

**WMS PTO MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, November 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm**

Welcome and Introductions were made by Liz McCandless, PTO Co-President.

The meeting started with a reminder that meeting minutes can always be found on the PTO website and that our meeting agendas are posted one week in advance of our meeting so that everyone can be aware of what will be discussed at our meeting. A vote to approve the meeting minutes from the previous PTO meeting on October 11 came next. Jessica Graetz motioned to approve, Stephen Klaus seconded and all those participating via in-person and Zoom unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Next Liz mentioned the recent Essentials and Food Drive that wrapped up on November 5. The drive was sponsored by the PTO Council and the Clayton Education Foundation. The drive was a big success and the PTO wants to thank everyone for their participation and generosity. A full recap of the success of the drive will be given at the upcoming PTO Council meeting on Thursday, November 11.

Liz then mentioned that the latest WMS Clayton Connections event was a coffee on Friday, November 5 at the Kaldi's on Demun. It was an intimate group and everyone seemed to have a lovely time making connections. The next WMS Clayton Connections event has not been scheduled, but stay tuned.

The WMS Food Pantry has had many parents recently respond to our request for needed volunteers to help with sorting and organizing our Food Pantry at WMS. If anyone would like to get involved, please contact Liz McCandless or Allie Rossini or your child's school counselor. A parent in attendance, Cara Downs, asked if students could volunteer to help with the food pantry. Dr. Jordan responded that it may be best to keep it to parent volunteers in an effort to keep the identity of the students participating in the program confidential.

Next the new WMS School Store was announced with the hope to be starting the store in January 2022. The store will ideally be two days a month during lunch time. Students will have the opportunity to purchase school spirit wear and other fun items. Frankie Synovec will work with the Student Council to come up with some fun additions for sale, perhaps a contest for a design for a tshirt or face mask. More on the store to come. If any parents would like to help volunteer at the store, please contact Liz McCandless.

Catherine Seltzer provided a brief update on Spirit Wear. Catherine is working with Lipic and the goal is to have some fun items available soon, including a cute Wydown winter hat. Hopefully sales will be rolling out in time for the Holidays.

Next up Stephen Klaus provided the Treasurer's Report. Stephen states that there hasn't been much activity as this isn't a very busy time for the PTO. The following activity has occurred. The WMS PTO has received an additional \$240.80 in Funds for Excellence donations in the past month. Thank you to this community for supporting the PTO and Wydown. We have had a few recent expenses including supplies for the September Parent Night Out in the amount of \$125.42, ice cream for student birthdays and popsicles for the Learn @ Home Students (in September) in the amount of \$53.96, and box lunches for the Staff Appreciation Dinner on October 21 in the amount of \$895.87.

Dr. Jamie Jordan provided the Principal's Report next. Dr. Jordan mentioned her recent trip to Washington D.C. for the Blue Ribbon School event. She also discussed the idea for the PTO/School to sponsor an evening for Cameron Poole, the District's Director of Equity and Inclusion, to speak to parents about issues and initiatives related to diversity, equity and inclusion at our schools. This is in it's brainstorming phase, so please be on the lookout for more about the event. Dr. Jordan then spoke about surveys that were given to all students and that what was learned was that students are wanting to feel more connected to school and their peers and that they also expressed concern about homework. She spoke about coming up with ways moving forward to utilize Pack time for activities to help students feel more connected. The week of Parent Teacher conferences went very well, but Dr. Jordan wants to remind parents that they shouldn't hesitate to reach out to teachers, if they need to, at any point during the school year.

Questions/thoughts/concerns were asked of the group. Some very wonderful ideas arose with an emphasis on wanting the students to feel more connected to school and with one another. Sophie Liebermann would like to plan and host an event for all 7th grade families on Sunday, November 21 at Shaw Park for families to gather and reconnect. Dr. Jordan is going to make sure that we are allowed to proceed forward with the event from the District level. Cara Downs brought up the idea to start social gatherings for students again outside of school hours. She suggested a "Wydown Night" at a CHS basketball game, a hot chocolate bar and a dance. Jenny Crowes brought up how great it would be to provide service and volunteer opportunities for the kids and thought we should start a Wydown Service Club.

Jamie and Liz thanked everyone for attending and for all the wonderful ideas and suggestions. Liz announced that the next PTO meeting is December 13, 2021 at 9:00 am. We hope to see you there!

Meeting adjourned.