

## **WGPTC Meeting 10/14/2021 – Minutes**

### **Meeting via Zoom, 6-7pm**

**Attendees, board members:** Denise Thomas, President; Carrie Wood, Vice President; Ana Archuleta, Secretary; Christy Wood, Spring Events Chair; Kristin Roby, Communications and Classroom Representative Coordinator

Absent board members: Leticia Bernal, Winter Events Chair

**Principal:** Karen Lindeen

### **Meeting called to order by President at 6pm**

#### **Introductions**

#### **Approval of September Minutes:**

Minutes approved.

#### **Principal's Report**

No covid cases, which is great, and frees us up to focus on other things. We have a counselor prospect out there which we are very excited about. This is an experienced person that we really want to have with us, hopefully that moves forward quickly. Processing may take some time, but will be very thankful to have a counselor. Kids are doing well, but would really like someone to check in with when they are having a problem that isn't the principal. She will be a welcome addition when that happens. Counselor will be half time (.5), which means 2.5 days a week. This person might be splitting a full-time position between another school so schedule will need to be determined. In the meantime we do have Presbyterian Medical Services behavioral health, which provides counseling therapy for students free of charge. It's a little bit of a process to get it going, but just requires paperwork, then they coordinate with the family for one of their counselors to come to school for a specific time for counseling services. We have made referrals for students to PMS and have a counselor that has come over. We just don't have someone available for the daily issues that arise.

Our new nurse is doing great, she got thrown into it when we had lots of covid cases and she did a great job, she is wonderful, really happy to have her with us. It is starting to feel more complete here now that we have more people to handle the different responsibilities. Nurse is a .4 staff member, which

equates to 2 days, right now she is at WG on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Christine is full time and Ana is a part time nurse aide as well.

After school activities are taking off. Tutoring for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Ellis-Green's children are volunteering online to tutor his students in the evenings. First Serve tennis program is going, 11-12 kids involved there. Yoga club had a huge turnout, 14 kids from 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Technology club is going for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Girls basketball has started, huge turnout, two teams (A and B) 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Games will be Wednesdays and Saturdays.

As a school we are interested in forming a club that addresses diversity, social justice and inclusion that would be for staff, parents and students to be involved with. Essentially looking to examine ourselves from a beginners mind perspective. How do our own cultures, identities and privileges play out in our community here? Especially as teachers and leaders with kids, what do we bring and how do we as a community see each student, value each student, and really see what they bring to our community. Are we being equitable with our resources, considerate, inclusive with all parts of our community? We have teachers that are really excited about this. We are going to start with the teachers first and then open it up to parents and eventually students and see what comes of it. Asked Loretta Trujillo, who is involved with Native American student services for the district to help us. She had offered in August to help with any kind of committee like this and have reached out to her, she is also really busy so we will be getting that going in a few weeks. More on that to come.... Let us know how the PTC can help. If one of the teachers spearheading this committee can come to our next meeting to see what we can do to help get parents involved when you are ready for that, that would be great.

Parent conferences are next week and they will be all virtual. Personally, Ms. Lindeen would love to have them in person, but is very fearful to open it up. Ms. Lindeen wants to get through the kids having the opportunity to be fully vaccinated before we move forward with things as they used to be. Promises that we won't remain in virtual land for parent conferences moving forward, just being cautious after having a lot of cases in the last few weeks.

Traffic continues to be an issue. Some days it is incredibly smooth and everyone is doing what they are supposed to do, but some days lots of emails show up about bad behaviors people have observed. Ms. Lindeen trying to be more of a presence at both drop off and pick up. What she has noticed is people on the other side of the street dropping off students even though drop off should only occur with traffic moving closest to the school entrance. When cars drop off going the opposite direction it creates major issues at Webber and Booth where there is traffic coming from all four directions, working on that. Our lovely crossing guard at Webber and Booth has been asked to do both crosswalks now. Working on training everyone to wait, most people totally fine and complying with it, she is lovely and creating relationships and folks are happy to listen to her and work with her so all that is great. Ms. Lindeen is thinking it would be nice to have the PTC ask for volunteers to help her out at that spot, to watch traffic, tell people to wait, etc. If there is a volunteer need right now that is it for both the morning and afternoon. We have a volunteer dad doing noon lunch duty and another parent was also approved today. Volunteers still taking time, but we are getting there. Really grateful to those volunteers that we do have.

How do we get 4-way stop signs at Webber and Booth. Such a crazy corner, so hectic, creates major traffic problems and just a really bad intersection. Also the alley where 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are being dropped off, at the exit onto Webber there are lots of little kids running across that way to get to the side yard and if we could get some sort of a sign to alert and let people know to look out for kids, slow down type sign to remind parents to slow down. Very tricky during a busy time. Can we stop people from going East during drop off and pick up by closing one of the gates to not allow people to go through there? Ms. Lindeen has thought about that and thinks it will help. That would help create a one direction circle. People move so quickly that it feels dangerous to even stand on that corner.

Michael Garcia, city councilman and Wood Gormley parent, he might be able to help us navigate the channels necessary to get these stop signs together. Also maybe have the kids work on writing letters to the city, create an opportunity for civic engagement. Have teachers help the kids write letters. Lesson in how to effect change through local government. Grade level appropriate letters.

