



# Walled Lake PTSA Council Meeting

Nov 27, 2023 7:00 PM

Wixom Elementary



Corie Sommerville-Wixom, Council	Stacy Brand-Dublin, Council	Dan Monkman-Council
Brandi Brendtke-WLC, Council	Jehann Zaid-PLE	Leigh Shemenski-Council
Torry Yu-HWE, GMS, Council	Nicole Roberts-Banks	Hillary Glaser-GMS, Council
Alison Link-Keith	Shayna Levin-BoE	Eric Turnquist-WLC
Alison Burke-GLE	Amanda Richardson-Loon Lake	Stephanie Kaplan-BoE
Kathren O'Brien-WLEA	Carla Juras-Loon Lake	Meredith Nelson-LLE
Debbie O'Rourke-Creek	Stephanie S-Commerce	Jessica Maurer-OPE
Sarah Mizen-Reese-MBE	Sarah Piggott-WLW	Cathy Russel-Wixom
Leah Nelson-Wixom		

- I. Meeting Called to Order @ 7:01pm
- II. Welcome & Updates from Wixom Elementary
  - A. President: Leah Nelson
    - 1. I started here as a parent, then became a Lunch Lady! This is my first year as President, I started as Membership.
    - 2. Outdoor movie in September. Free popcorn for members, 181 memberships! Doing skate nights, and will do another movie night in spring.
  - B. Principal: Mrs. Catherine Russel
    - 1. Welcome! Wixom is one of these places that is especially important to me... I started here as a parent, when I worked as a Research Scientist. Volunteered in Kindergarten, then went back to school to be a teacher. Started as a sub,

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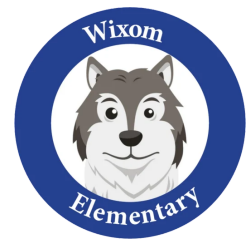


then got a teaching job. Now, I'm the Principal! It is very near and dear to my heart.

2. We house JK-5th grade, 429 students and growing! 3 years ago we had 380. 3 preschool classrooms. Amazing staff dedicated to our school and students. Kindness has been our theme for multiple years. This year "Kindness Unites Us" to celebrate all of the different cultures within our school community.
  3. A couple years ago, we had Lora Stout talk about what Title 1 is, as we qualify. We have 35% qualifying for free and reduced lunch. 72% at or above reading level.
  4. Several PTA board members work at Wixom-we look from within! We have amazing fundraising ideas to support students and staff.
  5. Our community partnerships: Meijer donated \$10,000. Kroger gave us 2 full shopping carts full of backpacks and paper towel, along with school supplies. Student Pantry and HH provide snacks for students. LAYA took care of 6 of our families for the Holidays. 18 other families were adopted by other community businesses. Our own families and staff within filled the rest of the need for our families.
  6. \$5,000 from Nancy VanLeuwen plus Meijer money went toward outdoor learning space (pictures). Eagle Scout, Joel, Cathy's student from when she taught 5th grade, came and built the outdoor white board, and organized the entire outdoor learning space. 35 stumps, 30 hammocks. Sign up for teachers to use. 5th grade classes hang and take down hammocks each day.
- III. Reading of the Minutes: [10.23.23](#)
- A. Thank you to Leigh for taking notes!
  - B. Add Council after Stacy Brand's name
  - C. Alison Link motions/Alison Burke seconds/all approved
- IV. Officer Reports
- A. President - Hillary Glaser
    1. [Standards of Affiliation](#)

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- a) EVERYTHING is due December 1.
  - b) Individual PTA/PTSA emails have been sent.  
Sent from WLCSD Council President email.
  - c) Another report will be ran tomorrow. Dan will call everyone to follow-up. He has offered to walk through if anyone needs help.
  - d) Can send Hillary an email that your PTA/PTSA is good to go!
  - e) 501c3 form will be given for next year.
  - f) Communications: acceptable and not acceptable
    - (1) Some emails are coming through that are inappropriate, rude, or snarky.
    - (2) It is okay to ask questions, they are welcomed. It is NOT okay to accuse a person of a specific issue, i.e. Memberhub.
      - (a) There is nothing we can do about the spam emails. The best thing we can do is ignore it. Or, ask the person it looks like it's coming from.
    - (3) It is never okay to reply rudely to any follow-up emails.
  - g) Sometimes we might need workshops, due to all the new people. Maybe we replace a Board meeting (October) with a District-wide audit. Should take no longer than a half hour.
  - h) What other workshops are you looking for?
    - (1) Nominating and elections?
  - i) Please start putting together 2-3 people for a nominating committee of non board members to pinpoint people that would be good in filling positions. Send out feelers in January to confirm with current members, etc.
2. MLK Night, each PTA/PTSA should send \$150, check to WLCSD (NOT PTSA) send through

