

Washington School for the Deaf Parent Staff Organization

Meeting Notes

March 26, 2024

5:30pm-7pm

Call to order: 5:30pm by Ashley Wilkins

- **Present:**

- **Board Members:** Seven Star- Secretary, Ashley Wilkins- President, Belle Johnson- Vice President, Elysse Morton- Co-Treasurer
- **WSD Staff:** Shauna Bilyeu- WSD Interim Superintendent, Taylor Mendoza- WSD admin and PSO meeting moderator, LeAnne Mueller- nurse
- **Guests:** Glen Gipe- Capital Project Building Manager, Thomas Cohen and Susan Conway from Bassetti Architects
- **Parents:** Justin Morton, Heather Wright, Missy Williams, Tara Williams, Jeff Mathisen, LeFawn'e Robinson, Sean Wilkins, Sharon Macklin, Amber Knipp, Gabby Hopkinson, Stina Lane-Cummings
- **Interpreters:** Saamanta Serna, Aaron Medlock

- **Welcome: Ashley**

- Shauna and the Design Team present for 30 minutes:**

- Shauna says Northrup building cannot be torn down because it is on the historical register. But it is not energy efficient or welcoming so it needs to be renovated. The new academic bldg is for preK-12 grade so Northrup will be used for a parent welcoming center and birth to 5 program. The museum will also continue to be housed in Northrup. The plans are finished and will be presented to request the funds, and hopefully renovation will begin in 2025. Thomas shows the plan for the new campus. The existing playground behind Mac East will be changed to fit preschool children. A ramp will be added to the entrance to the lobby for wheelchair and stroller access. The new playground will be built in front of the cottages. All the landscaping will be redone. The stairway will be enhanced to make it look like a main entrance. Will add a wheelchair lift to the multi-purpose room (old gym) and some windows. Admin offices will stay, next to that will be the preK suite with a kitchen. On the North side of the building will be the toddler and infant rooms. OT and PT will remain in Northrup. The museum will be upstairs with additional storage area and an office.
- In the toddler and infant area there will be a family area with two other rooms with moveable glass partitions. Shauna says she wants WSD to expand their services and provide more for parents whose babies are recently diagnosed, so they want to create a really welcoming space for new families to come and get access to resources and education. Children's bathroom will be

added to that area and all rooms will have windows to the hallway. PreK will be across from the toddler infant area with a kitchen and bathroom.

- Thomas shares the materials that will be used inside the building and the color palette. Also shows examples of interactive wall art and where that will be placed in the building. The blue tiles in the hallway will be painted white with a blue border of original tile at the top.
- Parents are invited to give feedback about the new building construction and renovation of Northrup. Everyone is super impressed and expresses thanks to all involved!
- Belle asks if the windows can be extended even further down so kids can see outside better. Susan says they do want light coming in the classroom but don't want kids to be too distracted by having the windows too low. Teachers can see out easily but not students.
- Missy asks if the windows will be fully transparent or frosted. Susan says they will have some transparency between classrooms but mostly opaque to reduce distraction. But windows to the hallway will be transparent to maximize light since the hallway is very dark.
- LeAnne asks about safety features built into the new school and classrooms. Susan talks about the safety considerations in the classroom such as no sharp edges, appropriate furniture, etc.
- Shauna says the visual alert system that we have already in other buildings will be installed in Northrup as well.

Other Important Announcements:

- Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, April 23. Join at 5:15pm for social time. Official meeting starts at 5:30-7.
- Parameters for meeting/rules for engagement: skipped this time.

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

- **Passed** by majority vote

● **Financial Report: Elysse Morton**

- Current balance: **\$3,275.75**
 - Columbia Credit Union account
- Income: \$927.00 from Hoodie Sales. This brings us to a TOTAL of \$1,727.00 RAISED from one fundraiser!
- Expenditure: Reimbursement of \$336.75 to Belle Johnson for books. (Already voted on the amount and passed) books were more expensive than expected.
- Each teacher has gotten two brand new books each-we used a Barnes & Noble Membership, Prime Membership and discounts to save on cost. 8 books were purchased out of pocket and not included in the additional \$67.93 reimbursement to Belle.
- Ashley wants to thank SRI (Signing Resources and Interpreters) for helping out with the fundraisers and the hoodies
- We need to pay both Ashley and Belle back because they used their own money for the overpayment. The amount is really \$169.56 (\$100 for Ashley and \$69.56 for Belle) **Passed by $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.**

- **Presidential Report: Ashley**

- Please ask committees to include the month and year on their committee meeting notes
- Send committee meeting notes to PSOforWSD@gmail.com
- Ashley got to observe the D.E.A.F board meeting on March 7th via Zoom and is thankful for the opportunity to learn from an amazing group of people.
- Jamba cards that people purchased in the fall are set to expire soon in May, make sure you use up those cards and drink up those smoothies!

