



**Westgate PSO General Meeting**

September 21, 2022

**Attendees In Person:**

- Ellen Sontra, PSO Co-Chair
- Kristin Grecco, PSO Co-Chair
- Kalina Shouse, PSO Treasurer
- Kristine Tieck, Co-Fundraising Chair
- Jessica Stern, Advisor
- Michele Hamilton, School Liaison
- Steve Hearn, Principal
- Dulcie Chase
- Kevin Fitzgerald
- Tami McKenzie
- Cara Hellings
- Megan Wolfe
- Tricia Lovely
- Emily Myers
- Dessie Petrova
- Emily Higbee
- Matie McGee
- Meghan Rinaker
- Veronica Cortes
- Jessica Burniske
- Justin Burniske
- Arianna Reed
- Josh Reed
- Nora Carlson

**Attendees Via Zoom:**

- Hadley
- Jen M.
- Allison Tharakan
- Leah Winters
- Liz Bennett
- Angela Burke
- Janae Jzyk
- Rachel Marr
- Brandee Collins
- Ghada Keldani
- Sara Couch
- Christi Finken
- Amy Ardens

- Arriette
- Flor
- Massiela Picado
- Greg S
- Negassi Abraha
- Mel Phares
- Kimmi C

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions
2. Approve minutes from last meeting
3. Budget
4. School Update
5. Room Parents
6. Fun Run
7. Harvest Fest
8. Wreath Sales
9. Safety
10. Fundraising

**Minutes:**

Meeting called to order.

- Introductions
- Approve minutes from last meeting
  - Kalina raised approving minutes from last meeting. Jessica Stern motions to approve, Megan seconds. Approved.
- Budget
  - We currently have a \$7,600 difference, but we are comfortable in this because we built a cushion in and a lot of line items don't get used (like teacher stipends).
  - Question: Why is there nothing next to spirit wear? What is Holiday Giving?
    - We are using a different system for this year.
    - Holiday Giving still on there because we act like a bank.
  - We need to add a budgeted amount for field trips. \$6,000 for buses.
    - This creates a difference of \$13,000, but PSO board is confident our budget will balance.
  - Motion to approve the budget. Motion is seconded. Budget passed.
- School Update
  - Mr. Hearn – School year is off to a strong start. Staff has a great culture and climate. All kids have some form of trauma because of covid – trying to do some work around that. Art is taking a bigger presence and connected to curriculum. A way for students to express themselves and connect – a sense of belonging.
  - Curriculum night 9/22 – students will bring parents on a tour, show classrooms and then frozen treats from PSO. A bus will gather families from the area at different stops.
  - Celebrating cultures event – staff would like to bring this back. An evening event where families take a table and represent their culture. November timeline – first couple of

weeks. Families can serve food if they would like. What does food handling procedures look like? A collaborative event between Westgate and PSO. No funding needed from PSO. Community building opportunity.

- No comments from teachers.
- Room parents
  - We are looking for one to two room parents per classroom. This role is for people who can help facilitate communication from the PSO – fundraisers, events, etc. Have to opt in for communication from room parents, find a sheet tomorrow night in each classroom to approve communication to your family. Asking they also attend the PSO meeting in person or via Zoom. Teacher luncheons, etc. Some have already signed up, but there are still spaces available. If no room parents available, then can one parent oversee an entire grade? Yes.
  - When will room parents get more information? Parents can opt in via email as well.
  - What is the time commitment of a room parent? We are hoping minimal – helping share which events are coming up, if volunteers are needed, etc. A great way to also meet fellow parents.
- Fun Run
  - Oct 12th. Fundraising starts on the 23rd of Sept. Hoping to raise \$30,000.
  - Are students getting shirts this year? All new students will receive a shirt this year – first graders and new students. Shirts are the same as every student got last spring. Will be received first week of October.
  - T-shirt sponsor is already committed for 2023.
- Harvest Fest
  - Need a committee to put this on. Use the common spaces – games, activities, etc. Determine food and logistics. Volunteer roles include set up, overseeing each station, cake walk.
- Wreath/Greenery sales
  - While soon after the Fun Run, this felt like an easy way to raise a large amount of money. Orders due by Nov 14th. Shipping is available – local purchases will be brought to the school and then picked up from there in a drive thru fashion. Earlier the better in terms of info sent out on greenery. We can determine the pricing after wholesale cost and have the ability to make a good chunk of money for Westgate.
- Safety
  - Nora Carlson (community member) is in attendance to talk about the tricky nature of crossing at 220th and 224th. Working on helping to see about making some needed safety changes. Second time she has submitted to the City of Edmonds where you can submit a suggestion of an area that is a safety concern. First submission was in 2019 – they said no. Data didn't warrant it. City council members came out and agreed that something needs to be done. Radar trailer has been requested as well. Nora has a meeting with the Police Chief.
  - How can parents get loud? Signage is obscured and needs an update for certain. No sidewalks or crosswalks as well. City Council meeting – show up in large amounts. Schools should be standardized for all schools needing the highest priority of safety.
- Fundraising

- Reminder about matching donations for large companies. Can also give PTO time as well.

Meeting adjourned.