

**Wellesley Middle School -- PTO -- Full Board Meeting  
September 15, 2014**

**Mark Ito**

- Back to school night is on 9/23 -- same format as prior years -- meeting in auditorium first at 6:45 pm and then parents go to the different classes to meet their children's teachers; it will end with a reception in the cafeteria.
- Mark will be speaking in more depth at the 10/17 PTO meeting
- Thanks to the community in helping to stay with the new car line pattern that we have had to adhere to because of the construction. We are on schedule to complete the construction and should be on done prior to Back to School night (assuming no weather delays).
- We have had a good opening to the school year -- everything has run well and the kids have adapted quickly; kids show great respect for each other and the building; hopefully parents are hearing the same things from kids at home.

**Introduction of Executive Committee (by Catherine Mirick)**

- - Andra Jensen and Anna Kobayashi-Lomes are the Vice Presidents with responsibility for doing the weekly blast. (Andrea Jensen -- thank you for following the new format we are using for the blast; send information to us on Tuesday with a few sentences and a link to where more details can be obtained.)
- Jen Maiona is our treasurer. Please review budget she sent out last night and let us know if you are comfortable with the numbers for your committee. Please let us know if any adjustments are needed so that we can consider them.
- Betsy Komjathy has agreed to stay on the executive committee to keep institutional knowledge and continuity on the board

**Kathleen Baum** - Volunteer coordinator - Will send out to committee chairs by next Wednesday a first draft listing volunteers. Our volunteer list should be completed and finalized by October. (Andrea - reminder to reach out and contact your volunteer when you get the list.)

**Carol Morrow** - 8th Grade Community Service Day -- there is a lot of coordination involved with this service day but it does not start until January (after Mark Ito and his team have set the date). She is also working on the class gift from last year. No decision has yet been reached on what that gift will be. Mark Ito has asked us to wait until all of the work in the auditorium is completed so that he can make a recommendation.

**Sharon Gray** -- 2nd year as the WMS Committee 21 Representative. We will have a small campaign once the town votes on School's district request for additional monies for facilities. Vote to take place probably either December 2<sup>nd</sup> or December 9<sup>th</sup>. Does not know yet whether or not there will be an override campaign. We will have to wait until the budget process begins to learn more.

**Melissa Martin** -- co-chairing book talks and book fairs

**Becca Cahaly** -- chairing hospitality -- we have a great committee of volunteers -- we really appreciate all the help as we do three faculty lunches; back to school night, snacks for other meetings.

**Lori Goldenthal** -- working on the book fair -- two book fairs -- one in the fall before Thanksgiving break and one in the spring. Fall fair mainly for parents and it is good opportunity to do holiday shopping. The buyer from the Wellesley Books provides guidance on good books for kids in middle school. The spring book fair more focused on summer reading books. No dates have yet been finalized for either book fairs. Lori also helps coordinator volunteers for the library. They need one parent per day to help with shelving books -- a one hour commitment. Many of the volunteers from last year have returned this year so only looking for a parent to help on Wednesdays.

**Linda Moshief** -- working with Jessica Fixler as co-chairs of Creative Arts. (Catherine Mirick -- we received an email from 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents who are willing to help out on this committee).

**Betsy Komjathy** -- excited to be co-chairing new committee called the Boston Wellesley Collaborative -- purpose of group is to build a stronger sense of community between Wellesley families and Boston families. She is working with a Boston parent on the committee. She is looking for Wellesley parents to help with this initiative to build a stronger community. Purpose of the committee is to provide support for the METCO students and their families -- similar to the idea of the family friends program at the elementary school.

**Linda Messore** -- responsible for the food donation part of the turkey promenade -- donations are typically given to Voices against Violence shelter. This is an overwhelming positive experience. We have received so many donations in the recent past that we are looking into giving some of the donated items to other organizations, i.e., Wellesley pantry. People have been so generous it is too much for one shelter only. Exploring other options with the Health and Physical Education teachers who run the turkey promenade.

**Odessa White** -- Chairing dance committee -- four dances held during the year (Back to School, Halloween, Valentine and Spring dance). These dances are run by the school and we support them (i.e., coordinating food, facilities, volunteers, etc). These dances are separate and distinct from the teen center dances that also take place at the Middle School. Need to communicate to kids that refreshment are served at these dances and that there is no fee charged for the refreshments. Also wants to communicate to parents that volunteering at these dances is good opportunity to talk with and get to know faculty volunteers.

**Rachel Rottersman** -- 8th grade Committee -- overseeing and coordinating departure day, community service day, all 8th grade activities. (Linda Messore -- hard to be an 8th grade parent doing departure day and enjoying the day with your child -- we should look for 7th grade parents to help out.)

**DD Marcoux** - co chairing fall and spring book fairs with others (Four book fair chairs -- DD, Jessica, Lori, and Melissa

**Jessica Fixler** -- co chair Bookfair and creative arts

**Jen Maoina** -- Hope to finalize the budget at the end of the month PTO meeting; new chairs asked to look at the budget and let us know their thoughts especially creative arts -- let of know if you are eliminating or new to bring new things on; requests list of events from creative arts to submit to central council. Explains reimbursement process – forms are available on website; best to mail it to her home address with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Question re: Creative Arts expenses? Jen writes a check to the school district and business office then pays the vendor -- this is the preference of the public school. We can write a check if necessary but we should go through business office if possible. The more in advance notice we have, then the easier it is to follow the process the school district would like.

Question -- parent social cost -- is there a separate process for it? No. Just give invoice to Jen and she can pay it directly. Does not go through the public school system. (Andrea -- there will be one social for all three grades together -- date is possibly November 7th. Issue raised that we should consider changing date because that week is also Katie Greer, WEF Spelling bee, and high school musical.)

Catherine: please get reimbursed for what your committee uses; we need to track things budget wise; we appreciate the donation but need to have a good sense of what the budget is to run the PTO)

Jen: get your reimbursements in sooner than later; please do not leave them in your wallet

Andrea: the Exec Committee meets with Mark Ito on a monthly basis and if you would like to join that meeting because your committee has an event coming up please let us know.

Catherine: Please come to the PTO meeting as your schedule allows and please encourage your friend to attend. We also would love your ideas on topics.

Sharon Gray: questions about time of Ipad launch night for 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents and also whether students are expected/allowed/required to attend the meeting. Also, are 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents with kids in the ipad pilot expected to attend?

Lori Goldenthal: Can we make sure with do not have conflicts between WMS and WHS coffees and PTO meetings -- Catherine and Andrea -- we are trying to coordinator to avoid the conflicts.

Catherine: We still have a few committee chair positions open, i.e., mini marathon and 8th grade departure day and dance. Let us know if you have any friends who might be interested.

Submitted by Connie Burton