

MINUTES: WESCOTT PTO

September 6, 2018

Call Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Introductions:

Upper Board:

Lisa Rosengard (VP Communications), Shreyas Shah (VP Technology), Caren Stankiewicz (Treasurer), Michelle King (President), Christie Hartbarger (President), Annie Porthan (VP Fundraising) & Mara Rose (Secretary)

Approval of January 9, 2018 minutes

Catherine Caparusso motions to approve and Annie Porthan seconds. Minutes are approved.

Dr. Brian Wegley, District 30 Superintendent

Update on building of Maple School:

District 30 fosters community and close relationships, active and hands on learning fosters growth. Best practices for learning decades ago was built on sit, listen and comply. Today, our children are active learners in programs and educators can see their joy.

District 30 is growing as a district; the demographers for the Maple School project expressed surprise at D30's growth, as all of other school districts have falling numbers while D30's numbers are rising.

In 2018-2019, Wescott hosts 413 students, Maple hosts 400 students and Willowbrook hosts 361 students and all of D30's students arrive on the first day ready to learn. District 30 has a diverse population with 38 different languages spoken in the halls, which mirrors the population the students will continue to see in the future.

The current Maple School is falling apart; the ceilings are falling in after rainstorms, classrooms become disrupted and features of the school are outdated, sandbags in the courtyards make the space unusable but the teachers still foster great learning.

The community was approached and asked to share their preference of fixing up the current Maple School or rebuilding it and the response for 76% in favor of rebuilding.

The process began with a master facility planning process beginning in summer through December, 2016. On April 4, 2017, the referendum was passed and beginning April 6 and through May, 2017, planning and design took place. In 2018, the bidding process for the project took place and on April 4, 2018, demo began. Currently, the plan is on-track for all of the new Maple School to be under roof and begin focusing on the inside with the occupancy date to begin school projected for 9.3.19.

The design process entailed listening to parents, students and teachers to understand how furniture can be most functional in the classroom. Key features included Agility, Flexibility and Vibrancy. After initial furniture was chosen and evaluated, new furniture was re-selected to further complete these goals.

Looking at the current map of the outside of Maple demonstrates the issues with bottlenecks in the drop-off/pick-up lanes and demonstrates the differences with the new campus to address the concerns to safety in the carpool procedures, bikers and busses. Sidewalks will help ensure safety and behind the school will be only for bikes and busses.

New Maple on the inside will be divided into an academic side with three stories for each grade level, with a science lab on each floor with abundant nature light. The other side of Maple will house the arts, gyms, music and café.

Instead of having one gym space and one multi-purpose room, the design plans were changed to expand the space and put in two full size gyms and fitness center. Initially the café was designed to hold 350 students; however with the population of 400 students, the plans were expanded to hold all 400 hundred. Therefore, though an age-appropriate playground was initially in the plans, the added gym and multi-purpose room expansion put the plans for a playground on hold, since there is only one chance to design the floor plan and create a functional, usable indoor space, while the outdoor space is more easily modified and added to.

In addition, the floor plan demonstrates the layout with one long hallway to see from one side of Maple all the way down to the other side of the school. The gym additionally serves as a tornado shelter, with an extremely safe, rebar steel structure.

Flexible space planning includes “learning stairs” where the kids can hang out before and after school, plus it’s equipped with a projector to use the area for viewings, teaching and additionally equipped with outlets in the stairs to charge and use computers. An example of usable space which may otherwise be wasted space.

The library will have padded seating in the stacks to make it more usable and flexible space.

Classrooms that open to large hallway space will have a wall of doors which fold open to create more classroom space.

Dr. Wegley opened up the discussion to questions:

- 1) Is the garden outside still intact? Yes, it will be located outside the family and consumer science rooms.
- 2) How is security addressed in the new Maple? Security plans, in general, are not publicized; however, the police/fire consultants are utilized to ensure safety. There are option-based responses within the facility, which include plans for escape, pushing a button in rooms to alarm police and put the building on lock-down. Overall, safety is very well thought out.
- 3) Is there truth to beginning school after Labor Day, 2019? Yes—Currently, the build is on-track for school to begin 9.3.19. Therefore, the 18-19 school year is shortened by taking out holidays including Columbus Day and Veterans Days. The plan is to begin demo on old Maple on June 6 and the demo will be completed in 10 days, with the new Maple finished by June. School will be ready to start and students ready to learn on day 1. Everything will be in place and finalized. After the demo of old Maple, the focus is on building the parking lots and the fields. Once the Board approves the calendar in October, 2018, it will be sent out to all the families. Currently, there is no back-up plan. It will be the longest summer they can create to have the staff ready to go on Day 1! Then, the last day of school for the 19/20 year will be June 11, 2020 and school begins August 17, 2020.
- 4) Will there ever be a chance to be like the Wescott School Song and have school from September to May permanently? Don't know... The current school year is 183 days long, expanded from 170 days long. GBN will send out a survey to help determine a calendar change from the current schedule which results in having two weeks off for winter break and then one week of classes upon return prior to final exams. In order to solve the problem, the proposal includes moving up the dates and having uneven semesters to give the high school kid a true break over winter break. Wescott, Willowbrook and Maple will follow the 225 district schedule outcome; however, regardless of any schedule changes, the Maple schedule will dictate D30's schedule for next two years.

