**Wescott School PTO Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022

6:00pm CT via Zoom

**Welcome and Agenda: Kerry Moore, Co-President**

**PTO Board Overview and Open Positions: Nisa Rajani, Co-President**

* Open Positions on the Board for 2022-2024
  + Co-President
  + Treasurer
  + Secretary
  + VP of Communications
* Details are on the [PTO website](https://campussuite-storage.s3.amazonaws.com/prod/850687/a9e265dc-f51e-11e6-bc03-22000bd8490f/1145745/e9844623-480f-11e7-992b-124f7febbf4a/file/2016PTOByLaws.pdf). **You can nominate yourself or others** [**here**](https://district30.wufoo.com/forms/rjxe0fl11bz82a/?fbclid=IwAR0Vb66d6kIQsdmKfSwi_HS5IeVBp0zKJAztnSSJ0VKLLwclaCXOPqkiDcI)**.** Deadline is Friday, February 18. It is a two-year commitment. Email [wescottpresidents@gmail.com](mailto:wescottpresidents@gmail.com) with questions.

**Superintendent’s Report: Dr. Wegley**

* Our Partnership
  + Many thanks to our teachers, parents and kids. We are all working together to make this year happen. Thanks to our collective efforts, we are *in school* and, most importantly, we have *happy kids* at school!
  + We share a responsibility to show up for our kids, maintain productive relationships with one another, and prioritize child-centric practices.
* Board Goal
  + *Achieved*: Return Kindergarten to Wescott. It has been a lot of work, but it has been successful.
  + *Ongoing:*
    - Continue to focus on systemically collaborating and teaming together, and thoughtfully respond to the impact of COVID-19 on our district family.If there is one gift we can give our kids, it is *resilience*. Our kids have been rock stars!
    - Prioritize emotional growth – recognizing our emotions, understanding our emotions, labeling our emotions, expressing our emotions, and regulating our emotions effectively.
      * We will continue to support this goal through our parent education series with CATCH.
      * The last series with Dr. Tina Payne Bryson was fantastic. She had 4 S’s to remember: our kids need to be *safe*, *seen*, and *soothed,* and then they will be *secure*. We create a safe situation when we model civility and calm. Our children will mirror our states and how we respond.
* Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
  + Our district exists to create a community that craves learning, fosters resilience, and cares deeply about every student. We embrace all aspects of diversity and its contributions to learning. We support equitable access, representation, and participation in educational opportunities to generate the most effective learning environment for all students and prepare students to become global citizens. We *do not* tolerate racism, hate, or other discriminatory acts. We build on the power of diversity. I am proud of the diversity in our community.
* COVID-19 Metrics
  + Our numbers are high. Last week (week of Jan. 3, 2022) seems to be our peak, and we are starting to come down now. I think we are high because we are in school and testing, and the testing is illuminating the cases.
  + In Glenview, the population is 73.8% fully vaccinated. In Northbrook, the population is 78.8% fully vaccinated.
  + More district-sponsored vaccination clinics are coming to support those who are eligible.
    - 74% of all D30 students are vaccinated.
    - 99% of D30 staff are fully vaccinated.
    - We will continue weekly SHIELD testing.
    - Breakthrough cases are occurring but are significantly higher for unvaccinated individuals.
* Two additional testing sites have opened. Northshore University HealthSystem has opened an additional testing site, and the Arlington Heights race track has walk-up testing now.
* School News
  + Tuesday, June 14 will be the last day of school. If we need it, our first snow day will be an e-professional day with no student learning, so kids will have the opportunity to enjoy the day. Any additional snow days needed will be e-learning days, and students will be sent home with their iPads.
* Closing
  + Thank you for your support through this time. We will get through this. I am optimistic that we will see these cases drop and know we will get through to the other side. Thank you for your support and the work you have done with us. Thank you!

**Principal’s Report: Dr. Brown**

* PTO
  + Thank you for your volunteer efforts. It’s great to see parents safely in the building for PTO ice cream days, daily Quest lunch and monthly PTO special lunch, and classroom parties. Our winter parties were great. We had 58 parents in the building, and hopefully the process we used to get everyone in was efficient. It seemed to work well, and we’ll continue our best practices for future opportunities.
* Student Teachers
  + We have an ongoing University of Illinois partnership. We are pleased to have five student teachers in the classrooms this year, including a few Wescott alumni.
* Band and Orchestra
  + The virtual concert, featuring musicians in grades four through six, will be on Wednesday, Feb 2. Details to come.
* Parent-Teacher Conferences
  + This term’s conferences will again be virtual, via Zoom. They will be held Wednesday, Feb. 9 from 4:30-8 p.m. and on Thursday, Feb. 10 from 12-8 p.m. Signups will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 6 a.m. Keep an eye out for emailed information.
* Valentine’s Day
  + Valentine’s Day classroom parties will be on Monday, Feb. 14 at 2:30 p.m. Up to two PTO room parents per classroom will be present to run the parties. Students may distribute Valentine’s Day cards this year, provided they are food-free. We are excited that the Valentine’s Day post office at school will be returning this year. Details to come.
* School Procedures
  + *Weather*: Students will have outdoor play if the “feels like” temperature (actual temperature + wind chill) is at or above 13 degrees Fahrenheit.
  + *Drop Off and Pick Up:* This continues to be a work in progress as we bring an incredible 511 students into Wescott daily. Reminder that outdoor supervision doesn’t begin until 8:30 a.m., so please don’t drop your children off earlier than that. To facilitate an efficient car drop off, please continue to practice having your children get out of the car on their own. Parents should not exit their cars; this slows the flow of traffic.
    - We will continue to work with the Northbrook Police to help ensure compliance with morning drop off and afternoon pick up.
    - As COVID subsides, we will consider opening another portion of the building for drop off and pick up traffic flow. Details to come.
* Standardize Testing
  + We test in the fall and again in the spring to see what students know and track their progress. We have a state-mandated exam. Older students will have a science exam. Testing begins in March and ends in May. Details to come.

**Treasurer’s Report: Jen Wyton**

* Walk for Wescott (W4W) raised nearly $20,000 after expenses and our donation to Fear? Not! Nation. Thank you!
* Other big successes are monthly PTO ice cream days and special lunches!
* Funds raised to be used for mural and other projects that benefit the school and student experience.

**Upcoming Events: Lisa Fishbain, VP of Fundraising, and Amanda Neidhardt, Secretary**

* Dine Out Nights: Monday, Feb 21 at Chipotle and March TBD at Viccinos.
* Spring Break Activities: Be on the lookout for activities you can purchase to benefit the school. Details to come by email.
* Wescott Madness: We have to see what happens with COVID before we can confirm if, how and when it will happen.

Fifth Grade Lunch: If you are interested in volunteering, contact the PTO at [wescottpresidents@gmail.com](mailto:wescottpresidents@gmail.com).

**Stay Connected: Lina Nudera, VP of Communications**

* Keep checking your weekly emailed Wescott Word, our Wescott and District 30 Facebook pages, PTO website, and email the Board at [wescottpresidents@gmail.com](mailto:wescottpresidents@gmail.com).

**Other Business: Kerry Moore, Co-President**

* Announcement: At the next PTO meeting in Fall 2022, we are going to take a vote to amend the bylaws to rename the Boards. We will call the currently named upper/executive board the *PTO Board* and the currently named lower board the *Committee Chairs*. We will put that to a vote at the next meeting.

**Q and A: Nisa Rajani, Co-President**

* You can email us questions at [wescottpresidents@gmail.com](mailto:wescottpresidents@gmail.com).

**Adjourn**

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