



**Washington School PTO
April 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

PTO Attendance:

Ginny Miller, President
Heath Stewart, Treasurer
Jill Fonte, Recording Secretary
Gillette Hall
Kim Kotnik
Erin Muslera
Michael Paskin
Laura Seawards

Parents in Attendance:

Jamie Crystal
Jessica Gin
Tara King
Shannon Schroeder
Anna Stump
Dustin Todd
Lucile Vea

Staff Attendance

Mr. Michael Riley

Call to Order

Ginny Miller called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Ginny Miller

Announcements

Move-a-Thon is coming up on May 4 and \$8,500 has been raised through the online system called PledgeStar. There has been quite a bit of progress in the planning so far. T-shirts are done and will be picked up tomorrow. The big focus now is on fundraising and getting people to sign up on PledgeStar - it is easier on the accounting side and also easier for parents to use. There are still people using the traditional method of signing up and that is great too, as all efforts are appreciated. There will be additional reminders in the Friday weekly email and an email reminder with a link to PledgeStar will be sent to all teachers. There are some great class prizes and from a fundraising perspective, we may want to look at more sponsors for t-shirts next year.

Anna Stump mentioned that since for the first time, the Move-a-Thon is not a minimum day (because the date was changed), there is an increased need for parental involvement because kids are likely to return to their classrooms hyped up from all the fun activity. The committee is still looking for college-age volunteers to help corral the kids and keep them motivated, and those volunteers can get community service credit for their role.

4th Annual Fundraising Gala was a huge success and it looks like we are near our goal of \$40,000 but the totals are still being tallied. It was beautifully executed by the organizers and everyone had a great time. There will be an analysis to determine changes we may want to make for next year to involve more people. Perhaps we will forego the sit-down dinner and lower the ticket price to get more people in the door. We may consider alternating informal events and formal events each year. But overall, this event was a tremendous undertaking and a big success.

Party Book Update

Mother Son Bingo pancake breakfast and **Wildcat** Campout were both successful events.

Family Fun Run Ginny has been looking for parents to volunteer to lead another event on campus at the end of May to have one more event where all families could be included. Not every family has been able to participate in our events, and some people prefer family events instead of adults-only evening fundraisers. After some discussion it was determined that there are too many activities happening at this time and we should consider other avenues for end-of-year fundraising that can contribute to the bottom line but that don't require assembling a committee and hours of effort to execute.

Kyle's Kitchen will be doing a fundraiser on April 18, where people can dine in or takeout food from Kyle's Kitchen and the PTO receives 35% of sales. A ParentSquare will be distributed as a reminder tomorrow. Next year we will provide more notice.

Wine Raffle The wine raffle was cancelled this year due to the fires, so Ginny proposed a stock-the-wine-cellar-for-the-summer raffle, with one bottle donated from each classroom, for a total of about 25 bottles. This kind of fundraiser has been successful in the past. Attendees agreed this is a great way to raise funds with minimal effort.

Treasurer's Report

Heath Stewart

Heath was able to pay this month's payment to the Santa Barbara Unified school District. He is optimistic that the gala raised close to the \$40,000 goal; the gala organizers are still tallying the total. Heath said the focus now will be on Move-a-Thon. His connection is not working at the time but he will send a recap of the finances when he is able. He did note that the unreserved account is at \$35,000. Last year's Stock the Cellar raffle brought in \$1,250 and this year the pancake bingo breakfast brought in \$1,850.

Science Night

Jamie Crystal

Thursday, April 26 from 5:30-7:30 pm on the lower campus, near the Library and playground. Duncan the Dinosaur will be here from the Zoo. An ambulance will be on site for kids to climb on and learn about CPR. Dustin Todd will do a demonstration of a high-altitude balloon launch. Moxi will do a large tube exercise, UCSB will offer labs and thermal imaging, 3-D printers, brains in a jar, and wind turbines. Mr. Mack will feature rockets on the field. Someone will show how a radio transmitter uses radio waves. The night will all be interactive and we hope there will be a great turnout of students and parents. The bus will be doing its regular route so we can include everyone interested in attending.

We will have a Taco Truck that will be stationed in the heart of the event near the dinosaur and picnic tables. There may be a need for more tables.

Jessie Sexton from Apeel Sciences and Nelly Hill have been very helpful. Jamie, Jessie and Nelly and their spouses will be on site to do setup and they could use a hand given that there are 25 exhibitors.

