

## **WMS PTO Executive Board Meeting Minutes with Mark Ito**

Monday September 17, 2018 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am @ WMS in Mark Ito's office

### **PTO Attendees:**

**Barbara Hirsch, Brenda Kane Nicolazzo, Lisa Fico, Moira McDade, Joelle Reidy, Helen Hwang, Susan McCormack**

### **-Financials: PTO to provide update on contributions thus far.**

-Color mailer sent 8/27/18

*The PTO treasurer reported that the parent/guardian participation rate in PTO contributions stood at 30% and was comparable to this same time last year when the participation rate was 33%. A discussion regarding an appeal to parents at the WMS Back to School Night ensued. It was decided that the PTO would present the same appeals video presented last year.*

### **-Request for Capital Campaign: Fans**

*At this point in time it was decided that Principal Ito would purchase fans using funds from his own operating budget and that the PTO might revisit this issue the next time the budget is publically presented and approved.*

### **-Back To School Night – Thursday, September 27th, 2018**

- Do you need CoPresidents or other Executive Board members to do anything?
- Show the PTO Video?
- Can we open spirit wear store? 15 min prior and 15 min after.

*It was decided that the Spirit Wear store would open on Back to School Night for the proposed 15 minute windows before and after the event. This year the event is switching from supplying parents with print material (regarding scheduling/logistics for the night) to having students present their parents with similar information electronically using their IPADS.*

### **-Creative Arts and Sciences: PTO to provide funding for possible MLK and Memorial Day school wide assemblies.**

- Maura Sullivan and Adrianna met with Mark Ito mid-June to go over the '18/19 programming and budget. They made modifications to CAS

budget-PTO CAS will cover Monkey Dance Documentary. PTO CAS will not cover Lion Dance, this performance will come out of the Principal's Budget. Principal Ito does have requests: To look into the possibility of providing speakers for the MLK and Memorial Day school wide assemblies.

*Principal Ito gave an update on his thoughts around the programming budget. He would like to bring in a singer/songwriter for a 15 minute presentation as part of the Martin Luther King Assembly. The requested fee was approximately \$1000 pending a negotiation with the artist. The request was approved by the PTO.*

*Principal Ito gave a brief explanation that the PTO CAS would be considering smaller, departmental programming initiatives rather than large school-wide ones since it is sometimes difficult to pull the whole student body out of class at once.*

#### **-All Parent PTO meetings**

##### **-Planning to do four (possibly five).**

1. **Thursday 10/18/18** from 7:00pm to 8:30pm with Engaging Minds Confirmed. Do you want to come and kick off the meeting and speak briefly?

*Principal Ito agreed to come and speak at the beginning of the first kick-off All Parent PTO meeting*

The workshop will begin with an overview of executive function and will include: Strategies and systems can students use to physically organize their materials. Strategies students can use to organize their ideas in a variety of contexts (writing, problem-solving, note-taking, reading, studying, etc.) Habits and routines can students adopt to support effective time management processes. Best practices around planning out both long and short-term assignments

2. **Thursday 1/17/19:** Confirmed. General PTO from 8:30am to 8:45 am. Dr. Lussier from 8:45 am to 9:45 am

3. **Monday 2/11/19:** Confirmed. General PTO from 8:30am to 8:45 am. Matt Kelly and additional School Committee member TBD from 8:45 am to 9:45 am

4. **June:** Book fair. Date TBD.

*We discussed adding a fifth PTO All Parent Meeting in Early November around Vaping. It was suggested that we get the speaker to address issues of: changing Massachusetts marijuana laws, opioids in the home medicine cabinet and e-cigarettes.*

**Other possible PTO meetings:**

-Something on Vaping/drug/substance use? Evan Rosenberg willing to speak. Newton Wellesley Hospital having an event on 9/26.

-Possible Joint WHS/WMS PTO meeting. Do we want to participate? We would contribute toward the Fee: \$7,750 (includes travel) to be paid either prior to or at the time of presentation.

- We were approached by the WHS PTO to financially participate in the following: Speaker Lynn Lyons-Already approved by Dr. Lussier and Joan Debrowski they would love to make this a joint effort with WMS PTO - both the professional development portion (voluntary to attend of course). Topics for parents/guardians on dealing with worry and anxiety, and professionals and educators looking for training and approaches on how to handle anxiety in their students. Teaches strategies that are concrete and immediately usable to go after the patterns that keep anxiety in charge of families and children, sometimes for generations-strategies can be taught to anyone looking to overcome anxiety, handle pressure situations, and manage the challenges of daily life. The presentation and the professional development are appropriate for middle school and high school parents and staff, parents are invited to bring students aged 13 or older to the presentation.
- Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at the Katherine L. Babson Jr. Auditorium (tentative), Wellesley High School, 50 Rice Street, Wellesley, MA  
Schedule & Topics/Titles: (tentative)  
Time: 3 - 5pm  
PD Training: *Beyond Calming Down: Process-Based Tools to Help Anxious Students and Parents*  
Time: 7 - 9pm      Community Presentation: *Preventing Anxiety and Depression: Skills We Can (and Should!) Teach Our Children*

\* During that discussion with Dr. Lussier and Joan they talked about partnering with the WMS wherever possible to bring a bigger audience especially where the topic is of interest to middle and high school parents.

*It was decided that we would like to co-sponsor/market this effort with the WHS. Principal Ito suggested looking into doing the Challenge Success Program with the Middle School Team. He plans to assess the student body using the screening tool: Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to gauge what substance use education and intervention programs would be best for the WMS community. He is hoping to have screening results back by December.*

**-No longer doing a fall parent social. Would prefer to get a speaker for parents instead.**

*Everyone agreed that this was the right decision given the poor attendance last year.*

**PowerSchool/MySchoolAnywhere:** Request for you to email all parents and guardians to make sure they are signed up for MSA. PTO to provide verbiage.

*Principal Ito agreed to do this.*

**School Council Update-**Do you need to send a separate email? Or do we? So far no one has come forward.

*Principal Ito agreed to send an email to all WMS parents/guardians requesting candidacy ASAP.*