

Washington Middle School PTSA Board Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2021 6:30 PM via Zoom

Present: (Board) Jen Drain, Keyonna Saloy, Katrina Hunt, Cliff Meyer, Charlotte Schubert, Kat Barr, Brynne Veitengruber, Chris Robertson (Guests) Krishna Richardson-Daniels, Ti'esh Harper, Jessie Adala, Barb Trosper.

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Jen Drain.

Group Connection activity.

Review PTSA Family Survey and Assign Action Steps presented by Barb Trosper:

Survey open to families from Jan 31 to Feb 19th. Slides from a survey story created by Barb Trosper are here: [Link Main Slides](#).

217 responses, 8 pairs from the same IP address, these were not excluded as there were differences in the feedback.

Barb presented data on the relative success of the different types of outreach used to encourage families to take the survey: Email, WMS website, WMS app, Principal letter, Facebook, House 2 Newsletter, calls by translators.

English-speaking families were more likely to respond to email than other outreach methods.

ELL/ESL: Most families responded by translators reaching out.

When did families respond/take the survey: At first when the survey was sent out and then when a reminder was sent out.

Who responded broken down by identified language spoken: 133 English, 26 Spanish, 10 Vietnamese, 10 Chinese-Toishanese, 9 Amharic, 8 Oromo, 7 Somali, 7 Chinese-Cantonese, 2 Arabic, 2 Chinese-Mandarin.

6th grade families had the largest response at 91, 7th grade 68, 8th grade 77.

Survey questions:

Is WMS welcoming?

Percent who feel welcome: 6th grade 67 %, 7th grade 71 %, 8th grade 61%.

Ideas to make WMS more welcoming:

Teacher feedback 19%, admin feedback 16%, other 15%, communication 13%, return to school 11%, events 9%, inclusive 6 %, happy 6%, language support 4%.

PTSA discussed an ongoing deeper dive into this information to provide our school some feedback regarding this..

PTSA Discussed when to share recommendations/action items with families to hold us accountable to action.

PTSA Discussed what to share with families in a way to make families feel heard.

How is the year going for you student?

>70 % positive to neutral, 20% negative, 5% very negative, 4% very positive

What is the greatest concern for your student?

Social 38%, Academic 27%, other 13%, physical 11%, emotional 11%.

Ideas to solve greatest concern:

Events 31%, return to school safely 22%, support 11%, teacher feedback 9%, academic rigor 5%, tutoring 5%, communication 4%, other 12%.

What events are families interested in?

Number of responses: Understanding your teenagers brain and reducing power struggles: 101. Anti Racist training: 67. Ethnic and Social Justice @ WMS and tools for home: 65. Pandemic parenting information: 65. Other events: 48. Parenting movie and discussion: 44.

What should the Legislative/Advocacy team focus on?

Number of responses: Return to school safely: 146. Improving remote school: 83. Equality in schooling 68. Family pandemic support: 56. Student safety: 55. Other: 36.

More Ideas to build community at WMS:

Number of responses: Thank you: 19. Language support: 12. Return to school: 5. Support: 4. Community 4. Parent/Teacher conference: 3. Academic Rigor: 2, Other options: 19.

Discussion about survey: Can we split out answers for English speaking and non-English speaking families. Next time possibly focus on demographics. What is the story we want to tell with this survey? How are we going to tell it respectfully with recommendations and accountability.

Discussed PTSA to host separate events to share results with non-english speaking families.

Recommendations as a result of the survey: ELL needs communication verbally.

Explore Talking Points tool, or translated robo calls that go automatically to voicemail to help non-english speaking families..

Have interpretative services readily available and utilized at events and meetings.

Learn how to use the Zoom interpretation feature.

Form Sub-committees: Deep dive of results, be ready to present key strategies and recommendations to community.

Possibly use Eventbrite: Get an RSVP with language families will need before the event.

Update on events at WMS presented by Jen Drain and Cliff Meyer:

HOST is offering a spring semester of new enrichment activities.

PTSA sponsored event “Healing Power Up” for 7th and 8th grade this upcoming Wednesday, March 3rd.

Communication is happening with WMS Athletics Coordinator Danny Hawkins regarding spring sports.
PTSA is available to provide prizes for teachers to give out.
Discussed moving our PTSA community/general meeting to the end of March 25th.

Approval of February 2021 Board Minutes: Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 PM

Minutes Approved April 5th, 2021

Selected Upcoming Dates

Mar. 3 BLT Meeting

Mar. 3 “Healing Power Up” for 7th & 8th graders (6th gr happened in Feb.)

Mar. 10 Virtual STEM Expo Industry Day-6th grade

Mar. 10 Sidewalk Library

Mar. 11 PTSA Community Meeting

BLT March Meeting Minutes: [Link](#)