

Washtenaw International PTO Meeting Minutes
6:30pm Mon. 6/10/2019
800 Wing Commons, Washtenaw International

In attendance: Lisa Brown (President; G9 Victoria); Rashonda Arnold (Co-Recording Secretary; G10 John & G7 Christina); Anne Hooghart (Co-Recording Secretary; G7 Kasey & G6 Cassidy); Shonda Brewer (G9 Calista); Mary Beth Maes (G9 Alina; G7 Reed); Ashley Fox (WIHI teacher); Tammy Church (WIMA teacher representative); Jessica Garcia (principal)

PTO Meeting was called to order at 6:39pm.

1. President's Report –

Our original intent of setting the preliminary budget for 2019-2020 has to be postponed, as key Treasury Team members could not attend today.

Distributed copies of the minutes of the 5/13 PTO meeting.

Moved (Mary Beth) and seconded (Shonda) to approve as written. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Principal's Report –

a. **Staff turnover** - Several teachers will be leaving after this school year. The interview team, including parents, teachers, & students, is wrapping up the interview process. Some new teachers have been hired, and will meet the rest of the staff tomorrow; after that, an announcement will be sent out.

b. **Commencement** (5/30) went well. Congratulations and thanks for making it a success!

c. **8th Grade Farewell** will take place this Thursday. Teachers provide the 8th-graders a farewell breakfast in the morning, and then the honors ceremony/reception/dance happens after school.

d. **Cultivate Conversations/WIMA Parent Ambassador Program** (5/15) was a great success; many thanks to all who took part!

e. **Summer hours** – Washtenaw International office will be open Mon.-Thurs. during the summer, except for the week of 7/1 – 7/5. Summer school is from 6/17-6/28.

f. **Summer projects** – Mr. Fox will lead work on the garden beds. A local church is extending support for things at the school like adding a gaga pit and a permanent basketball hoop area.

g. **Student Orientation & Parent Orientation** Student orientation is scheduled for Wed. 8/14. Parent Orientation is TBD. In addition to the "Red Folder Challenge", looking to include more than just technology know-how, but also some organizational tools, such as PowerSchool, for both students & parents.

3. Teacher Representative's Report (Ms. Tammy Church) –

a. **Thank you** – Reported feeling supported and appreciating all the PTO does for teachers and for the school.

- b. **Teacher Wish List** – Discussion that it might be helpful to make this available to teachers as a fillable Google Doc, perhaps every month, so that emerging needs can be addressed.

4. Current/New Business -

- a. **Back-to-School Picnic** – In order not to conflict with the new Ypsi Fest/Heritage Festival, the Picnic will be held on Thurs. 8/22.
- b. **Sustainability/Composting** – Mr. Fox joined the meeting to explain what some students have been doing to increase sustainability, energy efficiency, and increased composting efforts. They have approached 2 other nearby schools about working on composting together, and are now wondering about inviting families to bring in their compostable waste. The school pays \$40/week to have the 40-gallon container of food waste collected. Discussion of getting STUGO (and maybe science faculty as well) involved, and seeing if perhaps 10-15 families could be recruited to “subscribe” to this service. Discussion of how to get more student clubs to use biodegradable/compostable plates, cups, etc.
- c. **2019-2020 PTO Board (title/name/term) -**
President: Lisa Brown (2019-20)
Vice President from WIHI: Mary Beth Maes (2019-2021)
Vice President from WIMA: OPEN (2019-2021)
Treasury Team:
Nancy Harvey (to Dec. 2019); Sue Barker (2019-2020); Rashonda Arnold (2019-2021)
Recording Secretaries:
Anne Hooghart (2019-2020); Jeff Clark (2019-2021)
Corresponding Secretary: OPEN (2019-2021)
Also need a few Class Reps for certain grades.
- d. **PTO asked school administration to recommend 3 goals for next year; they are:**
 1. Increase community outreach and inclusion – e.g., for parents who can’t attend evening meetings; SignUpGenius response has been tremendous—how to build off that?
 2. Increase environmental sustainability/recycling/solar?
 3. Supporting all students in experiences beyond the walls of the school buildingPTO members: please use the summer to think about how to accomplish these goals.

7. Other Business –

- a. Mr. Fox praised the new reimbursement procedure put in place by the PTO Treasury Team members as being easy-to-use and efficient.
- b. Parents expressed appreciation for the student project creating beautifully-written labels for each of the international flags in our school hallways.

Next “official” PTO meeting: Monday 9/6 at 6:30pm.
There will also be some planning meetings this summer.
Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.