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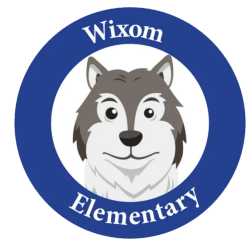
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inter-office mail directly to Pam Cole. January 15.

Memo should note: MLK



- B. Vice Presidents - Leigh Shemenski & Dan Monkman
  - 1. Nothing new to report for Irene Daniels. Thank you for reaching out to be a judge! If anyone else would like to be a judge, please reach out. Anyone can judge!
  - 2. We will send info out to schools mid-January, then deadline is mid-March.
  - 3. If you have Seniors, they will get info soon.
- C. [Treasurer's Report](#) - Brandi Brendtke
  - 1. Have received lots of emails about by-laws. ALL checks MUST have 2 signatures! This should be part of the audit process, note should be made if there are not 2 signatures.
  - 2. Credit Cards are still not allowed, due to not being able to double check. Also no on debit cards.
  - 3. Hillary says we should contact Michigan PTA about using a debit card and what the rules are. Brandi will reach out.
  - 4. Report: \$1800 Council Dues came in in October.
  - 5. Checking balance \$12382. Interest of \$1353.30
  - 6. We have not yet received the check from Dean Transportation.
- V. Chairpeople Reports
  - A. [Legislative Report](#) - Stacy Brand
    - 1. WLCSD-BOE has special meeting Nov. 29 at 6:30pm
    - 2. National-Registration is live for March 5-7
    - 3. Virtual Convention calling for presenters
    - 4. Tomorrow is Giving Tuesday. FFE is a good place to donate
    - 5. Uber has created teen accounts to promote safe kids worldwide.
    - 6. Are Report Cards telling us enough?
    - 7. QR code is for President or Legislative Rep in Memberhub.
      - a) The one on the agenda is really easy to share within text message or email.
  - B. Teacher's Report - Kathren O'Brien
    - 1. WLEA, teacher at Sarah Banks.

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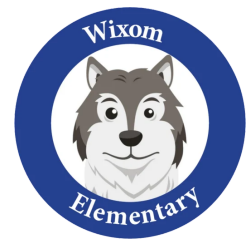
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2. Highlights: CHS canned food 3,994 lbs of food, #12,265 dollars
3. Collage concerts
4. Creek NJHS collected 2033 items
5. Feeder schools Dec. 20
6. Banks Stuff the Squad Car-unwrapped new toys to be donated.
7. Parent Teacher Conferences went well, as far as I know.
8. District Calendar is changed for upcoming years.
9. Hillary says that middle school conferences is comparable to speed dating.

### C. Reflections Report - Torry Yu, Angel Wade, and Sarah Piggott

1. Fun times right now! Schools are doing judging and will post people moving on by Dec. 5. Up to 366 entries! Every building is represented this year! Elementary schools have 20-30 entries, NHS has 51!
2. Couple changes from last year...we are looking for some students to play their instruments or sing to showcase, not necessarily a Reflections entry! Let Sarah know if your teachers are interested.

## VI. Community Reports

### A. Foundation for Excellence - Jackie Gurwin

1. FFE grant application was emailed November 6. Please let staff know.
2. Will determine budget at December 4 meeting, best guess \$3500 range.
3. Tickets are \$50 or 3 for \$100. 50% stays with FFE, other 50% goes into college fund. Money will be held for up to 20 years. Can split funds between children, as long as they are paid within 4 years. Anyone can buy a ticket, does not need to be part of WLCSD.
4. Offering \$100 to person who sells grand prize winning ticket.
5. Golf Scramble sponsor list to be shared with Principals and Presidents. We don't want to steal your sponsors!

