, 2022.

Spirit Wear Sale and 5th Grade T-shirts: Megan Guilbault: Please see link in Wolf's Howl to order Wass Wolves spirit wear t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, hats and more with the Wass Wolves logo). We continue to work with The Varsity Shop located in Birmingham because they give us great service and good quality products. This year we will not be able to have sample size shirts at school so please see the size measurements on the site, or if need be, you can visit the store. We are sorry for this inconvenience, and we are hoping with the new designs we can sell a lot of Spirit Wear! Thank you again for supporting this effort. Last day to order will be October 20, 2021.

Halloween Parade: Mr. Jansen and staff are excited to have students participate in the very fun Halloween parade. Families will also be allowed to come and see their student(s) parade outdoors around the school premise led by Mr. Jansen. Please look out for details in the Wolf's Howl for time and directions.

Room Parents: Sandra Guilbault is leading and planning this effort in the hopes of having family/guardians who sign up to assist with classroom events this year. At this time, pandemic protocols do not allow for any volunteers to attend classroom parties in person, but we want to be prepared if the protocol changes. So far Sandra mentioned we have 31 volunteers for Room Parent and Room Liaison. We are still looking for volunteers to sign up from Mrs. Belleville and Mrs. Mayne classes. If you are interested and your student is in one of those classes, please see the link in the Wolf's Howl from Mr. Jansen email from 10/08/2021 or reach out to Sandra directly at sandra.guilbault@gmail.com

5. **Principal's Report:** Principal Matt Jansen

Kindergarten Playground Update: Mr. Jansen is set to meet with the Wass Kindergarten teachers to decide on a play structure that will be developmentally appropriate and within budget allotted by the district. Wass PTO treasurer Matt Miller applied through a rigorous process for an Oakland County grant for \$75,000 (to be used for the playground) and will find out if we will be rewarded this tremendous need at the end of October. The earliest installation looks like Spring of 2022. Tina Catron mentioned her experience working with Kaboom.org and offered any assistance with future grant writing. Sandra Guilbault also mentioned she has experience with grant writing and offered any assistance in future grant writing opportunities.

Data Based Decisions and Interventions: A detailed presentation was given by Mr. Jansen explaining the work and data teachers conducted through reading assessments with each student. The graph was broken down by each grade level and measured the percentage of students which are Above, On or Below level for reading. Students are mostly above reading level in all grades however, there is a high percentage of Below reading level in grades 1 and 2. The data revealed the most need of intervention is in 1st grade, and this takes first priority. Usually, the Below percentages are cut in half in the January assessment given again to students. Mr. Jansen met with all staff including support staff to come up with a plan to team up and give the assistance to the students with the most needs. It is very much a team collaborative environment at Wass. Teachers, staff, principal, parents and students working together to have the highest expectations and outcomes. The Wass reading specialists and speech therapist staff with incredible experience and dedication are already working with the students with the most need. Also, Mr. Jansen mentioned all grade levels are going through rich days of learning in Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop, Math, Science and Social Studies. The staff has decided to go light on homework and some staff give students the last 20 minutes of the school day to work independently to complete homework and the teacher is available for any help/questions. Wass believes in maintaining a positive, inviting, fun and safe learning environment for all.

Thank you!

Please join us at the next PTO meeting on Zoom
Details will be provided by Mr. Jansen in the Wolf's Howl.