

## Winchester Schools PTO

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

### Minutes

**Location:** Virtual (Google Meet)

**Start Time:** 6:15pm

**Attendance:** Rachel Incillo, Rosanne Field, Rachel Gangi, Kelly Mosher, Jeanne and Eric Richard, Kim Roy, Barbara Silverio, Jennifer Scacca, Tara Sundie, Kimberly Tripoli, Renee Waldron

**Arrival:** Welcomes and introductions. People can access the agenda by going to *wspto.weebly.com* for locate agendas and approved minutes.

**Old Business:** Regarding volunteers in the schools - need to provide a list to the schools of those that are volunteers. B. Silverio is looking into requirements around fingerprints for volunteers moving forward.

**Batcheller Report:** (*R. Field*) – Curriculum and instruction update: Assessments are currently underway. Assessment progress will be sent home. Veterans Day assembly was well attended; there was a lot of positive feedback. Conference signups have begun; there is an option to attend virtually or in person. Discussion of school climate events. Survey sent home to collect information on how students' families celebrate their winter holidays. Starting on December 10, they will be participating in CCMC Pajama Day fundraiser; flyers will be coming home soon. *Family Resource Center (FRC) report on behalf of Mrs. Bernard.* Play and Learn will be on Tuesday and Friday at Batcheller. On Thursdays, it will be held at local parks, with the next event at Brody Park in New Hartford. Start time will be 9:30am.

**Pearson Report:** (*B. Silverio*) – Curriculum units moving out of narrative writing and into informational work. Finishing up second unit of math for grades 3-6. Second unit students tend to show growth. They are currently looking at monthly data and comparing it to last year. Math data is shown to be higher. They are seeking overall growth from last year's comparative data. Students are working hard and appear to be very engaged. In regard to parent/teacher conferences, this is the first year allowing parents and guardians to select a time. These are 10-minute conferences. They have seen good sign-up numbers so far. The upcoming Scholastic Book Fair will be held in Room 102B, with November 23<sup>rd</sup> being the preview date, when students can get an initial look at book selection. They will be open at various times during conference dates. November 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> will be scheduled class picture dates. Students will have a class picture taken this year. Fitness testing has begun. Kids are expected to set their own goals, so that they are only competing against themselves. When the weather warms, they will be doing the PACER test, beginning in February. April will be used for makeup. Following a take-home winter holiday survey, students will be sharing family traditions. They are currently thinking about sharing these on individual lockers. On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, students will be allowed to watch a movie and have popcorn; however, kids may not know this yet! They have seen wonderful participation in the Student Leadership group, highlighting good role models. Only 6<sup>th</sup> graders are participating this year. Veterans Day was a huge success; the weather cooperated. Talented and Gifted program (TAG) has begun. In regard to band, they are working with George's Music; there has been a bit of a wait for instruments. They just received them about a month ago, so they are slightly behind in instrument development. They will be scheduling

concerts for February. The Show Choir event was on Friday night, which was a great celebration. The music was focused on being back together following a period of distance.

**Community Partners:** (*per R. Incillo*) No new updates. (*per B. Silverio*) Tryouts for the school play, Wizard of Oz, coming up. Grades 4-6 art club is ending and show choir just wrapped up. Drama club will be held in early spring. No other new business from R. Incillo.

**Treasurer's Report:** (*R. Incillo*) They have been working on the transition following the election of the new Treasurer, Kim Tripoli, which is typically a significant amount of work. The bank that they were using in Winsted closed. In a previous meeting, they approved that they would change banks. They still need to do that. (*K. Tripoli*) Currently working on getting the taxes done. Their balance is at about \$30,000 due to no spending during Covid, and coupled with the Commissioner's Network Funds. They will continue to monitor spending to appropriately budget for next year.

**Committee Report:** (*J. Scacca*) Yearbook update: Pricing from the new company they will be using is double what we have paid in the past. There are about 540-560 students in district. Typically, we have done had about 600 yearbooks made. Discussion around whether we should do that this year and whether staff should be provided with yearbooks. The quote for 600 yearbooks was around \$10,700. We will need to adjust based on staff yearbooks. There was a conversation with to M. Brady-Shanley about yearbooks and how to charge for them. Discussion resulted in being open to charging some sort of a fee. We may also want to consider making them free because we didn't provide them last year. An option could be to send a note home that next year there may be a charge. Possibility of fundraising to make up the difference? These are higher quality yearbooks and appear to be worth the money. Some money was already allocated for last year that was not used. The idea of sending out an informational letter to the community to get advertisements was spoken about at the last meeting. They were going to investigate that, but they should look into it during December to discuss at the January meeting. Perhaps booster lines to consider and fundraising as a consideration? In the past, PTO has picked pictures, but they are putting this back to administration, although it is felt that it's important to have that collaboration. J. Scacca requests that all staff get their pictures taken this year. B. Silverio reports that she will relay that to the staff. **Motion:** R. Incillo - Motion to approve \$2,500 of funds from the 2021 school year not used due to covid to be used this year. J. Scacca, second. Unanimous. Discussion around free yearbooks for next year? Parents may have an issue after not having to pay for year books in the past. This can be a strain on lower income families, particularly for those that have multiple children in the household. Consideration of a fund for those with financial restrictions. Perhaps a tiered system, pay what you can.

**Scholastic:** (*per R. Incillo*) S. Guenther not present to update on Scholastic, but both B. Silverio and R. Field were able to update earlier in the meeting. S. Guenther sent out Signup Genius link to encourage volunteerism. Principals have also sent out the link. Please continue to spread the word; there are still a lot of time slots to fill.

**Social Enrichment** – (*per R. Incillo*) No updates. In December, would like to reach out and email for those that were interested, to prepare for the spring. If there are social events that come up, perhaps B. Silverio and R. Field could reach out to R. Incillo to collaborate. Perhaps virtual assemblies to get into the classroom. Still working on the rewards program – e.g., Amazon Smile, Stop and Shop. They will be updating on the PTO website soon.

Reminder that there will be no December meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.