- **Communications Committee: LeFawn'e, Judy, Tara, Ashley**

- LeFawn'e says there is no news for the communications committee but you can get info on the Facebook page or the PSO website. Ashley mentions no one can post on the Facebook page except for her because she accidentally set it up that way. If you are tech savvy and would like to help us navigate this, please contact Ashley or the committee.
- Links to the Facebook page and website are at the bottom of these notes.
- Paperwork was submitted for the April meeting flyer and if any students are willing to be involved in the video, please let LeFawn'e know
- To sign up for this committee, click here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUDWYxw3EqVNVN2xqfyFMqT4hdQHlvtqOWMqwCnsgmDjZb6Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

- **Fundraising Committee: Chelsey, Belle, Heather, Ashley, Taylor, Heather W**

- On May 4th we will be selling pizza and possibly doing a T-Shirt fundraiser (Ashley/Belle met with Dana Miles & Michelle Clark 3/15 and again with Dana on 3/25). Ashley is waiting on official approval from Shauna before we go ahead with the Custom Ink Fundraiser. We hope to have a flyer and link shared before Friday this week. Belle will be working with Ashley on trying to get a "school store" website set up soon. Ashley asks Shauna about the form that needs to be filled out to do fundraising. Shauna has to sign off on it. Shauna says we don't need that form because we are not school employees. There is a brief discussion as to how the shirts will be sold. Some of the hoodies were sold at Terrier World, but the T shirts will be sold at the booth only. Shauna says she thinks that form is only required if we are selling things through Terrier World.
- PSO logo design ideas: We have gotten several so far, the LAST DAY IS THIS FRIDAY the 29th! GET YOUR LOGOS IN! Give to Chelsey, Ashley, Belle or email PSO at pssofarwsd@gmail.com
- Belle and Ashley got to distribute 2 books each to all elementary teachers on Friday during PAW assembly 3/22. Each elementary classroom got 2 new books. Secondary will be receiving theirs after Spring Break.
- Belle says WSDAA/WSD asked PSO to help sell T-Shirts. They will be sold through Custom Ink and the deadline to order is April 17th.. People can make orders and then pick up T shirts at the

booth on May 4th or have it shipped to you. PICTURE OF T-SHIRT WITH QR CODE TO ORDER IS BELOW.

- To sign up for this committee, click here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUDWYxw3EqVNVN2xqfyFMqT4hdQHlvtqOWMqwCnsqmDjZb6Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

- **Education Committee: Bill, Shannon, Taylor, Shauna**

- Shauna says the new school building will be made from mass timber which is very calming. The construction team wants to show off our building at a conference soon so many people want to come and take a tour. There will be about 300 people coming to the campus. Pictures will be taken in July because Skanska wants to submit the new school building for an award. Please let Shauna know if your kids are willing to be “models” in the pictures in July.
- The old gym will not be demolished until November or December this year.
- The construction process is on track and we should be able to have everything open before school starts. We will still have the back to school picnic on September 2nd. Ribbon cut will happen on September 12th which will be a huge event. Shauna would like PSO to help out if possible. The governor has been invited. She asks Ashley if she can make a committee happen. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact us at pssofarwsd@gmail.com

- **Staff Appreciation Committee: Shannon, Tara, Kyla, Dylan, Josie, Ashley, Belle, Eric**

- Tara says they would like to do an activity in April of hiding ducks around campus for elementary students. Ashley has been in communication with the school, Bill Newell will meet with teachers/staff on April 10 to discuss further. Ashley mentions we don't want to distract students from classwork or add more work to staff. It's a simple activity that kids can do as they walk from building to building during transition times. You can check this “fad” out on social media platforms if you're interested in learning more about what this committee is trying to do!
- Appreciation-waiting on official Approval from Admin. Admin will meet on April 10th with staff to discuss logistics. We will hold off on this activity until we get official word. Ashley did ask teachers/staff for alternative ideas if they decide that this one is not appropriate. The month of April we are focusing on Student Appreciation.
- We will be providing food to staff during Staff Appreciation Week. We have Friday May 10th at noon as the goal to give out food and have staff have the opportunity to meet PSO members without students around (students leave at noon on Fridays)
- Tara says they need more people on this committee! Please contact Tara via the PSO email address PSOforWSD@gmail.com
- Or, to sign up for this committee, click here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUDWYxw3EqVNVN2xqfyFMqT4hdQHlvtqOWMqwCnsqmDjZb6Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