Overall, the PTO and Dr. Chris Brown have helped to align the vision of having elementary school space with flexible space to ensure students learn in a mode for current goals. This model of flexible learning space will continue to replicate itself across all school.

Principal's Report: Dr. Chris Brown

Thank you for helping to create a project worthy of Maple School—the parents, teachers and our kids are the future and all are working together to eliminate the kinks and make the project perfect. In addition, thank you to the Village of Northbrook for the almost completion of Western Avenue. One month ago, we wondered if the project would be done and the current update is that the road is being scrapped and new crosswalks are at each intersection. Dr. Wegley and Dr. Brown are working together to determine the best places to cross the streets to get to Wescott School. Entering and exiting the school are smooth processes. For the 2018-19

school year, the population at Wescott is 413 and last year the number was at 425. Wescott has great teachers and continues to be a popular school.

For the school year, there are four new teachers and two substitutes for the first 1/3 of the year. Mrs. Jane Eilhauer has a sub in 4th grade and should be back in one month. Ms. Blumenfeld is taking a maternity position in 5th grade. Ms. Kate Kamin is a new 1st grade teacher and Mr. Quentin Coaxum is the new music teacher. Dr. Brown participated with the music class and got to see the students sing and play the drums to Imagine Dragons. Mr. Coaxum is a very exciting addition.

Wescott is lucky to partner with University of Illinois for student teachers and the benefits are mutual; we benefit from receiving the best teachers and then D30 gets to hire them.

There is a new partnership with Quest food services. Currently, everyone is working together at working out the ordering kinks and lines during lunchtime. The food looks great and tastes even better; the teachers tasted the food prior to school starting and it's a great change for the school overall. It had been 20-30 years since the food service had last changed providers.

Fall Map Testing has been completed. The data is curriculum based and teachers have the data to plans goals of kids and classes, in general. The teachers will dive into the results and make it useful to make changes. In the spring, the classes will participate in Map Testing again.

September 13, 2018 is picture day. Information will be coming home in backpacks and be available in Wescott Word.

On September 17, 2018, there will be two events – popsicles in the park and for the Kindergarten and 1st grade a Literacy Event to learn how kids in the primary grades are taught and how to read/write and then teach the kids at home.

On September 24, 2018, there will be a night for digital safety/iPad program at Willowbrook. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

It was great to see everyone tonight and great turnout! Great to have childcare!

Presidents' Report:

There are many volunteer opportunities. There are Lower Board Chairs for all the committees except two:

- 1) Family Picnic: held at the end of May, 2019. There are games, music, dancing a it is a way for the PTO to give back to the community. Anyone interested can reach out to Kristen, as Mia is stepping down.

In addition, on April 14, 2019, Casino Night is scheduled to take place again to help raise money and bridge the gap for the middle school playground. The current gap is \$40K to hit the goal and be able to build the playground. People who sign up for events get first dibs on volunteer spots.

2) Read to Succeed needs a co-chair.

VP of Communications:

Lisa is getting up to speed and communication with all the parents. The goal is to see and meet and communicate in person, whenever possible. She will help to process and help everyone before communication is sent out. People will receive a form for all eblasts to help prepare. Last year, 140 pieces of communication were sent out and while it sounds like a lot, no one complained and it keeps everyone in the loop. If there are any questions, be sure to ask.

The Facebook PTO page will be resurrected. Trying to get the word out and make sure everyone knows about it. The current, correct Wescott PTO page has four people on it. It will be used to post events, pictures and information. There will also be links for registration for events and information will be added on a weekly basis.

VP Technology:

The job is to enable everyone else to get the word out, simplify the registration process and is open to hearing new ideas, feedback or anything else to help step-up the technology.

Treasurer:

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for PTO and paid. The beginning of the school year has focused on collecting money and handling reimbursements.

VP Fundraising:

Last year, the PTO raised \$49K and donated \$30K. Dr. Brown purchased a new teachers' lounge and there will be a grand opening as soon as it is completed. In addition, a virtual reality science program for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades and the library was purchased. There are new baseball hoops in the gym as a result of the Lew Blond Run.

The goal for this year is to be able to fund new playground equipment and will include taking student input into consideration for any playground equipment purchases.

The Walk for Wescott will have forms coming home soon.

On September 21, the first Parent Social will be held at the Curragh in the Glen. Sign up since space is limited; RSVP on the Wescott Word link.

In the next 1-2 months, planning will begin for Wescott Madness; there will be home and community events, grade level parties and people should start thinking about themes. The topic will be brought up in more detail at the January, 2019, meeting.

