



PTO General Meeting – 1st Quarter

August 19th, 2025 - WHAM Gym

5:30 Mix and Mingle; Meeting begins promptly at 5:45

I. Call to Order

- Welcome (Nick Simone-Finstrom)
- Opening remarks from Dr. Hite
- Executive Committee Introductions
- Treasurer's Report (Elisabeth Cherry/Darbi Kaltakdjian)
 - Current Balance and Start of Year Funds - we are a nonprofit, our funding comes from corporate donations, fundraising, membership
 - Budget Concerns for 2025/2026 - we have a much smaller budget due to fundraising problems than we have in previous years. Membership dues are down from projected \$5000 to \$3000. Last year we used old pass through funds to purchase big items like picnic tables. We are working on a \$23K budget this year vs. \$27k. We spend $\frac{1}{4}$ on teachers, $\frac{1}{4}$ on students (every student got a wham tshirt), the other goes to general things that we need for campus improvements and events. We are looking for a big ticket fundraiser with companies that will help us raise money like Barnes and Noble used to with sales.
- Summer Updates (Susie McGlone)
 - Teacher's Lounge - finished painting nurse's station cabinets and windows, installed new countertop cover. Also painted Dr.Hite's office windows and bathroom and pressure washed throughout campus.
 - Pre-k and Kindergarten playgrounds were cleaned and soft washed
 - PTO Work Day - cleaned windows, window planters redone in garden, carpet cleaned in lounge, new soccer goal nets (Barnes Family), soft washed WHAM-A-LAMA, finished building picnic tables for 4th/5th grade, general garden clean up

- School Beautification - new lily pads/flowers painted for carpoolers (Becky Tremblay), gardens were refreshed (Kim Shaw)
- Committee Updates and New Chairs (Jenna deBarros)
 - Communications – Julie Becnel - newsletter, web updates, Facebook and Instagram pages that need some support to update.
 - Decorating – Susie McGlone and Darbi Kaltakdjian - decorating for events, helping teachers, scarecrows.
 - Fundraising – Lauren Wiley - Coordinate giveback nights, needs additional fundraising help and connections with businesses across BR to support WHAM. We want to expand fundraising for teacher luncheons, supply smoothies to kids, etc.
 - Recycling – Parav Reddy - Plastics, crayons and pens (need to be taken to Staples), needs help getting weighed plastic bags to Sprouts in Rouzan.
 - Room Parents – Emily Lind and Jessica Tozel - currently collecting room parent forms to give to teachers to pick their room parents. Fill out the Google form that Hall is sending out so room parents have student information.
 - School Beautification – Becky Tremblay and Kim Shaw, Ms. Dobbs - Garden maintenance, ongoing garden maintenance needs to be done more often.
 - Social – Violet Tremblay - Fall Social is a mixer, not a fundraiser, Spring Carnival is a fundraiser for PTO/Teachers.
 - Teacher Appreciation – Doris Weston and Jenna deBarros - Need parent support to make Teacher Appreciation Week as best as it can be.
- Review of Calendar Dates before 2nd Quarter PTO Meeting on November 18th.
 - Currently Scheduled Giveback Nights:
 - September 24th (5-9PM) - Jason's Deli Citiplace
 - October 22nd - Pizza Artista
 - November 12th (4-9PM) - Raising Cane's Government
 - January 29th - Pizza Artista
 - May 14th - Pizza Artista
- Fall Social September 19th, 5th Grade Luncheon upcoming, September 27th is a garden workday before open house. October will have a 4th

grade luncheon, monthly birthday celebrations are held at the end of each month. November we have Green Week and a clean up on November 1. We also have Poinsettia Sale.

- We will be hosting coffee truck, Each kid will receive a free book in January for Read-a Thon, Popsicle Party for the kids as a welcome back. We are also making dedicated shelves for kids to place things on going to cafeteria/recess.
- Call to Action and Current/Future Fundraising (Nick Simone-Finstrom and Jenna deBarros)
 - Parent volunteers needed to work with Committee Chairs
 - Parent volunteers for Fall Social (Sept 19th)
 - PTO Feedback Form - will be posted to socials - please let us know your feedback.
 - Currently fundraising for:
 - a) Recess Shed and Color Coded Bags per Class/Grade - this is from teacher feedback.
- Public Comments/Questions (General Membership)
 - a. We will have 2 fundraisers this year instead of 1 - we will have a Color Run this fall that is pay to play per level. Cookie Dough fundraiser will be in the Spring
 - b. Do we do any jean days to raise money? Throughout the year there are certain events where they get to wear out of uniform.
 - c. Question about auction where they auction fruit tree pruning, etc? We do a big auction at our spring carnival.
 - d. Question about market for small businesses? We need to be careful about what we can do under PTO/School insurance. Last year we had a kid's maker's fair. We are planning on maker's fair again - we can try to do a vendor maker fair.
 - e. Question about parent's night out? This is a great idea, would need volunteers to police it. The school has to pay to have someone on campus for our events. Can we get a business to sponsor something like this?
 - f. Typically we push events on facebook and the EBR app
 - g. Teacher's favorites and Amazon wish lists are on the PTO Website
 - h. Main form of PTO communication is Facebook, Events will be pushed through the school on the EBR app, we also use Group Me.
 - i. Sports and After School Activities - these are run through the school. Girls on the Run (3-5), Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Kids Orchestra, Track Team for spring

- j. Dad's Club or Handy Person's group - contact PTO. Could possibly cook burgers for fundraisers, 5th grade graduation.
- k. Membership I heart WHAM t-shirts will be ordered once we get all the membership forms at the end of August and sent home in backpack mail.
- l. Can we make the I heart WHAM t-shirts into a student contest where they can design the shirts? This is a great idea!
- Closure of Meeting 6:35PM (Nick Simone-Finstrom)