



PTO MEETING MINUTES

Nov. 5, 2024 at 8:10 AM

Wayzata West MS Media Center

Attendees (alphabetical by last name):

Dr. Chace Anderson (WPS Superintendent), Carly Bailey (Associate Principal), Joana Bisaglia, Ryan Carlson (Principal), Clark Gregor, Karin Helmey (PTO Secretary), Brittini Holmers, Brian Merkel (PTO CFO), Stephanie Meyer, Heather Mueller (PTO President), Denise Silva, Sarah Steiner

PTO Meeting Agenda & Notes:

- Welcome - Heather Mueller (PTO President)

- Principal's Message - Ryan Carlson (Principal)
 - Update on new format for conferences:
 - New drop-in format was designed to accommodate more parents/students; in the old model, there were not enough slots available for everyone who wanted a conference
 - Overall feedback from staff has been positive
 - Feedback from parents has been mixed - mostly positive from those who attended/participated, while negative from those who did not attend
 - Parents and staff agree it was nice to have student's Advisor as the primary point of contact; Advisor's feedback/recommendations helped direct parents and maximize time spent meeting with other teachers
 - Advisory conference sessions were well attended
 - Nice to include students in the conferences, as they are the most important piece of the puzzle
 - If you need more time and/or did not attend conferences, you can always reach out to teachers directly to schedule conference time; this is something built in to their contracts and their existing schedules
 - New block schedules - survey coming out Wednesday 11/6
 - Looking for parent, student and staff input regarding the new schedule structure
 - Only asking about aspects that are possible to change
 - Interested in learning what is working/what is not/what could work better to help shape next school year
 - School Dance - Thursday 11/7 after school until 5:30
 - Celebrating the end of the first quarter of the school year
 - There is a late bus; however, parents are encouraged to pick up if possible ○

- Questions
 - Is there any update on bag policy for 6th graders?
 - Teachers have been coaching, teaching organizational habits, and it

etc.

- Will Spanish/foreign language be brought back at elementary level?
 - Never say never, but difficult to accommodate and hire
- Will full-time Media Specialists be brought back?
 - Not likely with current funding. State funding does not keep up with inflation. Best thing parents can do is contact their legislators.
 - At the building level, Mr. Carlson acknowledged they could work to identify more opportunities for students to visit the Media Center and check out books.
- Best at West Fall Fundraiser Recap - Karin Helmey (PTO Secretary & Fundraiser Co-Chair)
 - Fundraiser was a huge success, raising \$24,111 with donations continuing to come in
 - Surpassed goal of \$20K - PTO can invest even more this school year; for example, more teacher grant funding & a special event or guest speaker for students
 - Highlights include:
 - Student excitement - banners updated daily, tracking overall total & class prize leaderboards
 - Communication to families - daily e-blasts/newsletters work! Each time a communication went out, online donations spiked, then slowed down a few hours later. Communication blitz is time intensive, but effective!
 - Student and teacher prizes were nearly 100% sourced through donations. 24 local businesses contributed!
 - 245 students and 14 teachers/staff received prizes!
 - Class parties took place Oct. 24 - only the pizza party was paid for with PTO dollars, everything else donated.
 - Only spent ~\$350 to bring in over \$25K!
- PTO Budget Update - Brian Merkel (PTO CFO)
 - see 1-page summary [here](#)
- PTO Grants Update - Mimi Folkson (PTO Vice President)
 - \$4,900 was given in grants to teachers, which has facilitated the purchase of:
 - Headphone adapters for new iPad models
 - Teaching and coping tools for the special education classes
 - Graphic novels for struggling readers
 - Two 3D printers
 - Speaker for gym class
 - Rolling carts and drying rack to store artwork while it dries
 - Art supplies
 - Music folders
 - Groceries to supplement FACS/cooking classes
- Questions & Close Meeting - Heather Mueller
 - From Mr. Carlson - Can PTO move up the second round of grants to happen prior to the WEF grants deadline?
 - PTO Board can discuss and circle back
 - Also need to further discuss what type of costs PTO should cover versus

school (i.e. consumables for FACS, art, etc.)

Upcoming Dates:

West MS Fall Dance - Thursday, Nov. 7 after school

Next PTO Meeting - Friday, Jan. 17 at 12:00 noon via Zoom

Volunteer Opportunities:

School Supplies Co-Chair - for 2024-25 and 2025-26 - email WayzataWestPTO@gmail.com for more information and/or to express interest