

## Wellesley Middle School Final 2012-13 PTO Meeting

June 2013

June 14, 8:45-9:45 AM

WMS Cafeteria

*Minutes of the Meeting*

- Unanimous positive vote was made by those present (37, representing a quorum) approving the 2013-14 WMS PTO Board: Betsy Komjathy, President; Andrea Doglioli and Catherine Mirick, VPs; Jennifer Maiona, Treasurer and Julia de Peyster, Secretary.
- Betsy Komjathy continued, recognizing long time volunteers Jennie Kinnevy, outgoing secretary, Julie Garvey, outgoing directory chair and Delissa Prideaux, outgoing treasurer, Mary Crown, VP, were recognized for their service.
- This month's PTO meeting featured Adam Blummer, Social Studies (SS) Department head at WMS. He is a member of the committee which has been discussing the SS curriculum for the past 2 or 3 years.
  - A report of that review was made to School Committee recently which you can [review here](#).
  - He noted that there are no national standards for SS, because the curriculum in different parts of the country reflect the differing views of historical events and people, and often reflect the dominant culture or political views of the region.
  - His presentation to parents took a deeper dive into the potential SS curriculum adjustments for WMS. With the elementary SS curriculum focusing on the immediate geographic area (family, community, neighborhoods, Boston and Massachusetts) and branching out to the US in 4th grade and ancient civilizations in 5th,
  - he noted that the 6th grade SS curriculum covering ancient Greece and Rome, and World Religions would not change significantly. One high point of the 6th grade SS curriculum is the wax museum, a research-based project and field trip(s) to houses of worship.
  - The 7th grade curriculum focuses on US history, from pre-Columbus through the Constitution, with a civics component. High points to look forward to will be a colonization simulation, a Revolution game, and writing projects on Columbus, Colonization and the American Revolution.

- 8th grade brings more US history, from the 1800's through the Civil War. A significant segment is devoted to the Holocaust and facing history. Added will be a theme of justice, and students will use case studies on groups struggling for justice, for example the Boston busing crisis, women's history, native American or Latino history. Writing projects will be on the topics of slave resistance, heroism, the Mexican-American War and Gettysburg.
- He noted that there is flexibility built in for all grades so that teachers are encouraged to abandon the curriculum to discuss current events as they happen.
- In speaking about library research, he explained that it's likely the language and research techniques taught at WMS may be expanded to elementary and high schools, to achieve continuity district-wide.
- Mark Ito clarified the end of year events for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, including the dances, field trips and graduation for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, clap out of 8<sup>th</sup> grade by 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> – details of these events continue to be presented in the newsletter blasts by the PTO.
- Mark clarified that there will be no substantial changes to the dress code, but encouraged parents to have children follow the current dress code as we move into warmer weather.
- Betsy Komjathy clarified the 2013 Fall PTO schedule – typically 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of Month at 8:45 AM for coffee, 9 AM meeting commencement, in the cafeteria at WMS.
- 9:45 AM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia de Peyster, 2013-14 Secretary