

MINUTES

Wilson Elementary School PTG

*Tuesday, January 12, 2021 7:05 pm | Zoom Meeting Called to Order by Carly Howarth
Minutes Submitted by Kendra Kimball Chapman*

PTG Officers in Attendance

Carly Howarth, President

Carly Pickering, Vice-President

Katie Glazier, Treasurer

Tonja Brown, Outreach Secretary

Kendra Kimball Chapman, Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The November meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Alexis Padgham, seconded by Alex Evans. All in favor of approval.

Treasurer's Report – Katie Glazier, Treasurer

- Amazon Programs
 - Amazon School Rewards Associate Program is over. Please use Amazon Smile instead.
 - Amazon Smile: Be certain to select **Wilson School Parent Teacher Group** (not the misspelled version Wilson School *Partent* Group!)
- Merchandise and brick sales are going well
- Expenses for the directory have been paid out. Income from directory advertisement sales have started coming in but is not completely received yet.
- Please donate money directly to our community fund
- We incur 4-5% credit card fees when using Greater Giving
- Largest recent expense was the staff holiday breakfast. PTG purchased food from Madeline's and Rockwood Bakery. PTG also purchased holiday gift cards for staff.
- Mod Monday profits are picking up

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) – Carly Howarth reading notes from Katelyn Hunt

- Upcoming Levy
 - PLEASE vote in favor of and encourage others to do the same!
 - the levy accounts for 14% of annual budget, approx. 64 million dollars, it funds HS sports, librarians, nurses, counselors, behavior and tech support, music, science and after school programs. If it doesn't pass, we lose out on so much.
 - amounts to about \$2.50 per \$1000 of property value per year-about the same as a cup of coffee
 - the YES4KIDS campaign is encouraging PTGs to donate to the campaign to raise awareness and endorse the levy.
 - is this something the PTG would like to consider and is in a position to do?

- Kids are headed back to school
 - Phase 1:
 - 3rd grade returning 1/20
 - 4th grade returning 2/3
 - Phase 2:
 - 5th/6th grade returning 2/17 as a hybrid model
 - Phase 3:
 - 7-12th returning 3/1 as a hybrid model
 - hybrid models necessary to facilitate social distancing
 - in order to advance to the next phase, the following criteria must be addressed:
 - trend of transmission in schools
 - trend of transmission in county
 - can we maintain cleanliness standards?
 - effectiveness of contact tracing, can we keep up?
 - can we fill all necessary substitute spots if too many teachers are quarantining?
 - rapid testing will be available district wide to all potentially exposed/symptomatic with parent consent. Results available in 24-36 hours
- Transportation Initiative
 - Dist 81 is working with a new company called HopSkipDrive to supplement busing
 - Uber-like company
 - will reduce the district's carbon footprint
 - be more efficient to have 3 kids in one car verses 3 kids in a huge bus
 - hybrid/electric cars
 - will be booked thru and funded by the district

Old Business

- Greater Giving website is up and running. There you can:
 - Purchase bricks through the Brick Fundraiser
 - Donate to the Community Fund – for student hardships (clothes, food, school supplies). Covid is presenting extra needs so we're creating our own fund.
 - Purchase Wilson Spirit Gear (beanies, trucker caps, socks, Wilson vinyl stickers, paw print keychains). We only make a small profit here. Katie reports that we netted \$370 on merchandise last school year.
- PTG Newsletter: Paw Prints (Tonja Brown coordinating)
 - Three editions have been published so far. Feedback?
 - Finding it helpful, appreciates finding links and important topics all in one place (Josie Sackmann)
 - Tonja would love to have others write articles for the newsletter
 - Josie Dix suggests student submissions. All in favor of this idea
 - Deadline to submit is the 15th of the month.
- PTG Outreach Committee (Carly Howarth reading information sent by coordinator Kaitlyn Hunt)
 - Everyone needs a little more than everyone is in a position to give right now. We want to move forward but need to talk more about it.
 - Will revisit next month

Levy Presentation – Ken Hermanson, Principal

- Video produced by Krem 2 (Dec. 2)
- Why are we asking for more money during a pandemic? This is not a new tax rather a replacement levy. Levy is on a three year cycle, current levy expires after 2021. Levy must be approved to continue funding 2022-2024.
- Right now students are missing after-school and enrichment activities due to Covid. If we want these things available once it's safe to participate, we need to fund the levy.
- What does the levy really do?
 - Special Education , English Language Learners, Highly Capable Offerings (these programs are not fully funded by the state)
 - Extracurricular Programs, Arts, Expanded course offerings like AP classes
 - Staffing: Teachers (to reduce class sizes), librarians, counselors, school nurses, school support staff
 - instructional professional development, instructional technology, supplies and materials
 - Maintenance and Operations: custodial Staffing, grounds crews, supplies for those efforts
 - Operation of new middle schools: current elementary teachers will go to those schools but we still need funding for additional principals, assistant principals, counselors, librarians, custodians, office staffs, utilities. The new middle schools reduce crowding in present elementary schools.
- State will reduce our funding in the next three years. We will lose 7.3 million in 2021-22, 14.6 million in 2022-2023, and 19.9 million in 2023-2024.
- Why are their four school tax lines on my property tax bill?
 - Local Levy
 - Local Bond
 - New State Schools
 - New State Schools #2
- Average Home valued at \$250,000 levy expenses:
 - Current: \$1,477/year
 - New Levy: \$1,850/year
- Ways to support the levy: waving signs, leaflet drop, phone calls, social media, yard signs, learning more, texts to friends/community members
- What can the PTG do?
 - Yes, a PTA can contribute financially to support the levy.
 - There should be a line item in the budget for such activities but we don't have that
 - Members must vote to place the line item in the budget
 - Neighborhood schools have already contributed to the Yes4Kids campaign: Hutton, Jefferson, Sac, Adams, Sheridan, LC, etc.

New Business

- Elizabeth Coyote would love to have volunteers for a leaflet drop in our neighborhood Saturday, 1/23. Text Elizabeth (509.868.3324) if you can help.
- Elizabeth Coyote motions we donate \$100, a modest amount, to support the leaflet drop and signage in our area. Darcy Hastings seconds.

- Carly Howarth expresses concern over donating PTG funds to something that might be deemed “political.” Wilson PTG has never donated to support a levy in the past. We don’t have a line item in the budget to support this donation.
- What’s the timeline for pushing this decision to another meeting? (Alexis Padgham)
- Josie Dix suggests we all make individual contributions to the YesForKids campaign rather than PTG donating
- Rod Burke urges PTG to support. He has lived in a town that failed to pass a levy and it forced a drastic change the community (pay to play activities, further disparity socio-economically)
- Josie Sackmann suggest we support the campaign individually AND as a PTG. As someone who has donated to the PTG for years, this kind of giving is in line with her expectations.
- Ralph Simmerer recognizes that some people are experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic.
- Katie Glazier proposes we contribute more than \$100
- Courtney Malone motions we contribute \$500 to YesForKids. Carly Howarth seconds.
- Anonymous ballot results: 97% Yes. 1 Person abstained. 0% No
- Courtney Malone has a few levy signs left. Does anyone have a good spot? Contact her.
- Any last questions?
 - What time does school actually get out?
 - Ken Hermanson: kids should be picked up by 2:25

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Carly Howarth. Kendra Chapman seconds.