

Wellesley Middle School October PTO Meeting

October 18, 8:45-10:15 AM

WMS Cafeteria

Minutes of the Meeting

- Betsy Komjathy (BK) , President, shared feedback on speaker and topic suggestions from Sept meeting and requested additional feedback, passing list to crowd.
- BK introduced speakers, Principal Mark Ito and Interim Head of Guidance, Kate Mahoney. BK introduced board members including spirit wear chairs Anne Nadeau and Hillary Morris who were selling spiritwear at the meeting. Also mentioned November Boston PTO meeting November 14 – cars to depart from WMS parking lot around 6:30PM – exact time tbd
- Mark Ito (MI) and Kate Mahoney (KM) delivered presentations – copies linked here: https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http://www.wmspto.org/Documents/2013-14_PTOMeetingOctober.pdf
 - Question about how day 1 works answered by KM – Day 1 is a “stay home” day where all classroom work is done in the homeroom except for specials, which students do attend. Guidance meets each Day 1 with their class and runs programs, typically tailored to social/emotional development. 2 main topics are organization and settling into the WMS routine as a new WMS student.
 - Question asked about homework – backpacks are unusually heavy when kids have to bring all subjects home – advice was to bring this up with the student’s guidance counselor so it could be shared with the team of teachers as they may not know; WMS does encourage teams of teachers to coordinate drop days so that students don’t have homework in all subjects on any given day.
 - Question asked on who handles transition meetings for 8th gr to 9th gr – it is WHS in the spring and date is publicized early. WHS also offers parent coffees and other ways to gather and gain info on the WHS experience.
 - Feedback shared that 8th grade midweek blast info didn’t distribute properly. Communications team will resend this blast.

Question about when does guidance contact parents answered by KM - If a student comes multiple times or for a serious issue, they’ll call parents. Also emphasized that all the guidance counselors welcome calls from parents.

Question about progress reports that came out from some teachers earlier in the week answered by MI. Warning notices went out to all students earning a C or less or who are having behavior problems. Some teachers are using a feature of PowerSchool to generate midterm reports that they are sending out. This is not universal.

Question about Mothers’ groups that have been led in the past by Poppy Milner (who retired) and the school psychologist. KM and BK offered to find out if they will be run this year.

Spotlight: Spiritwear. Chairs announced that they are ordering new inventory, much of it with the pirate logo. All of it will be pictured and available for purchase through the WMS

web site and will be ready in time for the holidays.

PTO Announcements (BK)

A printed directory will be coming out and that the schools are all working with Kathleen Dooley to make the process smoother across the district next year.

We are close to raising the \$60,000 that was budgeted in donation revenues. BK encouraged families who have not yet donated to do so. Suggested donation is \$100/student.

Key date to save is evening of November 6th. PTO is bringing Internet safety/social media expert, Katie Greer to WMS. She will talk to each grade individually, faculty in the afternoon, and parents at night. Donations to the PTO made this possible. People in attendance who have heard Katie Greer speak commented that her presentation was "not to be missed."

Announced 11/21 WMS Booktalk - Will be in library, put on by Wellesley Books.

10:15 meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Julia de Peyster, 2013-14 Secretary