### **Movie Night wrap up:**

An incredibly successful event, lots of fun, great turnout, parents and families were really happy, and it is Denise's understanding that it was not a super spreader event that started the Covid cases that seemed to follow it. I think that may have been a concern within the community. Ms. Lindeen agrees that it does not seem that Movie Night was the cause of the major spread. It seems that there was another thing that went on that contributed to people contracting covid, so we don't think it was Movie Night as far as we can tell. In the end it seems that there were 5 total cases (4 in one classroom), but the timing was strange on the confirmation of those cases because there was some confusion about which tests should be taken. Are close contacts trying to be determined, or is it just that a whole classroom goes home? WG is looking at close contacts. In the case of 4 kids in one classroom it ended up being the whole class eventually, but they all had different re-entry dates, which made it interesting, but the main goal was to minimize the number of days that kids were out of school. The whole class is informed when a positive case happens in a classroom. In this situation where the whole class eventually became a close contact it was handled very well and a class parent is grateful to the way the school handled the whole thing. An unpleasant situation that was handled as best as it could be. It was challenging to figure out how to handle it. It all happened the same week Ms. Tincher went on leave and we were able to offer online classes with Ms. Boe. It all worked out thankfully.

### **Treasurer Report**

Movie Night was a success, not yet sure that we have all the bills paid. Waiting for a couple more expenses. Leticia needs to get reimbursed, waiting to get her receipt. Denise also has a few receipts to submit from Movie Night.

The laminator never shipped, so we got reimbursed. Audrey saw another one online, Ms. Lindeen let us know if you want us to move ahead with ordering it. Definitely yes for the laminator, and would love the speakers if PTC can swing it, or else she can purchase them through the school's ESSR budget. Have to check on whether the already purchased laminator sheets will work with the new one.

Movie Night profit was decent. Not sure how much we made on the pizzas. Could figure it based on how many we sold them. 70 plus pizzas were ordered, with a mix of large and small. We sold out of all of them. Didn't really make money on the small pizzas because they were more expensive for us. Really liked doing just the pizzas rather than messing with a variety of foods, nachos, etc. Helped us keep our expenses down and didn't have a ton of leftover food which is great. Only one angry dad upset that we didn't have any extra pizzas. Maybe next year get pizzas from both Dions so we can get more. Preorder was great. VIP raffle made almost \$500 which is great. Less work to maximize funds the way to go for next year. Spacing out seemed to go relatively well. Next year we need to get a permit to close off Booth during the event because cars were going by as it got dark and it got a little scary. Can't we just close the gates? Maybe not the best approach, but we can always just get a "warning" so to speak and then do what we need to do. We also ran out of candy quickly. There is quite a bit of sparkling water and more bottled water in the basement. No need for more water anytime soon.

### **Halloween:**

No fall festival until conditions improve so we will celebrate Halloween on the 29<sup>th</sup>, normally each class does their own party and a parade in the gym for everyone. Can't do the parade in the gym this year, from the PTC perspective the plan is to try and have this outside and coordinate with the class reps to get cupcakes for each class. No budget for PTC to buy cupcakes for the whole school, but the class reps can do that on their own and then PTC will seek donations of bags of candy and then we can get together before the 29<sup>th</sup> to pre-package goody bags of candy. Ms. Lindeen, what do you need from us on the field? Generally we would have 1-2 parent volunteers per class to help keep folks organized. Will do a call out for each class. The plan is to parade around the field in grade level order. If we could have music that would be amazing and festive, maybe a little dance party after on the field in their classroom for kids to eat their cupcakes and get their candy. Maybe no need for a class party after all these treats. Not able to invite parents to watch, parents can volunteer to help, but can't just attend. Prefer to play it safe. Plan for 9:30 to 10:30am. Denise will work on getting a DJ. Maybe a good time to get canopy's for the PTC. Christy's friend's donation was really generous, but very difficult to get up and likely didn't go down correctly. Maybe time to invest. Need to figure out how to set all that up. Denise and Kristin and class reps will coordinate to get all that done.

**Class rep update:** Only one class now that is missing a class rep, so things are much better situated, and Kristin has communicated with that teacher about how she can help when a class rep is needed. One thing surprising is that not that many parents in the classrooms wanted to be connected to other classroom parents. So for non-classroom type info probably sending out to the list from the PTC sign up

is the best way to get general information out. For this classroom specific event, Kristin will loop in the classroom coordinators and will link to the one teacher, as an ad hoc coordinator for that classroom if needed.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences Lunch:**

Normally PTC has provided a luncheon on one of the days for teachers, set it up for them and they enjoy at their leisure. Teachers will be in the building for that day. This is next Thursday and Friday. Generally we seek donations, any ideas? We have plenty of water, but any other ideas. We have received donations from Rio Chama and Vinaigrette in the past, any other ideas. Muchos does good sandwiches in bulk and we could probably order from them, but not sure we could get a discount from them. They do big lunchtime orders. Restaurant Martin possibly could donate salads, Principal Lindeen has a connection there she will ask. Posas has cut us a deal in the past, we could try that again. We will need to feed 35 staff members approximately. Ana will ask about tacos or something from Coyote Cantina to accompany salads from Restaurant Martin. We will all follow up via email.

