

# Washington School for the Deaf Parent Staff Organization

## Meeting Notes

Date, 2024

5:30pm-7pm

Location

**Call to order: 5:07 pm by Ashley Wilkins**

- **Present: Edit as necessary**

- **Executive Board Members:** Seven Star- Secretary, Ashley Wilkins- President, Belle Johnson- Vice President, Josephine Krueger- Treasurer, Taylor Mendoza-Dennis- Administrator, Stephanie Steinlein-Balding- Communications Committee chair, Marely Rodriguez- Fundraising Committee chair
- **WSD Staff:** Shannon Graham
- **Parents:** Marely Rodriguez, Stephanie S-B, Elysse Morton, Danni Keller
- **Interpreters:** Jacki Cline, Emily Sizemore

- **Welcome: Ashley**

- Next scheduled meeting is November 18th. Join at 5:15pm for social time. Official meeting 5:30-7. Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89013456799>  
**Meeting ID: 890 1345 6799**  
Location: **Zoom meeting only** due to renovations in Clarke Hall
- Parameters for meeting/rules for engagement: Seven Star- Zoom attendees please put your correct name in your video box, in-person attendees please write your name on your name tag and sign in on the sheet at the front. Please do indicate in zoom chat or in the sign-in sheet if you are willing to volunteer if you have not done so already, and your preferred contact info. Please be mindful that we have people using a variety of communication modes with interpreters and raise your hand to say something. In-person signers, please move to the front of the room to be on camera when signing.

- **Approval of meeting notes from last month: Ashley**

- **Passed** by majority vote

- **Financial Report: Josie**

- Current balance: \$2,838.65 includes:
  - Columbia Credit Union account with \$2,838.65
  - WSD account with \$0
- Income: \$245 from youth hoodie sales at Homecoming Game, \$585.33 from Custom Ink Fundraiser
- Expenditure: \$124.16 on Logo Winner shirts. Requesting \$ reimbursement to Missy for Temporary tattoos-tabled to next meeting as Missy was unable to make it tonight. The tattoos were a HUGE hit & cute!
- Any expenses must be passed by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority

- **Presidential Report: Ashley**

- Committees are really forming! Pumpkin Patch on the 12th was fun, it was nice to see so many of you attend! On Saturday Oct 12, many families came and even some families came from nearby mainstream programs.
- **PRIORITY- RECRUIT FOR HOLIDAY PARTY COMMITTEE**
- I enjoyed the DAB competition, the kids did really well and I got to meet new students when I got a lucky chance to volunteer & help with the competition. The Volleyball games against OSD on the 22nd were also awesome. I hope to see more of you at these events!
- I met with David Born from D.E.A.F and we are excited to work together for future fundraising events. If anyone has experience with gathering donations from businesses please reach out, we could use the help.
- **Heather White** is here to share her role within the Interpreting Dept and what to do if parents/guardians have concerns re: Interpreting Services. She explains her job coordinating the interpreting dept for WSD and CDHY. Heather wants parents to know who she is since the interpreters work with students and families as well. Their staff interpreters work in the student's mainstream classes as well as events so if you have any questions about interpreters or issues you can contact the interpreting department directly, and specifically Heather. If you need an interpreter for something outside WSD such as a mainstream class teacher, that request should go through Teresa Stotler-Martin because she is the coordinator of mainstream classes. Email Teresa and cc to Heather. Parents could contact the interpreting department directly if they try to contact staff first. Also include admin from WSD so they are aware of the situation. [heather.white@cdhy.wa.gov](mailto:heather.white@cdhy.wa.gov) [Teresa.stotler@cdhl.wa.gov](mailto:Teresa.stotler@cdhl.wa.gov)

- **Homecoming SubCommittee Report: Seven Star, Amanda D, Kristin P, Danni K, Missy W**

- Committee report-Missy not here so Ashley gives report
- We had a table at the HC game with kids' activities and games, and brochures and info for PSO
- Kids got paw tattoos and we had a coloring table & soccer balls
- Elysse says that she brought Halloween art and word search games and kids played soccer next to the stadium

- Hoodies were sold at game and adult size hoodies are completely sold out for now
- Prize was given to the winner of the guessing game, Eric Chadwick, for guessing how many pieces of gum were in the jar on the table. It was a custom made tumbler with a car freshie (Thanks to [FB JAM CREATIONS](#), [IG JAM CREATIONS](#) ), a Jamba Juice certificate and a youth size hoodie

