**Wescott School PTO Meeting Minutes**Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021
6:00pm CT via zoom

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

**Meet the 2021-2022 Executive Board**

Co-Presidents: Kerry Moore and Nisa Rajani
Vice President Communications: Lina Nudera
Vice President of Fundraising: Lisa Fishbain
Vice President of Technology: Jiajia Wu
Secretary: Amanda Neidhardt
Treasurer: Jennifer Wyton

**Superintendent Report: Dr. Wegley**

1. Thank you to Dr. Brown and his staff for a great start to the year. Thank you to the PTO for the beautiful playground and the flexible furniture in the classroom. The new space at Wescott school will make a big difference and it has allowed us to run as reasonable class sizes as we can. We are using all entire space. Thank you, parents, for supporting our late start. We needed every moment to getting our district ready for the year.
2. School board goals: To align our facilities in the district to the level of education that we provide.
3. Drivers for this year: Safe place for students and staff to return to full in person learning, where there is a robust academic program, and the highest likelihood for continually of instruction throughout the year.
4. We are still living with COVID and we are in the “substantial range” according to Region 10 data. We are still navigating high infection rates. We are focusing on mitigation strategies such as: universal masking, 3ft of space per student, hand hygiene, a constant supply fresh air with the installation of bi-polarization units to clean the air, and the hiring of additional teachers to keep class sizes low in K-8. Also, there is a mandate for staff to be vaccinated or tested weekly. Along with monitoring symptoms through RUVNA, and saliva testing. Hopefully these measures will help drive us to a return to normalcy.
5. We are offering programs like CATCH. These are short presentations that can be shared with you on video. There was one last week if you didn’t get a chance to watch it it is full of parenting advice, packed full of good practical examples and ideas. More programs like this to come.
6. Our goal is to offer as much normalcy that we can provide.
7. I am thankful to everyone that has helped us into getting us going. The kids are amazing, happy and rock stars!
8. Other news: Maple just received a national blue-ribbon award. It’s a huge award. This represents all of District 30’s efforts. It’s a reward for the community, kids, and staff.
9. This is a picture that our kids put together for the Hero Hustle Run. It will be on the T-shirt. When we asked them who they see as hero, you will see teachers are on there, and yes, teachers are our heroes!
10. We will continue to get through this together!

**Principal’s Report: Dr. Brown**

1. We are not limping through; we are accelerating through this difficult time. The students are the stars of what goes in here. When the kids come into the building it’s a whole different place. The building is full for the better.
2. School perspective: Thank you to PTO for the events we have been able to do so far this year. We had a fantastic luncheon for staff. We have also brought back special lunch and ice cream days. These are long standing traditions. I could not be any happier to see those things brought back.
3. New things: There are 62 kindergarteners. They are still figuring out where they are going, but they are off to a great start. There are over 100 first graders this year. It’s the first time the school has broken triple digits in one grade level. First graders are all new to the building as well. There are 60 brand new students to District 30 this year. There are 11 new staff at Wescott. We have also added one new classroom from True North, a special education program. We are truly a community school for everyone now. It makes me proud to have gotten here.
4. Routines: We have a brand-new space which includes a new gym. The Gym opened last week. We have a new routine of getting kids in and out of building.
5. MAP Testing/PT Conferences/Half Day: In the building we are doing MAP testing. We have been doing MAP testing for almost 20 years. It’s a test that is very important to what we do throughout the entire year. It gives teachers specific information about every student and their needs, so we can plan for the individual child, so they can grow from fall to spring. Testing will be finishing up this week and next. Then, there will be planning and goal meetings among the teachers.
	1. Then, we have Parent Teacher conferences October 12 and 14. The save the date email went out today. It explained the program and the way we are running it through a live Zoom conference. Sign up starts next Wednesday. October 14 is a nonattendance day for students. We are in conferences from 12pm-8pm that day. We are trying to give parents who work availability to come after hours. We are trying to offer times that more people are available.
	2. October 1 is our first half day school improvement day. Students dismiss at 11:45am. Teachers are going to be learning about a new online evaluation system. Thank you to parents for planning for that day.
6. Lew Blond: One of the best events is coming to Wescott! The Lew Blond 5K Run/Walk is coming to Wescott. I was the Assistant principal at Maple and involved with that event for a long time. There is road work on the regular course so it’s being brought here. It will go through our Wescott neighborhood. If you live in the area you will get a flyer in the mail. It started 20 years ago with a teacher who passed from ALS. He was deeply revered by teachers and students. Over the years over $100,000 has been given in scholarships to GBN and GBS students and to other charities. This is a family event, it’s a one mile run and 5K. We are doing it twice this year, also on May 21 and both times at Wescott. If you sign up for first one you get a discount on the second.

**Treasurer’s Report**

1. There will be an opening next year for treasurer.
2. Last year our donation to school was $35,000! It went toward the new playground. Thank you for parent support!
3. We have increased the budget to reflect the new Kindergarten classes this year.
4. As of tonight, we have 330 families and teachers registered for the PTO!
5. Through the PTO you can still sign up for birthday signs, birthday book club, book fair (virtual or in person), spirit wear and walk for Wescott.
6. Thank you for everyone who is supporting!

**PTO Activities**

1. Kindergarten popsicles event at the playground
2. Welcome back teachers’ lunch
3. PTO Ice Cream day
4. Walk for Wescott is Wednesday, October 6. It’s the biggest fundraiser of the year. Kids will be led by gym teachers during gym class to walk around perimeter of Wescott. There will be a DJ this year. Your kids collect pledges, for every $25 a kid raises; he or she gets an additional raffle ticket to get raffle prizes. Prizes include: a parent child self-defense class, a birthday party hosted by a musician, handmade beaded mask and sunglasses chain, a backyard obstacle course. You can cheer your child on. 10% of money raised will be go to a charity.
5. First Dine In is at McAlister’s Deli in Deerfield on October 7 from 4pm-9pm, they will give back 20% of sales. There will be more in November and December.

**Ways to Stay Connected**

1. Wescott word, Emails from the PTO, Wescott Facebook page, D30 Facebook page, and you can always reach out to anyone on the PTO Board
2. First parent social event planned for Thursday, October 14, look for the sign up in Wescott Word; it’s at Willow Hill on the hilltop. There will be a cash bar.

**Technology Report**

1. You can still register for PTO!

**Secretary Report**

1. PTO Meeting minutes will be posted on the PTO web page about a week after the meeting. Send any follow up questions to the Board. <https://www.district30.org/wescott-pto/>

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