

WMS PTG Meeting
Minutes September 10, 2019

Welcome and introduction of members

Board members present: Sarah Valerie, Stephanie Scaramuzzo, Rachel Buck, Robin Cusachs, Dia Hernandez, Deb Martinez, Chrissy Huskes

Other members present:

Mission Statement

The mission of the Washington Middle School Parent Teacher Group(PTG) is to connect and sustain a mutually beneficial relationship between the parents, faculty and staff, and students by providing opportunities for unity within the home, school, and community. It is our belief that the team effort of a parent teacher organization fosters the best possible learning environment for our children.

Principal's Report

- WMS had a good opening week
- Enrollment is at 842, the largest in 15 years
 - 6th grade clusters (3 each with 4 teachers) - 88 to 94 students
 - 7th grade clusters (3) - 81 to 96 students
 - 8th grade clusters (2) - 110-115 students
- The school is thrilled with the SBAC performance
 - Has made some changes to math teachers to help improve math performance
- 46% decrease in referrals in the last 2 years
 - Restorative practices have been put in place and have made a huge difference
- Fundraiser for Southland Scholarship
 - Board of Ed scholarship, parameters yet undefined
 - Family/community event
 - BBQ dinner
 - Tickets and raffles
 - Possibly at Mountain Mist
 - Goal is to bring the community together as Ray would have liked that
- Bus Pass Policy
 - Very few bus hops being allowed as busses are full
 - Checking bus passes daily
 - A few transportation issues at pick up and drop off
 - 25% of students are walkers
 - Some safety issues
 - If you park illegally on Broad St you will get a ticket
- PowerSchool overview
 - There is an app available for parents
 - Parents can access all grades at any time
 - You can use students login or get a parent login
- A candidate for Assistance Principal is being put forward to the Board of Ed on Tuesday night for approval
- WMS does not currently have a Library Media Specialist
 - Job will be posted at the end of September
 - The library clerk has been going above and beyond helping with chromebook deployment and many other issues

Teachers - Mr. Aryton, grade 6 math, & Mrs. Martorelli, grade 7 ELA

Math

- ALEKS
 - Teachers can give assignments within Aleks
 - There is a completion grade issued
 - The assignments are targeted based on curriculum and student need

- Students also have access to an online math book
- Iready
 - Diagnostic test given 3 times a year (in both math and reading)
 - Replaces STAR K-8 across district
 - Not graded as a summative
 - Teachers are looking for growth and effort
 - Weak areas can be targeted with Aleks
 - It is a better indicator of strengths and weaknesses within the curriculum (than STAR)

ELA

- No red ink
 - Grammar and editing program
 - Can support areas from iready test
- Reading and writing are working collaboratively

OLD BUSINESS

Review of Opening Day

- Chalk the walk
 - Positive sayings done by students and parents
 - Apollo, local artist, did the WMS logo in paint
 - News coverage - Record Journal
 - Thanks to Deb Martinez for coordinating
- Selfie station, goodie bags for teachers, and ice cream party for staff
 - Much appreciated by the staff

Current Fundraisers

- Mixed bags due 9/30 (with possible extension)
 - Extended to 10/31
- Mum sale (orders due 9/13)
 - Extended to 9/20
- Opt Out Form
 - 3 responses
- Illiano's Fundraiser 9/18
- Teacher supplies on amazon & signup.com
 - Will send out again in November
- Sign up for Stop and Shop, Shop Rite, and Box Tops

Upcoming events

- 9/26 School Spirit Day
- 10/2 Pasta Dinner and Open House
 - Raffle baskets/items sign up was circulated
 - Suggestion that raffle baskets be \$25-\$50
 - Experiences (re: lunch with the principal)
 - School will donate one large item
 - Every parent that attends gets one ticket and then can buy more
 - Baked goods for bake sale sign up was circulated
 - Need volunteers to man both tables
 - A signup.com should be made for all three
 - Scheduling tool for conferences will be sent out soon (conferences occur before cluster meetings)
 - Baby sitting is available for younger children
- 10/24 Crazy Hair Day
- Boo Bash
- 11/5 Election Day Bake Sale

Communication

- Remind - Text @k9h283 to 81010
 - Remind has limited the number of free participants per group so school will be utilizing School Messenger
- Facebook
- Peach Jar
- Email
- Can also utilize school messenger through Mr. Corsetti

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraiser suggestions

- Stop and Shop Reusable Bags
 - \$1/bag
 - Not available until 2020
- Recycle plastic bags
 - 5 cents per bag
- Spirit Wear
 - Will be done through the office similar to last year

NEXT MEETING October 16, 2019 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Buck
WMS PTG Secretary