

Willard PTA Meeting:
Date: 2/18/2021
Location: Via Zoom
Time: 6:30PM – 7:40PM

Opening + Ground Rules; - Tiffany - 1 minute

Lean in, lean back – If you're typically less vocal / involved in the conversation, challenge yourself to participate / post a comment, etc. If you're a more frequent contributor, allow other voices to be heard / take the lead.

If you're contributing, consider impact – is it helpful and supportive to everyone?

Committee Updates - Tiffany - 15 mins
Grade Support Teams – compiled contact lists, going to use to communicate important information from PTA to caregivers

Magical Mondays:

2/8: Magic by Randy – over 120 families logged on

2/22: D.I.M.E. w/ Mr. Marcus

- Not live recorded because of consent, but may offer pre-recorded options in the future
- The goal is live, community-focused engagement
- If you have ideas that you'd like to see or like to host email willardowlspta@gmail.com
- In lieu of Hispanic Heritage Night and African diaspora, we would like to celebrate different cultures at Willard as part of Magical Mondays
- Behind-the-scenes look at local restaurants / business

Equity Plan Review - Emily Davis

Difficult year because of COVID; good conversations around equity with PEP OneFund, presentation of draft plan

Equality: equal inputs | Equity: equal outcomes

Mission: Make every Willard child's potential a reality

Purpose of Willard PTA Equity Plan: Create a roadmap for eliminating bias and integrating equity into every aspect of Willard

Jerry Michel updates –

We've dealt with everything this past year

Exciting to see kids' and teachers' reactions today:

"This reminded me why I love to teach"

"This is like having our third first day of school"

Saved and carefully labeled things that children left in their desks; visiting classes and giving students items back

Did a final meeting with staff before this week – combination of nervous and excited, reflected today

Very excited, had everyone in building and in their classrooms by 9:07. One bus was a little late.

Really good teams at each door, floater team to shepherd kids

Want to support as many families as we can in person

Pickup, dropoff and CrisisGo seemed to work really smoothly

Wanted to balance the number of kids going in and out of each door – shifted 1st and 2nd graders to go out towards basketball court, closer to what it's like in normal times

Safety – we have an election next Tuesday, Willard is a polling place; disrupts routines. District 65 provides external security service. Election will be in multipurpose room, won't interfere with entrance doors. No students will enter or exit through MPR doors. Students we support in that space will be somewhere else.

In the future, larger national election days will be non-attendance days

Vaccinations: significant number of staff are still getting vaccines this week or go outside of the Evanston system

Teachers who are remaining remote – respect privacy

District administration helping cover as sub pool gets solidified

School-age childcare, Right at School, Y.O.U – since there's not a lot of afterschool programming, the employees of those support groups have been partnering during the day to help with students and bringing great energy / connection

Looking for opportunity for dynamic interaction in the classroom in a socially distanced environment. We feel great at the start today.

Mindful that some families are remaining remote for various reasons – keeping experience rich for both cohorts

Foundation for moving towards more normalcy