- **Nominations Committee:** Tara, LeFawn'e, LeAnne

- Tara has some nominations to share for voting in April for board member positions.
- Nominations are: President: Ashley Wilkins, VP: Belle Johnson, Treasurer: Sean Wilkins and Josie Kreuger, Elysse Morton, Secretary: Seven Star
- LeFawn'e says the descriptions for the board positions are posted on the facebook page, the PSO website and on the bulletin boards at school (links below).
- All positions are open-if you are interested in running or helping with nominations-please contact the committee!
- To sign up for this committee, click here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUDWYxw3EqVNVN2xqfyFMqT4hdQHlvtqOWMqwCnsqmDjZb6Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

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

- MAY 4th Committee-PSO will do pizza and support WSDAA and we need more people to volunteer and help out that day.
- We will also be auctioning off some baskets. We need parents to help find businesses willing to donate things for the baskets.
- Belle- parent donations/May 4th.
- LeAnne Mueller is introduced as the new nurse
- Shauna has accepted the appointment as the new Executive Director of CDHY and will continue to be interim superintendent of WSD until a replacement is found.

- **Important Links:**

- Survey for ideas and feedback for Family Academy Nights (FAN):
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJ3FGndw37uN_S_C_iOWtZ4-wBRwWAji6PHk6p3l7dIAU6mQ/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&ouid=101936965999402543034&rtopof=true&sd=true>
- Link to committee descriptions and sign-up sheet:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUDWYxw3EqVNVN2xqfyFMqT4hdQHlvtqOWMqwCnsqmDjZb6Q/viewform?usp=sf_link
- PSO email: PSOforWSD@gmail.com

- PSO Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555851944619&mibextid=2JQ9oc>
- PSO website:
<https://www.wsd.wa.gov/psol/>

Meeting Adjourned at 7:02 pm

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



HELP WANTED!

PRESIDENT: *Leader of the Pack*

We want YOU to be our next parent group president! Our fearless leader's term expires at the end of the school year. We're looking for a creative problem-solver who's comfortable delegating and who can help us focus on the agenda instead of talking about our kids or the latest streaming show. A sense of humor is a big plus—and if you know how to say “no” without provoking a tantrum, even better. If you're ready to play a substantial role in supporting our school, we want to hear from you!

WSD PSO
psforwsd@gmail.com



HELP WANTED!

SECRETARY: *Fact Finder*

Be honest: You're the one in your friend group who filled out every page in your child's baby book...at the right time, no less. If you're the kind of person who documents everything, from your toddler's first steps to how far you jogged yesterday, we have the perfect role for you. You'll get to put your stellar recordkeeping skills and attention to detail to good use as our parent group secretary. You must have good listening and computer skills—extra credit if can watch TV and play Candy Crush at the same time.

WSD PSO
psforwsd@gmail.com



HELP WANTED!

VICE PRESIDENT: *Partner in PSO Leadership*

So you'd like to get more involved in the school parent group, but you're not sure you're ready to take the lead role? Our vice president position has your name written all over it! You'll learn behind-the-scenes intel and be part of decisionmaking on important issues throughout the year. You'll help the president get things done—kind of like a superhero's sidekick, but without the costume (unless you *want* to rock the mask and cape, of course).

WSD PSO
psforwsd@gmail.com



HELP WANTED!

TREASURER: *Number Cruncher*

We have big plans to raise money and fund important projects for our school, and we need someone who likes to count every penny to help us do it. If you secretly love to categorize expenses and create color-coded pie charts (and your sense of fiscal responsibility is rock-solid), you have what it takes to be our parent group treasurer. Bonus points if your spouse teases you about how often you log into your personal finance app.

WSD PSO
psforwsd@gmail.com



HELP WANTED!

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR: *Team Cheerleader*

Our parent group does a lot more than fundraising, but let's face it, without fundraising, we wouldn't be able to do much. We're seeking an upbeat, detail-oriented parent to coordinate our fundraising efforts this year. The ideal candidate is able to motivate students and parents, can think on their feet, and can handle last-minute surprises without totally freaking out (like product deliveries getting delayed because of a freak weather event—but really, there's almost no chance of that happening again...right?).

WSD PSO
psforwsd@gmail.com



HELP WANTED!

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: *Social Networker*

Are you a people person who isn't afraid to strike up a conversation with a stranger? We're looking for a volunteer coordinator to recruit helpers for parent group programs and events and to help parents find the best way to plug in to our school community. If you're enthusiastic (without being high-pressure) and understanding of parents' many time constraints, raise your hand and help us do even more great things for our school!

WSD PSO
psforwsd@gmail.com

WASHINGTON



PSO T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER



Ordering available: March 28th - April 17th



Unisex T-shirt sizes XS - XXXL



All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support enrichment opportunities for WSD students and teachers in the 2024-2025 school year.

\$25



Scan to go to fundraiser page
or

Search "PSO" on CustomInk.com fundraising page

For more information, please contact Ashley Wilkins at:
PSOforWSD@gmail.com