- **Communications Committee: Taylor, Stephanie, Tina**

- Committee report- STEPHANIE
- Stephanie is the chair of the committee, she introduces herself and says she has been working a lot on our social media posts and pages. Parents seem to be really interacting with the pages and giving feedback. She has been also posting results of sports events. Besides social media we also are working on setting up a special meeting with Shauna/Admin to talk with her/them about parent concerns. Stephanie has a degree in graphic design/social media so we are really lucky that she is with PSO now!
- Stephanie mentions that all school announcements should go out to all parents- usually things are separated into elementary and secondary families and if you don't have a child in both it is hard to know about all the events going on at school.
- Ashley adds that we want to have a meeting with admin to really make sure we all communicate well and that we are spreading information as much as we can to as many places as we can-there is some confusion on the role of the Communication Committee. Instead of having the responsibility of communication solely on one department, having us all work together to get information out to everyone the best we can would work better.
- To sign up for this committee or to volunteer please email us! [PSOforWSD@gmail.com](mailto:PSOforWSD@gmail.com)

- **Fundraising Committee: Marely, Chelsey, Elysse, Josie**

- Committee report- MARELY
- Marely says the Fundraising Committee had a meeting at the beginning of Oct and discussed possibly doing candy bar sales. They want the students of WSD to be involved in the candy sales. Ashley needs to check and see if it would be allowed for kids to be involved in selling things
- We need \$1000 for the Holiday Party asap and Ashley submitted a grant request from D.E.A.F
- We are sold out of the T-shirts
- Jamba cards-23 cards sold so far, still on sale for \$10 each until 10/31
- To sign up for this committee or to volunteer please email us! [PSOforWSD@gmail.com](mailto:PSOforWSD@gmail.com)

- **Education Committee: WSD Staff**

- Committee report-SHANNON
- Shannon joins via Zoom. She says that she and Piper and Shauna will take turns coming to meetings and giving the Education Committee report.

- Shannon says thank you to Ashley and Taylor for getting the PSO going and congratulates them on their Learn Here Clark County awards.
- She mentions that communication needs to be improved, she has been developing a communication plan for the last year or so and is still learning about Parent Square. If any parents have feedback about Parent Square, please let Shannon know.
- Shannon asks if parents would like to continue to receive information in video form, and parents say yes they would like that.
- 2-3 years ago through the accreditation process admin gathered information about WSD and she would like to do that again. They will use a survey to gather information from parents and incorporate that feedback over the next few years. Shannon wants our ideas and feedback on what questions to ask in the survey.
- Shannon emphasizes that information related to campus safety is very important and also making sure that students feel involved in the learning process here.
- Shannon asks if parents have received the WSD newsletter and some people said they have not received any. They only come out 3 or 4 times a year. The most recent one was on the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Currently the school is focused on ASL, written communication, and Social and Emotional Learning, specifically focused on students who are neurodiverse. The third goal is to focus on attendance, but that is already going well so far this year.
- To give feedback to Shannon, parents can email or maybe admin will set up a focus group in person. Stephanie says she can help brainstorm ideas for that and that social media can help a lot, that could be a good avenue for communication. It's not necessarily the job of PSO to communicate all school info but PSO can support WSD like sharing announcements etc.
- Josie says that she would like all parents to know about both elementary and secondary events and other info because if you have younger children you can have some idea as to what to expect when your child moves up to the other levels.
- Parents would like to have more announcements in ASL and not just English and Spanish. Not sure who would be responsible for that but hopefully in the future we could do something like that. Shannon mentions that bigger schools have a Communications Coordinator but WSD is too small to have that specific position. But we can continue to try to figure out how to improve communication here regardless. Ashley mentions that Shannon Eagen-Andersen would probably want to help with that and she could maybe work with Stephanie on that.
- The new building is looking nice and starting to feel more comfortable every day with additions of plants and accessories.
- Belle mentions that she still has not found the 9 hidden bricks in the new building. The bricks say the word "Hidden" on them, because that is the name of the company who manufactured them. Those bricks are special because they are from the old Red Barn building.

