

# **WMS PTO Executive Board Meeting Minutes W/ Mark Ito**

**Monday February 11, 2019 from 10:15am to 11:00am @ WMS**

## **PTO Attendees:**

**Barbara Hirsch, Brenda Kane Nicolazzo, Lisa Fico, Moira McDade, Joelle Reidy,**

**Helen Hwang, Susan McCormack**

**Financials/Spending- This reflects those that paid more than once or split their contributions into 2 PayPal payments, as well as all the company matching**

Contributions update as of 2/10/19:

- \$60,000 budgeted

- \$73,555 received (47.8% / 494 out of 1,032 families)

Most of the money coming in through contributions is now coming in the form of employer matching programs.

**Dr. Lussier Initiative-New Families/Ways to Involve More parents-** Ideas we might have- Lisa Collins also approached us with "Key Club" idea for WMS, similar to what they do for the high school.

Discussed if we should ask Lisa Collins about Key Club jobs for WMS students. Mark said it was not likely that a Key Club would run next year at the middle school.

The Board discussed initiatives to connect with more, and diverse, parents for next year through the New Families Subcommittee. These include: more, and different, new families events (ones that are more interactive than just meet and greets), ways to do outreach with the ESL families (i.e. translated newsletters, adding diversity to the WMS PTO Executive Team) and outreach to METCO parents. Barbara then updated everyone on the ongoing discussions with the WHS PTO to coordinate the upcoming Boston METCO All-Parent PTO meeting. The new Director will be introduced to the WMS Parents through an announcement in the next Newsletter.

**8th Grade Graduation-** We met with Linda Messoro who heads the 8th grade graduation. They have created a website that will be linked to ours. What is the graduation date? (June 7th is the High School graduation) There is \$2500 left from last year as the class of 2017/18 did not purchase a class gift. We propose this year's class gift is from both 2018 and 19 graduating classes and combine monies for one large gift.

Discuss ideas. Discuss gift cards that are purchased for the teachers who help and chaperone the dance as we don't do that for 6th and 7th grade dance.

The 8th Grade Committee has designed a flyer to request the 8th Grade End-of-Year Activity fee of \$50 per graduating student.

**-Professional Development:** Has any additional needs been discussed?

**-CAS Update:** In January, Alastair Moock, came to WMS and was the MLK Speaker/Performer. Performance was abbreviated - Maura is waiting to hear from Patty before submitting the info to us. Maura is also waiting to receive clarification on Around the World events, as dates and event modifications may have been made.

*Animal Farm* was slated for December, but they are unable to schedule. Additionally, Maura was unable to schedule Author Kwaine Alexander & Friends (\$3750) and Author Brandan Kiey & Jason Reynolds (\$5000) - all on HOLD.

The potential loss of these three events leaves us with a significant amount of unallocated funds, roughly \$8,425.

The next event will be on 2/15 - Boston Theater Company, *Midsummers Night Dream* (previously *Romeo & Juliet*).

**Other CAS requests? Memorial Day Speaker?**

Update from Mark that Kwaine Alexander is being rescheduled. Agreed that we would send Maura an email asking for updates as they come in and what she might be planning through the end of the school year.

**PTO Initiatives/Updates:**

-A section in the newsletter for PTO initiatives/Updates as to where we are in the assessment and implementation phase of challenge success.

Mark agreed to drive Challenge Success updates towards the WMS PTO Newsletter as they occur going forward. First up, John Klineman from Challenge Success will summarize the survey Data around the 3 top concerns elucidated through the survey and the Challenge Success Parent/Teacher Committee. This data will be presented to parents at the next All-Parent PTO meeting

**Possible upcoming PTO meeting ideas-**

Do we want to pursue Chris Herren-possibly a \$10,000 WEF may be willing to partner in sharing costs. Could be a good one to partner with the high school.

-Drug/vaping speaker- Chris Herren Former NBA Player / Addiction Recovery Advocate-Speaks at a lot of schools. Chris struggled with substance abuse for much of

his basketball career. Drug-free and alcohol-free since August 1, 2008. Off the court he continues to share his story with audiences in the hopes of reaching just one person and making a difference in his or her life. In May of 2011, his memoir *Basketball Junkie*, written with Bill Reynolds, was released, followed by the Emmy-nominated ESPN Films documentary, *Unguarded*, directed by Jonathan Hock.

He is the founder of The Herren Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing treatment navigation and mentoring programs to those touched by addiction, and to educating people of all ages on the dangers of substance abuse. In 2012, The Herren Project launched a national anti-substance abuse campaign, Project Purple, to encourage people of all ages to stand up to substance abuse.

The Team discussed, but was undecided on Chris Herren. Mostly due to cost benefit analysis (he is expensive). Decided to wait on decision.