Question: Where is the discrepancy of the \$19K raised and donated to the school? There is a detailed breakdown on the website; some of the money went to covering costs, speaker series, end of year picnic, teacher hospitality, 5th grade show and gifts for staff.

Secretary:

Please remember to sign-in (or out...).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Spirit Wear:

The first Friday of each month is spirit day—students are encouraged to wear the school colors and/or spirit wear. The sales for the fall have currently ended.

Ice Cream Days:

Parents can sign up to volunteer on sign-up genius; the 2nd Wednesday of each month is ice cream day. In the past, it is the honor system on who has officially signed up to receive ice-cream; however anyone who asks for it receives the treat. However, there is a concern about allergies. The chair will get a list of those who have officially sign-up to receive ice-cream and the team of volunteers will try to keep a balance between keeping kids happy and honoring the sign-up.

Special Lunch:

The chair of special lunch's name is Marla Morgan; however, she is not "Marla" of the Marla's Lunch sign-up. Ordering has begun and the first special lunch is 9/26. Lunch must be ordered a week prior to the special lunch and the link is in the Wescott Word.

Walk for Wescott:

October 3, 2018: It is the largest fundraiser of the year. The theme is Fun & Fitness and the goal is to raise \$12K. Last year the walk raised \$17K. The goal for this year is to increase participation and have as many students as possible contribute, even if it's \$1 per student. All of the students walk, but not all contribute. The money will go towards the new playground and 10% to pediatric cancer in Chicago with Cal's Angels. There will be prizes for kids who turn in their forms, as well as raffle prizes. Forms will come home on September 11. The committee also wants to thank Kline Tools, Target and ABT for their donations.

Volunteers can choose grade-level sign-up slots.

Helping Hands:

This is a year round committee designed to give back and help kids feel and understand the positive feeling of giving back to less fortunate communities.

Events for year include:

- 1) Collecting used shoes at Walk for Wescott. It's a chance to clean house and a speaker comes to the school to talk to the kids. There will be bins at the entrance of the school and the collection will be from October 1-10, 2018.
- 2) Monster Mash: collect used coats to donate to Wescott's sister school in Burbank.
- 3) Thanksgiving: more details to come
- 4) Book Fair: will collect used books
- 5) Holiday Time: students will make cards in the library for the police/fire departments and the elderly. There will be opportunities to sign-up and help
- 6) Food pantry collection – Again, people can sign-up to help deliver food and show kids where the donated food goes.

Overall, the committee is always open to new ideas and projects. Kids love seeing acts of kindness and adults can help volunteer at any event or for any project.

International Walk to School Day:

Wednesday, October 10, 2018: Kids can walk or ride bikes to school. The theme is Choose Kindness. The Wescott neighborhoods will be divided into regions and will begin at 8am. All information can be found in the Wescott Word.

Monster Mash:

Friday, October 26, 2018: Big Halloween party inside at Wescott. This year, the committee is looking to change up the format of the party and volunteers are needed to help bring ideas and reinvent the party.

Birthday Signs:

On a student's birthday, a PTO donation of \$25.00 is paid for a yard full of signs. The parent volunteers put up and take down the signs. Typically, a parent volunteers for one month slots and the months can be divided between two people who pair up. Currently, the calendar for volunteers is filled until April, 2019 and volunteers are welcomed after that date!

Book Fair:

Volunteers are needed for the one book fair this school year on November 14-16. The book fair takes over the library, helps children choose books and children are read to during the event. Volunteers also assist in checking people out.

Read to Succeed:

Students can earn a free ticket to Six Flags Great America by completing six hours of reading from the time the forms are received in November and they are due in February. The voucher can be used toward a one-day ticket or to upgrade to a season pass. The committee is also looking for another co-chair volunteer.

Cultural Arts:

During the year, there are 2-3 events focused on the fine arts. The events are still being determined for the school year and they are looking at Justin Roberts and Helen Keller actors, Be

the Groove and Chinese Dancing. With a large presence of Asian communities at Wescott, having their faces represented in the arts would be a great experience. Volunteers and ideas are welcomed.

Room Parents:

All is Good

Speaker Series:

Looking for a co-chair to bring inspirational ideas for inspirational speakers to the parent community to be helpful to parents and build resources [Cultural co-chair volunteered]. The first event is slated for January 31, 2019.

Currently, the district has an event on October 10, 2018, at 7pm at Maple with the Glenview Police Department. The topic is still in the works, but likely about on-line safety.

School Board Caucus:

Susan and JoAnnee are co-chairs; seven volunteers are taken from the community and the purpose is to seek and endorse community members living in D30 for school board candidates. Eight caucus members need replacing and there will be four open board positions to be fulfilled. Those who may be interested can speak to Dr. Wegley to get started for nomination.

PTO Meeting Adjourned at 7:17 p.m.