There will be some classroom exhibits. In Mr. Reilly's room there will be 8 windmills built with bamboo skewers and fans with 8 presentation boards, which will elevate items as designed. There was some discussion about how the classroom presentations will be conducted. Kids and parents will take short 20-minute shifts to show how the windmills work.

This year a Passport to Science will be offered to encourage kids to visit at least 10 stations in order to win a sticker; then when they turn it in they will receive a science sticker pack, and they will be entered to win a science-oriented raffle prize.

Classroom Support Working Group Update

Kim Kotnik and Shannon Schroeder provided an update on the small working group that is looking at options to better utilize the Teacher Assistant (formerly Curriculum Specialist) positions into the future. TAs are invaluable, and yet the staffing level of 7 will likely continue to be difficult to fund, so it will be better for the board and the school to have some alternative solutions to consider. Parents, teachers and TAs are invited to participate in the working group. Kim and Shannon will reach out to a subset of teachers, TAs and parents over the next 30 days to gather input.

Mr. Riley said that there are blocks of time, like PLC time (planning time for teachers to utilize while their students are at PE, art and other classes) where TA time could possibly be re-directed toward working directly with students in other classes or grades. The working group will consider such opportunities, including scheduling. It was clear that the TAs are highly valued and appreciated. The ultimate goal is to get the most educational impact out of these positions and to ensure their financial sustainability.

Michael Paskin reminded us that we will want to finalize a budget before too long and it would be beneficial to all of us to have some recommendations or suggestions on this budget item in time for the last PTO meeting of this school year, in May 2018.

Comments and Announcements

Shannon Schroeder asked, in light of the recent lockdowns, if there is a way to make the school safer by securing some of the gates? There is a safety plan in place and there was some discussion about increasing the security by adding gate locks at the main access points.

Appreciations

Ginny said there are always so many people to recognize, but for now, she'd like to recognize Ann Johnson, Tori McLaughlin, Alexis Courson and Shruti Ramaker who did an unbelievable job with the Gala and we thank them for all their hard work.

Gillette Hall asked if any of the new attendees came with anything in particular to ask or to share. Mr. Riley said he and his teacher colleagues are very appreciative of this group and all that they do.

Lucile Vea offered to assist with the Curriculum Specialist working group and asked about whether there could be more coordination in how the PTO works together and communicates about the various initiatives that are happening. Ginny Miller recognized that Michael Paskin will make this a focus of the PTO work next year.

Gillette Hall mentioned that there continues to be a need to engage our Spanish-speaking parent body; and that this will need to be an ongoing initiative. Jamie Crystal said that Monroe does a rotating PTO meeting to alternate locations to help engage the diverse parent populations. The PTO agreed this is a great idea and should continue to be an ongoing point of discussion.

Vote in PTO Board Members for 2018-2019 School Year

The PTO usually votes in the new PTO board at the final meeting of the year. Michael Paskin indicated that we have a lot to do, and with the appointment of a new principal impending, it is better to get the board formed and the work underway now, rather than wait until the beginning of the next school year. It will be important to identify all the major initiatives sooner rather than later in order to be as effective as we can for the 2018-2019 school year. There will still be a few board positions open and more may be added as needed throughout the year. Michael stated the importance of having a governing body that best represents the student body.

Michael Paskin suggested the group approve the slate as a whole, with the inclusion of Lucile Vea and Shannon Schroeder on the slate:

President	Michael Paskin
Vice President	Kim Kotnik
VP Communications	OPEN
Treasurer	Tara King
IT	Dustin Todd
Recording Secretary	OPEN
Members	Cari Menchaca Kristie Chapman Gillette Hall Anna Stump Elizabeth Wagner Kimberley Yaeger Jessica Gin Erin Muslera Shannon Schroeder Lucile Vea

Michael Paskin made a motion to approve the slate. Gillette Hall seconded. All in favor. No opposed. The motion carries.

Michael has most email and contact information for next year's PTO and requested that all board members and officers complete what is missing on his Excel spreadsheet. Michael would like to identify a time to meet to discuss big picture items, the times the board is available to meet, and initiatives that the PTO needs to tackle as a group for next year.

Michael asked that PTO members transitioning out of their position consider it part of their job to coordinate a seamless transition to the person taking over the role. That will put the new PTO in a position to start the new school year off strong.

Adjournment

Ginny Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.