

Wheelock PTO Meeting - Friday, November 18, 2022

Attendants: Holli Caulfield, Sophia Viglas, Katie Lynch, Beth Rumul, Seema Patel, Jill Werner, Becca Stefanik, Diana Frascella, Katherine Weisse, Kelly Behbehani, Andrea Faneuil, Nicole Drummond, Tim Knight

Welcome and Introduction:

Principal Report- Holli Caulfield

- COVID tests will be sent home for optional testing at the end of Thanksgiving break and at the end of December winter break.
- Wheelock held a special Veteran's Day assembly last Tuesday. Dr. Drew Schoenfield, a medical doctor in the Army, came and talked to the students. Students thanked him for his service.
- There was a recent MCPE Grant for Mandarin class supplies.
- Wheelock's fundraising focus for the MCPE Fall Ball is "Set the Stage." Wheelock hopes to use Fall Ball funds to update the Wheelock stage area and return it to a working performance space. This would include a new sound system, lighting, curtain, and stage.
- Holli went to a recent MASSCue and discovered a fun way to encourage reading. She will write a grant and she hopes to be able to install a "Book Vending Machine" at Wheelock. Kids can earn tokens for vending machine,
- The parent recess helpers have been so helpful this year.
- Preparations for Wheelock's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade are underway. Third grade students will work in teams to design and code ProBots in a parade-like procession with mylar balloons. 2nd graders will get to come and watch.
- Rocky Woods Update: It was amazing!! Weather cooperated. **HUGE THANKS TO SOPHIA VIGLAS** for endless hours spent planning, scheduling, and troubleshooting the 3 day event. **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers! It was the smoothest one yet.
- Holiday Gift Shop will be coming in December. Discussion of incorporating student budget planning and simple money math into the plans prior to shopping days.
- The PTO-sponsored Earth Dome is returning to Wheelock. 2nd Graders will experience it the week after Thanksgiving
- The PTO- funded "People of the Dawn" program will come to Wheelock the first week of December. Students will learn about Indigenous People from the Plimoth program.
- There will be a "5 days of Spirit" week for kids leading up to winter school break.

Treasurer's Report: Beth Rumul

- PTO dues are sometimes being sent to Wheelock instead of to Townwide. Beth shares this with Nicole Drummond who is in attendance.
- Beth is tracking all donations this year (both money and items) to see how that they impact the budget predictions.
- The Earth Dome program is a carry over from last year. It had already been paid for at the time.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

School Committee Introduction: Tim Knight

- Tim Knight introduces himself to the PTO and parent members in attendance. He really enjoys getting to hear about all the great things happening at Wheelock.
- He strongly believes in bringing community back to Medfield and the schools.
- He wants to encourage Site Council- PTO- School Committee connectivity.
- He encourages people to reach out to him with questions and feedback.

Meeting Notes- Secretary–Jill Werner

- The board votes to approve the meeting notes from our September meeting in person.
- Jill proposes that the board move the approval method to email correspondence so notes can be approved and shared/published as needed in a more timely manner.

HUG Program Update: Kate Briedis (not in attendance)

- There are currently 6 Wheelock families in the program.
- A winter activity will be planned to bring the families together.
- There are non-English speaking families who are new to Wheelock–need translator availability. Would be helpful to have “Home Language” added to the initial questionnaire to aid in family pairings.
- Kelly Behbehani brought up the idea of setting up Special Education pairings for new to school families. She is going to explore this initiative at the next SEPAC meeting.

Hospitality Update: Katie Lynch

- The trail mix bar was a hit during the conference days.
- Katie and Holli decide on Tuesday, 12/20 for the Holiday Luncheon date. This will be the date for all of the elementary schools.
- Last year holiday luncheon food was donated. This year they anticipate going with Cutlets.
- The hospitality committee will send out Sign up for some specific food/drink donations as well as gift card donations for the teachers
- The team is thinking of some fun themes for future teacher meals/celebrations.

Recess Volunteers:

- Outdoor recess Sign up has worked well.
- On indoor recess days, there is often a need for more volunteer coverage during the 11-12:30 block.
- We are looking for volunteers who would like to be included on a Group Text for Indoor Recess. This will allow Wheelock office to hopefully find last minute, additional, indoor recess coverage on days when the weather keeps the kids from going out.

Rocky Woods:

- *Thank yous:* Megan MacDonald , Jessy Nejm, and Karen Vasquez showed up all 3 days to provide ground support. MaryBeth and Beth in office were also so supportive and helpful throughout the planning and execution of Rocky Woods.
- *General feedback on the day:* Cleaning is a big job–clarify specific cleaning directions. Suggestion to assign more people in future for both on-site clean up as well as the transfer and dish cleanup that takes place back at Wheelock.

- Extra hands to facilitate the feast. Suggestion to establish 1 Rocky Woods Parent Point Person per class– someone who feels comfortable encouraging class parents to jump in to help as needed
- Beth is awaiting expenses from Rocky Woods

Volunteer Needs: October 10th- Volunteer listserv distribution went out. This included planning committee roles as well as more general volunteer opportunities

Holiday Shop:

- Will be held on Thurs, 12/15, and Fri, 12/16, in small gym. Setup Weds afternoon, and Friday breakdown.
- Volunteer signups, listing specific class sign up times will go out soon.
- There will be 2,500+ pieces, prices ranging from \$1-\$20 (Medfield gear at \$20.) Wheelock will not be stuck with Medfield inventory–K-8 PTO will purchase it back. Each day there will be a refreshing of inventory so day 2 classes will see similar inventory to day 1 classes.
- There will be clear communication with families about how it will run and how to help children budget and plan their purchases.

Family Dance/Activity:

- Still deciding on how to proceed with these ideas.
- Should there be 1 activity for both grades or a separate activity for each grade?
- A few meeting attendees volunteered to work on these plans.

Funding requests:

- Site council meeting–promote teacher Amazon wish lists, establish a Schoolwide wishlist for things like tissues and white board markers.
- Student council may generate a wish list for recess—playground balls, recess storage bins.
- Beth Shares that Thank you Funds are low– we could encourage participation in replenishing these teacher funds around Thanksgiving and around Teacher AppreciationWeek.

Other Business: The Elementary Literacy Night/ Book Fair will be held Tuesday, March 21st, 2023. More planning and details around this to come.

UPCOMING WHEELOCK PTO MEETINGS: Weds. Jan 4th @7PM, Friday, March 3rd @ 9:30AM, Weds. May 10th @7PM

TOWNWIDE PTO MEETING: JANUARY 25th @ 7PM at Blake

All schedules, forms, and contact form at www.medfieldk8pto.com