

Wass Elementary PTO
November 2023 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, and Location: Tuesday November 28th, 7pm in the Wass Media Center

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Attendance: Sara Burch, Suryansu Patra, Amy Mills, Matt Jansen, Kristyn Cubitt, Heather Miller, Ayesha Potts, Kevin Tuczec, Catherine Tuczec, George Yousif, Gina Savickas, Casandra Mitchell, Lindsay Long, Ashleigh Jennings, Jayne Kelly

There were 15 members in attendance; a quorum was reached. No guests were in attendance.

Officers' Reports:

Co-Presidents' Report, given by Ayesha Potts

- Go for the Gold Walk fundraiser-thank you to the community! Funds benefitted the Jenna Kast Believe in Miracles Foundation and Rainbow Connection

Treasurers' Report, given by Heather Miller

- Wass PTO account was hacked and shut down. Our treasurer took immediate action to pause all checks and recover funds.
- PTO Board meeting was held to discuss options
- The Independent Bank account was closed, and funds were moved to Huntington Bank, which is closer to Wass, and set up the account to earn interest

Secretary's Report, given by Ashleigh Jennings

- Communication from the 1st Grade team thanking PTO for providing lunch during on the first day of conferences

Principal's Report, given by Matt Jansen

- End of marking period 1 on Thursday, we're about 1/3 of the way through the year
- Bond furniture update: a plan was shared with a draft of the new furniture for the building that will be in place starting next fall
- Give to the Gold raised \$1,035
- Pajama Drive: Kids helping kids with a goal of beating last year's total of 424 PJ donations
- Wizard of Oz show at Athens: it was a great show, thanks to the PTO for funding the buses!
- February 1: Wass Canvas Night, more information will be coming soon. Due to space constraints, only Wass Students will be able to attend (no siblings) and probably limited space for parents.

Book Club Invitation:

- Organized by Kristyn Cubitt and Hajra Siddiqui with the book Love from A to Z, by S.K. Ali. All are welcome to attend!
- January 10, 2024, 7pm at the Panera at Rochester & Auburn

Committee Reports:

Trunk or Treat, given by Matt Jansen

- Thanks to Erin Voss for organizing! We had a huge turnout and even more ideas for next year.

Staff Appreciation, given by Ashleigh Jennings

- November staff appreciation was an apple bar where teachers could select an apple and add toppings as a treat.

Holiday Drive, given by Amy Mills

- Wonderful to see participation from the community, especially for real needs that the families have. Donations will be collected through December 8th and many items are still available to be claimed for donations.

Restaurant Night, given by Matt Jansen

- We'll find out Step Up to the Plate results soon, likely by the end of the week
- Friday is a full day off and will be our Jet's Pizza Night for fall

New Business

- Building improvement line item: new request
 - 79 total items for a total of \$5999
 - Front entry window design
 - Signage above classroom doors
 - Media center entrance signage
 - Front/back hallway
 - Classroom window
 - Indoor lineup
 - Principal's office and conference room
- Motion by Lindsay Long, Second by Gina Savickas
- The motion was approved by acclamation

Announcements

- Holiday Dive collection through December 8th
- Classroom holiday parties are 12/20
- Wass Holiday Sing Along is 12/21

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Jayne Kelly

- 4th Grade teacher at Wass, Author of Raising Great Kids from Tots to Teens, and In-Between

- Started to notice parents seeking out parenting tips and strategies. While parenting is personal and private, there are many patterns seen in the classroom that highlight the need to partner between school and home
- Respect: Giving it and Getting It
 - Definition of Respect: showing care and giving attention
 - Tip #1: Ask fewer questions (can feel like an interrogation) and try nurturing statements instead (“It’s so nice to see you!” “Welcome home!”)
 - Tip #2: You must model respect in order to get respect in return: Get on their level, correct the behavior and not the personality, talk and don’t yell
 - Handling disrespect respectfully:
 - Correct behavior privately, avoid public humiliation
 - Use “I” or “we” statements to provide alternative behaviors
 - Name and narrate your child’s emotion
 - Stay calm
- Parenting style overview

Next meeting is: Tuesday January 9th at 7pm in the media center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm

Minutes compiled by: Ashleigh Jennings, Secretary