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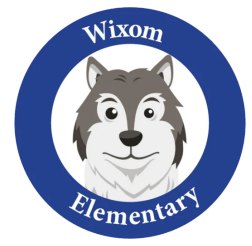


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6. Dan says FFE doesn't want to step on your toes, because you rely on their funds. We just want to spread the wealth, and get the sponsors out even more in the community. There are options to sponsor and golf.

### VII. WLCSD Reports

#### A. District Report - Dan Durkin

1. Reminders about MLK event: Friends of Diversity award and Express Yourself contest. Info can be found on District website.
2. Encourage every building to share what we are doing to help families in need.
3. Any general good things happening would be great to share!
4. Dec. 30 Building Utilization meeting. Any comments online about redistricting, closing schools, etc... we are in these sessions to talk about what our options are, to figure out the best route forward with positive impact. If you have any questions, reach out to the representatives.

#### B. Board of Education Report - BoE Representative

1. Shayna Levin and Stephanie Kaplan in attendance.
2. Meeting on Wednesday. Room 512, can be viewed, but not live streamed. BOE meeting on 7th. Utilization and Facilities study, we are not closing Central or sending West Bloomfield back.
3. Check out the collage concerts!
4. LAYA-Shop with a Hero and Adopt a Child are coming up. Split between Meijer in Wixom and Commerce.
5. Shayna doesn't have a lot to add. Lots of meetings to fit in before break! Facilities study is a big deal. Whatever ends up happening, it costs money! Lots of decisions to be made.  
Thinking of the future, not the problems of today.

#### C. Dec. 14 is the longest day for Elementary School staff due to Parent Teacher Conferences. Please share kindness.

#### D. Hillary is grateful to each and every one of you for your contributions to your PTA/PTSA.

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- E. Also, please support the arts! Western's Wizard of Oz was PHENOMENAL!! It's amazing to take your own children to see!
- F. District Presidents' Updates
1. Talk about the cool things that our schools are doing! Who can we talk to and figure out how to make it work?
  2. GMS won a grant from National PTA for supporting mental health within the school! What are the needs from the student/family perspective?
  3. WLMB did amazing in Nationals! 21st out of 92 bands! Went to semi-finals! Third in class! This year is Best Band in ALL TIME!!!
  4. 8th grade ice cream night to see how marching band works!
  5. Sarah and Sarah went to a Behind the Scenes look at the new part of Western! Students are so excited! 2 more years of work.
  6. Loon Lake 's Reading Resource teacher proposed purchase of WonderBook (Audible meets hard copy). Books cost \$50-60 a piece. PTA could match up to \$2000 for what community fund-raised. Community raised \$2045! Donations can still come in. This should get us about 80 books to start. 100 students reading below grade level. Hillary recommends reaching out to State Farm insurance agent to also do matching donations. All State is giving a \$1000 grant to PTA.
  7. Glengary Staff Appreciation a little differently... staff morale is a little low, so doing grade-level spurt weeks to give each grade a little love! If anyone has any really great ideas, please share! Shayna recommends the gift of time. Another idea is Birthday Wheel: 15 minutes of time, parking spot for the day, make copies for teachers, etc. Teachers love traveling coffee/tea cart or snack cart. Hillary has 2 ideas: individual charcuterie boards; Wendy's sells frosty keychains starting in December. Biggy will donate coffee!
  8. Dublin does "Mailbox treats" every month. Different themes, use sign-up genius.

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9. Staff members fill out "My Favorite Things" sent out in newsletter, used for holidays and Staff Appreciation
  10. Please don't hesitate to reach out! If you email Hillary and don't get a response, also send her a text!
- VIII. New Business
- A. Next Meeting: 1/22/24 at Glengary Elementary 7pm.
    1. No December meeting! Enjoy the break!
    2. If you are ever unable to make it to a PTSA meeting, please designate someone else from your board to show up.
- IX. Open Floor
- A. Will be an email from Hillary about Standards of Affiliation, as well as info about MLK day! Mr. Peace will be speaking! It's a free event!
- X. Adjournment 8:16pm

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