



Wheatland Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, Inc.
PTO General Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020

Betsy Poland, PTO President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on a virtual Zoom meeting. Present were Elton Armbrister, Whitney Beard, Jordan Boone, Kara Calhoun, Kelly Edgar, TR Fox, Erin Hughes, Samantha Jacob, Karen Maskell, Carolyn Matthews, Alicia McLain, Makala Navarro, Betsy Poland, Marynell Popst, Cassie Price, Ashley Purdum, Anjanette Riggin, Laura Pedroja, Carolyn Ruggles, Traci Swindler, Amy Voegeli, Michelle Wallace, Lindsey Wilson, Brittany Youngers.

Welcome: Betsy Poland

Ms. Poland welcomed the group and introduced the 2020-2021 Executive Board. A poll was launched via Zoom to approve the agenda for the meeting. The agenda was approved without objection. Ms. Poland thanked the past board and everyone who is volunteering this year.

Principal's Report: Elton Armbrister

Mr. Armbrister thanked the past board and everyone who is volunteering this year. He reported that the car line is going well and is down to around 120 car pickups from around 150 last year. Dismissal is different this year, with all students waiting in the gym for the cars. Bus numbers are down this year because more have opted for car pickup. The buses have a limit of 45 students per bus, though many are well under that number. Mr. Armbrister is proud of the students for adapting to wearing masks this year. The outdoor classroom has been a nice break for students. There are around 90 students who moved to eCademy this year, which is a similar percentage for most of the schools in the district. Mr. Armbrister stated that he is proud of students, staff and families. On the first day of school, a student told Mr. Armbrister that it was "great to be in the building" and Mr. Armbrister said he echoes that sentiment.

A poll was launched via Zoom to approve the minutes of the April General PTO Meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Anjanette Rigg

Ms. Rigg presented the Treasurer's Report. She shared the final report for the 2019-2020 school year. Our totals were lower than past years due to the school year ending early and not having Family Fun Night.

The report from the Allocations Committee was shared. The BLT (Building Leadership Team) met and shared the list of priorities for teachers' wishes. Mr. Armbrister shared the Allocations process and how the BLT meets at the beginning of the year to prioritize and make recommendations to the Allocations Committee. The teachers' expectations are not that PTO pay for everything on the list and they are appreciative of anything they receive. Ms. Rigg reported that we believe we can pay for all of the items listed as priority one items.

A poll was launched via Zoom to approve the 2020-2021 Allocations and budget. This was approved without objection.

Coordinator Reports

Lead Room Parents: Kara Calhoun

A meeting for all room parents will be held Tuesday, September 22 at 8:30, via Zoom. An email will be sent to invite all room parents. Parents will be taking more of a supportive role this year and helping virtually since access to the classrooms will be limited.

Box Tops: Michelle Wallace

New rewards will be used this year that will allow for the least amount of contact. More info on this to come.

Dillons Card Program/Amazon Smile/Scrip Gift Cards: Betsy Poland for Lisa Forsyth

Information about Dillons and Amazon are included in the Weekly Warrior. Scrip gift card information will be sent home on November 13th and due back November 20th. This will give enough turnaround for the holidays.

Holiday Hugs: Cassie Price

Teachers have received the forms for Holiday Hugs and about half have already turned them in.

Book Fair: Cassie Price

The Book Fair will be completely virtual this year and books will be shipped straight to homes. Book Fair is scheduled for October 28-November 10.

eCademy Outreach: Jordan Boone

This coordinator position was created to help keep families who have chosen eCademy this year connected with Wheatland. Activities will be posted on their facebook group page to let families know of ways to continue to be involved with Wheatland.

Family Fun Night: Betsy Poland for Nicole Castleberry

Decisions will be made on ways to make this work this year. Mr. Armbrister stated that he hopes everything will blow over by spring so Family Fun Night can go on as scheduled.

Warrior Dash: Brittany Youngers

Warrior Dash is scheduled for October 9. Online donations are strongly encouraged to avoid papers and checks being passed between people. Students who raise a minimum of \$150 will earn a ticket to the Starlite Drive-In for a special Wheatland Night at the Drive-In. The Warrior Dash will be completely teacher and faculty led and will take place mostly outside. Students who attend eCademy will be invited to participate to run on their own. Business sponsors who donate a minimum of \$250 will receive recognition from the Wheatland PTO.

Student Directory: Karen Maskell

This year, forms for the student directory were sent as a google form for parents to fill out. Information for 272 students has been submitted and approximately 88 students still need information completed. Ms. Maskell would like to receive all information soon so she can include it in the next Weekly Warrior. Some families are opting to not include their information in the directory so room parents may need to get contact information from classroom teachers.

Weekly Warrior: Amy Voegeli

Every Wednesday morning, the Weekly Warrior is emailed to families. The Weekly Warrior will also be linked to the PTO Facebook page and will begin to also be linked on Mr. Armbrister's Wheatland Facebook page. This year the Weekly Warrior will feature a Meet Your PTO Board and Coordinators section. Any coordinators who still haven't submitted their picture and bio to Ms. Voegeli should please do so soon. Any other items to be included in the Weekly Warrior

needs to be submitted to Ms. Voegeli by Monday of the week in which it is to run. Email submissions to PTOWeeklyWarrior@gmail.com

Staff Celebrations: Michelle Wallace

Monthly celebrations will be held for staff members who have birthdays or other special celebrations. This year, individually wrapped treats will be offered to limit contact. This will be Ms. Wallace's last year as a Wheatland parent so anyone who would like to join forces with her this year and then take this role on next year should contact her.

Staff Meals: Marynell Popst

More information will come soon about plans for dinner on October 29th during Parent Teacher Conferences and breakfast on October 30th during professional development.

Restaurant Nights: Lindsey Wilson

Plans are being made for upcoming restaurant nights. There will probably be 2-3 restaurant nights per semester. More info on this to come.

Legislative Liaison: Laura Pedroja

Through Educate Andover, parents and teachers can stay educated about the legislative session and how our school can be impacted. Educate Andover doesn't endorse candidates, but provides information.

Marker Recycling: Makala Navarro

Students can bring markers to the designated bins in the school and markers will be picked up to be recycled.

Spirit Wear: Ashley Purdum

Spirit wear has had a successful start to the year, especially with the new Wheatland face masks that were sold at the end of the summer. The current spirit wear store will be open until October 2nd. Garden flags are a new item currently being offered for families. Any new ideas for merchandise should be sent to ashley.purdum@yahoo.com

Yearbook Editor: Erin Hughes

Wheatland is working with a new company this year called Strawbridge. Since parents will have limited access this year, it is the hope that teachers will be able to provide pictures of students for the yearbook.

Further Questions or Comments:

Ms. Riggin explained the PTO's reimbursement policy. Coordinators must complete the reimbursement form and submit it with receipts. Upon approval, the PTO may reimburse expenses.

An Internal Audit volunteer is needed this year and Marynell Popst agreed to take on this role.

Picture Day will be on September 24th. We will be doing individual pictures only this fall, with class pictures planned for the spring. More info will be coming home soon.

New Business

There being no further business, a poll was launched via Zoom to adjourn the meeting. It was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s

Whitney Beard, Secretary