

# MINUTES

## Wilson Elementary School PTG

*Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:01 pm | Zoom Meeting Called to Order by Carly Howarth  
Minutes Submitted by Kendra Kimball Chapman*

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### PTG Officers in Attendance

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Carly Howarth, President

Carly Pickering, Vice-President

Katie Glazier, Treasurer

Tonja Brown, Outreach Secretary

Kendra Kimball Chapman, Secretary

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### Approval of Minutes

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The October meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Katie Glazier, seconded by Carly Pickering. All in favor of approval.

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### Treasurer's Report

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- Amazon Programs
  - Amazon School Rewards Associate Program: We receive a percentage of purchases quarterly. We are unsure whether we still get funds from this program. They discontinued the program but it seems like perhaps some organizations were grandfathered in. We seem to make much more money through this program. Katie suggests we use this one for the next few months. If we don't see any profits from it then we'll switch over to Amazon Smile. Must shop through this specific link: [http://www.amazon.com/?\\_encoding=UTF8&tag=wilselemsch0a](http://www.amazon.com/?_encoding=UTF8&tag=wilselemsch0a)
  - Amazon Smile: Has paid us less money in the past but it's easier to use.
- Mrs. Farley reimbursed us \$800 this month. She thought she had lost it in the move to Camp Wilson and the PTG voted to cover the loss. She found the missing money during the move back to Wilson and returned the funds to the PTG.

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### Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) – Katelyn Hunt

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- Dr. Swinyard met with the new Spokane Regional Health Director, Dr. Velazquez. His takeaway is that Dr. Velazquez is choosing to stay the course at this point in time. Dr. Swinyard did not get the sense that there would be a huge shift in policy with Dr. Lutz's exit. They will still be cautious and intentional. Numbers have more than tripled since we last met and they are not trending in our favor for getting the older students back to school. A commission is finding that school transmissions are pretty low:
  - Recent Covid Data of 47 cases in our district. They believe only one case originated inside the school.
  - This resulted in 94 cases of exposure.
  - 250 people quarantined

Based on this data, the plan might be revised to some degree. They might also try to get 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in at some point.

- The district is working on mental health awareness for staff and students. Teachers will have access to trauma training and support. Due to online learning, teachers have been seeing and hearing troubling things inside the homes. The district will provide intervention for students where possible and necessary. Distance learning is really hard on teachers and students but the district has been impressed with everyone's resilience.
- The district commits to continue following all health district guidelines. They will not pick and choose which guidelines to follow.
- The district is talking about having virtual students meet in person with teachers during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. This would be in small groups, approximately once a week.
- There is an Equity Resolution available on the website. There will be anti-racism training for staff and an effort to increase student input regarding racial and socioeconomic conflict. The district is working to shift the model to a smaller commissioned police force members and more mental health professionals on campus.
- The community has the opportunity to submit names for two new middle schools. Submit online through February 2021. The board will meet in March 2021 to vote. Submit here:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePSKzcgV4alzyPhUN9drKm1hKgjqkj2XOCIEkwwgRxJERybhg/viewform>

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## Old Business

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- 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.
- Please send more pictures of your Wilson yard sign to Carly H [CarlyH@spokaneschools.org](mailto:CarlyH@spokaneschools.org)
- PTG Outreach Committee (Kaitlyn Hunt coordinating)
  - Sent an email to Sheridan staff. Lara Nybo reports that she's working on a response together with the principal and counselors. They're interested in a more long-lasting sustainable relationship. We could consider donating to World Relief (would benefit their refugee populations) for holiday giving. We'll get more specific information from Lara by Friday and it will be shared at the next PTG meeting.
- Calming Kits are ready for pickup at school 8-4 on school days.
- PTG Newsletter: Paw Prints (Tonja Brown coordinating)
  - Will be delivered on the third Monday of the month (or Tuesday if Ken's newsletter goes out that Monday)
  - The goal is building connection and community
  - Please contact Tonja with suggestions on topics or if you'd like to contribute a section of the newsletter. We welcome that input. Deadline to submit is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