● **Staff/Student Appreciation Committee: Eric, Seven Star**

- No committee report at this time
- To sign up for this committee or to volunteer please email us! [PSOforWSD@gmail.com](mailto:PSOforWSD@gmail.com)

- **Nominations Committee: LeAnne**

- No committee report at this time- nominations happen annually in April
- To sign up for this committee or to volunteer please email us! [PSOforWSD@gmail.com](mailto:PSOforWSD@gmail.com)

- **Questions/Comments/Member-led New Business:**

- SURPRISE GIFT FROM PSO TO LOGO WINNER! Belle gives a specially designed shirt to Stephanie for designing the winning logo for PSO
- Recruiting for the Holiday Party Committee- Ashley says PSO is taking over the holiday party this year instead of the residential staff. Ashley has put in a grant request to DEAF for \$1000 for the holiday party. There will be a signing Santa, Kelly Johnson (Belle's husband) and each child from the elementary school will receive a gift. Please volunteer for this event committee if you can! We don't have a date yet for the party but it tends to be at the end of the school day like 1:30-3. But last year PSO also came in the early morning for the preschoolers. This year the party will probably be during the first week of December.
- Josie says she would like to have a class picture taken this year because for the last few years there was no class picture. Stephanie says you can contact the yearbook committee which might be Teresa Stotler. Shannon says Rima tends to coordinate the photography so she can ask Rima about that. Shayne Blayloch took the pictures last year at All Star Day last year. Stephanie says that some parents have opted out of having their children photographed so they might need to be contacted for this specific photo, otherwise we could have those kids just not in the pictures. Josie adds that the photos will not be posted anywhere but they are just for kids to keep, so maybe we can just send home a form for parents to sign just for that photo.
- Marelly brings up STEAM- for K-12. We don't have a program like that here at WSD. Ashley says DEAF is trying to raise money to have a STEAM lab right now. Right now there is no computer lab at WSD. Marelly says she would like to see WSD hire teachers for STEAM classes
- Shannon says there will be teachers using that lab for a variety of things like computer programming, coding, E-sports. Marelly would like to see classes in engineering, robotics, etc.
- Stephanie mentions that a lot of parents don't even know what WSD offers here to the students
- Shannon says there is a plan to design a lab in the storage area behind the cafeteria. Right now they are just gathering information and consulting with people who know what would be required for that. Hopefully can be ready for next academic year.
- Ashley says she will meet with DEAF soon to see how PSO can support the STEAM lab
- Ashley mentions that as a staff person she has access to a lot more information than parents and probably parents would like to know about sporting events scores, etc. Stephanie would like to have all that info available for parents on social media
- Seven Star asks what to do with leftover brochures? Belle suggests putting them around the school- Rima has a display in the office for brochures

- Marely says maybe kids want to help make food to sell or sell candy bars- not sure if other schools are still doing those kinds of fundraisers. Ashley mentions that schools used to have prizes for selling a certain amount of things and that could be fun.
- Ashley says Marely can go ahead and start working on a fundraiser selling something, the fundraising committee needs to get together and plan and organize that.

- **Important Links:**

- Survey for ideas and feedback for Family Academy Nights (FAN): Is this still an active survey? Ashley will check with Kelly Sourhada and see if she is still using that.  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJ3FGndw37uN\\_S\\_C\\_jOWtZ4-wBRwWAjj6PHk6p3l7dIAU6mQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJ3FGndw37uN_S_C_jOWtZ4-wBRwWAjj6PHk6p3l7dIAU6mQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- Link explaining the PSO, who we are, our purpose, and why YOU should join us!  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H7QjaiC3ah1g-yyeMvt0p0AiDSbrvuCh/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101936965999402543034&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- Link to committee descriptions and sign-up sheet:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUDWYxw3EqVNVN2xqfyFMqT4hdQHlvtqOWMqWcnsqmDjZb6Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUDWYxw3EqVNVN2xqfyFMqT4hdQHlvtqOWMqWcnsqmDjZb6Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- PSO email: [PSOforWSD@gmail.com](mailto:PSOforWSD@gmail.com)
- PSO Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555851944619&mibextid=2JQ9oc>
- PSO Instagram  
<https://www.instagram.com/psforwsd>
- PSO website:  
<https://www.wsd.wa.gov/ps/>

## **Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 pm**

Meeting notes submitted by Seven Star, PSO secretary. Additions and corrections welcomed and appreciated.