### **After School Clubs**

Questionnaire we have planned has not gone out yet to solicit additional information for more after school clubs. Maybe now is the time to send that out to see if we can get a few more in place. Those that are in place are doing well. At least that's what people are hearing. Denise will coordinate with Kristin to get that out.

### **Snowflake drive**

A little early, but wanted to get the initial conversation going. Traditionally done with a big bulletin board in the school lobby, a very hands-on event. Great event, big crush of gifts for families in need in our community. Last year we pivoted to a virtual format and created a go fund me, and asked for donations and all the monies were split equally among the families that were needing support. Raised \$5k approx. last year, really great. Easy platform, seemed to go very well. Mary Granzow, former librarian, was chief coordinator on the staff side and worked to identify the families and connect them to the drive. She identified the families and kept it all very anonymous. Before she left she said she thought it was a great success and liked the new format, with the hope to one day return again to the original format when we can. Kristin recommends doing it virtually again this year. Audrey set up the go fund me and got through the hiccups, but it did get worked out. Funds went out to the families with a letter from the community. Thinks it should be virtual again, or does anyone have any other ideas?

There were 2 or 3 people we could not reach and could not get the funds to them. The check was not cashed, or the check was returned. The funds just didn't get to them no matter what we did to try and

locate them. So there is money left in that fund that we couldn't get dispersed last year. Maybe this year since we know ahead of time how we will do this we can work in advance to figure out how best to get the funds to the families when it is all said and done. Work with Ms. Lindeen to figure out the appropriate staff person to help facilitate and identify the families. From the get go we can let people know that we will need a valid mailing address or some other way to get the funds to them and hopefully avoid people not getting the money. Any money given in good faith for families in our community last year can be paid forward this year and apply to the drive. Obstacles last year likely pandemic related, with no way to get to the school in any fashion.

Any ideas to add something to warm up the gift? Maybe add a gift basket this year or something to include with the monetary donation to warm it up a little bit. Ask about getting some baskets donated to some of the folks in town that make gift baskets.

This year let's try and get an idea of the size of the family because it felt like money was not fairly distributed last year and would like to see if we could do a more equitable distribution this year so families with 1 kid vs. 5 kids are able to have an equitable distribution of funds. Good idea. With the tags each kid gets their own request which helps with a more equal distribution. Last year we sent out an email that basically said what the Snowflake Drive is, this is the modification if you would like to contribute this is where you go if you are a family in need this is who you contact. The drive was done from Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> until Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> last year. Usually we start right before Thanksgiving. If possible let's do it sooner this way they can then have better chances to use the funds. And also let's send the families cash and not gift cards so we don't limit how the funds are used, let them use the cash however they want to use it. Gift baskets are great if we can get them donated, but rather we give them the cash to spend as they want. If we can't get baskets donated maybe we just get some items donated and we can put together some baskets. Perhaps we end the driver earlier this year so families have time to spend the funds. This year families will be able to come to the school to pick up the checks, which will help get cash to them in a more timely fashion. We should also confirm that checks work for families and can be cashed in some fashion. Last year we helped 12 families and there were 2 checks that were not cashed, either returned or it just disappeared and no one was able to cash it. When people sign up perhaps we can ask how they prefer to receive funds, i.e. check, cashier's check, cash. If they can inform us of number of kids and also how to receive funds in the beginning that is ideal. Who will be the staff person for Kristin to work with? Let's work on getting that going. Ms. Lindeen will be point person and communicate with some additional staff members to get more community knowledge. A secret file in the back of the filing cabinet per Ms. Mary Granzow to help with this. So we can get the email out earlier and move things along more quickly. This year maybe we do a reverse tree, have ornaments or snowflakes added to a tree that can be a visual key to see contributions that are made to the go fund me. Nice idea to allow the kids to be involved and see what's happening. A way for the school community to see the money and donations grow. Doing it virtually does take it out of the kids being involved.

Can we add in a coin drive component? Make it a class competition to see who can raise the most money. Do a bulletin board to track donations, etc. Could make it into two separate things, Snowflake Drive on go fund me and then a coin drive for a local shelter. This way we maximize the donations for

the families and keep the coin drive to. Ms. Lindeen can track the go fund me and make daily announcements and then when a certain amount is donated an ornament can go up. Each class takes turns. Keeps the kids informed with what is going on and getting involved.

Christy able to coordinate getting jugs for coins and help make some bulletin boards. Keep it snowflakey and winter themed so it is non-denominational for however the event gets tracked. Nature themed ornaments. Keep it generic for folks. Snowflakes, birds, berries, build a winter scene, nature scene that fills out as donations are made. All about giving kids a way to connect with the idea of giving during the holidays. Keep it tied to the kids to celebrate and encourage all of that. Such an incredible event, a feel good event that allows us to see how driven people are to support their community. A special tradition and it is great to see the ways we are reinventing it.

**Meeting adjourned 7:15pm.**