- Group A: Katie Glazer, Lara Nybo, Courtney Malone
  - Lara spoke about Sheridan and expressed concern about presenting the partnership as a charity. She reiterated her suggestion to steer monetary donations to a more established organization working on the ground to support many families. She would also like to see joint activities and clubs where kids are interacting (when safe to do so, of course).
  - Courtney was hoping to have a giving tree opportunity for the holidays, but it sounds like that situation is basically covered. It would be nice for our kids to have a way to be involved.
  - Lara suggested that we could simultaneously support small businesses when it comes to holiday gifts by purchasing restaurant gift cards in areas other than our south hill pocket.
  - The costume contest was well-received, but lots of people missed it and/or didn't come back to look at all the costumes.
  - Katie suggest we might continue using Padlet for a new initiative each month like kids holding signs stating what they're thankful for November. Maybe a snowman building contest for December?
- Group B: Tonja Brown, Robbi Quinn, Krista Hastings, Jennifer Ireland, Ken Hermanson
  - The major theme of this conversation was keeping open, predictable, two-way communication going between PTG leadership and families - most people mentioned this in some way.
  - Ken observed that the parent involvement at Wilson is great and that the costume contest seemed to help keep some of the community traditions alive.
  - Robbie suggested that we figure out ways to help our community, especially immigrant and refugee communities. Robbie is currently taking a class at GU that focuses on these groups and could be a great resource if we are looking for ideas of ways to engage our immigrant/refugee families.
  - The Spokane HUB has one more drive-in movie planned for the year: 1st Saturday in December. Showing Christmas Vacation and the Grinch. Robbie works there and could be a connection person if we want to move forward with this idea.
  - Jennifer suggested a virtual game night, organized around grade levels or classes.
- Group C: Carly Howarth, Leila Fischer, Dave Gilbert
  - Brainstormed about ways to get more people involved - especially staff. Carly may create a team in Microsoft Teams and add all the staff members; this would create a meeting reminder to all of them. Leila mentioned that there are some platforms that create calendar appointments and reminders and that we should be able to figure out a way to add all the parents to those platforms...if we were all receiving text notifications for PTG we may get more involvement. Another idea was to have some sort of reminder or welcome card to add to weekly packets the teachers are creating.
- Group D: Kendra Kimball Chapman, Josie Sackmann, Michele Staben
  - Michele would like to see a Community Christmas fund and believes there's far more need in our Wilson community than we realize - especially with Covid. She suggests that Melissa Alfstad would be a good contact person. She doesn't want to make more work for Melissa but thinks that she loves helping in this way.
  - Was there a rush to partner with Sheridan before exploring other possible schools? We remembered that last month we discussed partnering with a school whose kids would go on to Sac and LC with Wilson kids - to better foster community.

- Could we have some kind of community walk to safely gather this year? Maybe this wouldn't work as kids would still have trouble distancing but it could work with parents. Could this be a way to connect?
- Michele also wonders if we could focus on community service this year. It doesn't have to mean gathering in person. Perhaps we could have a letter writing campaign to write to nursing home residents or maybe our sister school.
- Kendra brought up having school-wide spirit days. Could we use Padlet to share photos and even have more contests?
- Group E: Carly Pickering, Kaitlyn Hunt, Josie Dix, Alexis Padgham
  - There is common interest in having families decorate their Wilson signs for different holidays/spirit weeks and uploading to Padlet.
  - A lot of the conversation revolved around how to make PTG/the school/events more equitable. It seems like it is always the same 10-15 families showing up for things.
  - How can we involve the neighborhood and alumni in our community?
  - Could we send a survey to all families (if classroom teachers sent them out, maybe more people would fill it out) asking what they need/want from our community/PTG.
  - Can we reach out and welcome families in the Social Prag classroom?

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## New Business

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- MOD Pizza Fundraiser (Alexis Padgham coordinating)
  - We only made about \$30 from approximately \$150 in sales on our first day. We need better communication. Would a text later in the day (around 3 or 4 pm) help? Could teachers mention it? Ken suggests a classroom competition for the most participation. This would be good but tricky to facilitate and track.
  - Upcoming dates:
    - Monday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>
    - Monday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>
    - Monday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>
    - Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Virtual Halloween Costume Contest Winners (Carly Pickering) - winners will receive a Scoop gift card
  - Funniest: Ava Brattebo as Lego my Ego
  - Most Original: Amelia Mejia as the Tin(wo)man
  - Spookiest: June Sackmann as a witch
  - Best All Around: Daniel Haskel as Dustin from Stranger Things
  - Best Group Costume: The Kovorik Family – Star Wars
- Mr. Hermanson provided the update that there will be opportunities for students in grade 3 -6 to see teachers in person. They are working on the logistics of this but know that this group won't be left behind.

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## Next Meeting

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Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00 pm, Zoom

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## Meeting Adjourned

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7:57 pm by Carly Howarth. Courtney Malone seconds.