



Waverly-Belmont Elementary School PTO

Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 5pm

Exec Board Attendees –Margaret Harrison, Dorigen Lonergan, Todd Hartley, Joe Bass
School – Dr. Robin Shumate, Dr. Khalimah Jackson, Codi Cummings
Others – Aimee Le, Ashely Grooms, Mary Kathryn Wells, Erin Gilmore, Ginger VandeWater, Lynn Blocher, Jacquese Groves, Rachel Olson

1. Intro and Welcome (Margaret Harrison)

- School budget presentation, PTO budget presentation, followed by voting on 2022-23 PTO Executive Board and by-laws, wrap-up of the year's PTO activities

2. WB School Budget Presentation (Dr. Robin Shumate)

- [For the full PPT presentation, click here.](#)
- Enrollment projections: 491 students
- Data points:
 - i. MAP Reading Achievement – 60% - +3
 - ii. MAP Reading Growth – 59% - +9
 - iii. MAP Math Achievement – 53% - +2
 - iv. MAP Math Growth – 64% - +14
 - v. Attendance – 94.1% overall; 16.7% chronic absence (80 students)
 - vi. These numbers met district goals in all areas save attendance (goal is 95%)
 - vii. TN Ready scores for reading last year grew some; math was way down last year, leading to big gains this year.
- Behavior data:
 - i. Large increase in behavior data, likely due to social-emotional needs not being met during COVID.
- Funds available are based on student-based budgeting amount allocated to the school, ESSER funding (federal COVID relief) and PTO funding, which is budgeted and allocated separately.
- WB will receive no Title I funding this year because we don't have a high enough percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged.
- The budgeting process involves school staff and focus groups of parents and students giving feedback on their priorities for the year. Next year, Dr. Shumate may open that process to all parents.
- Personnel is the biggest line item in the school budget.

- Big gains have been made in math and reading among students who had the most ground to make up, thanks to dedicated teacher of reading and an instructional specialist, both of whom help students during Bulldog time.
- Grade level teacher positions have been allocated with:
 - i. 5 in K – 1:20 class size
 - ii. 6 in 1st – 1:19
 - iii. 5 in 2nd – 1:19
 - iv. 4 in 3rd – 1:21
 - v. 5 in 4th – 1:19 – Very low teacher to student ratio for fourth grade compared to the rest of Metro; subtracting one teacher made them 1:24, too big.
- The rest will go to non-personnel expenses: Library books, instructional supplies, copier expenses, equipment like interactive boards and leadership stipends for teacher-leaders.
 - i. Metro will no longer support the Clear Touch boards because they don't make parts for them anymore. We will have to replace all of them using school and PTO funds.
- ESSER funds will cover:
 - i. Planning days / coaching time
 - ii. Software
 - iii. Equipment (more interactive boards)
 - iv. Instructional supplies, including Wit & Wisdom, Eureka Math, SPIRE, Math Intervention
- Supply lists are available in the office.
- Did COVID affect our attendance data? All COVID absences are excused.
- Is the chronic absenteeism number normal? It's up by a couple of percentage points. State accountability measures set the max level at 10%. We're above that right now. Families often have transportation issues, personal family issues and other complications that can cause chronic absenteeism. Our school attendance data is much stronger than the district's.
- On re-allocation of funding for teachers: WB will have a full-time school counselor and a .4 school counselor (part time), plus a .6 related arts teacher that could be for Spanish or for school counseling as a special/related arts class for all students.
 - i. Dr. Shumate: Many at our school already work with students and families who are in need. They work one-on-one and in small groups throughout the year.
 - ii. We need more because we were not able to meet all student needs this year.
 - iii. Teachers, parents and students asked for more school counselors. We're just below the enrollment level to get two full-time counselors in our budget.
 - iv. We were only allotted 4 related arts positions. We have to have art and music, and students are required to have two 25-minute PE classes per week. Dr. Shumate doesn't believe that's enough and gives students two one-hour PE classes per week.
 - v. We have a .6 related arts teacher to cover another subject. We have to think about what students need most.
- **Margaret Harrison:** We also need to remember fifth grade will be added two years from now.

- Behavior data: It's collected for school-wide reporting and in subgroups. Students have missed a lot of learning time for important emotional regulation and other lessons they normally get from school counselors. Third grade and second grade have had the greatest number of behavior incidents.
- **Joe Bass:** It's still undecided if the school has Spanish or an additional school counselor next year. It could be one or the other or a mix. Much feedback and input has already been collected. The meeting chat will be saved with Dr. Shumate, the budget presentation will be shared with parents and more feedback will be solicited.

3. PTO Budget (Dorigen Lonergan)

- [Click here to see the PTO summary budget proposal for 2022-23.](#)
- We raised \$83,000 in the Bulldog Bolt this year. We budgeted \$85,000 for next year.
- We did not do a spring fundraiser, as we had in previous years. We felt community building was more important. Next year, it's up to the new Executive Board to decide whether or not to hold one.
- Spirit Wear, Backpack program, Clubs and community giving bring in more revenue, which is mostly used to support these programs.
 - i. Clubs program was a big addition this year.
- Dr. Shumate's needs are:
 - i. Technology – We're funding four additional interactive boards to replace Clear Touch boards.
 - ii. Additional learning software
 - iii. Principal discretionary fund and teacher request fund
- We still have \$30,000 set aside for the basketball court, but we have a solution in place that means we won't use most of it. What's left will be reallocated to play spaces.
- **Margaret:** Justine and Joe Bass called for more transparency in budgeting process, and we're very glad to have that this year for the school and the PTO.
- **Todd Hartley:** Revenue is around \$150,000 and expenses are around \$170,000. If you take out the \$30,000 set aside for play spaces, it works out to a net positive of about \$15,000-\$20,000 for our school.
- **Motion: Approve the budget as presented – Todd Hartley**
 - i. **Seconded by Margaret Harrison**
 - ii. **Approved unanimously**
- Late question: Why are classroom expenses so much lower for 2022-23?
 - i. Answer: We funded Mr. Caher's position and part of our instructional specialist, around \$72,000. That is not recurring. We funded that through COVID. We also spent some of it on teacher requests, which we've allocated more for in 2022-23.
- Late question: Does this include the behavior management training Dr. Shumate spoke about in March?
 - i. Answer from Dr. Shumate: We've been able to fit training into the school budget, so it won't require PTO funds. We want teachers to tell us what learning opportunities they want to take part in.
- **Todd:** Everything Dr. Shumate asked for at our last budget meeting is in this budget.
- **Dr. Shumate:** That includes software and money for interactive boards.

4. By-laws (Margaret Harrison, Todd Hartley)

- Todd Hartley spent a lot of time reviewing and revising the by-laws. They were circulated among PTO leadership and the school community for review.
- [Click here to see the revised PTO by-laws.](#)
- The by-laws we had were good, but they were very prescriptive, and they didn't match how the PTO operates now. We made them much less prescriptive, clarified how the budget process would work, rebalanced executive board officer responsibilities, took out barriers to participation in the PTO.
- Executive board positions: We currently have co-presidents, secretary and co-treasurers – 5 exec officers and three faculty reps. New by-laws allow for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and vice treasurer, with succession built in for continuity.
- **Motion: Approve the PTO by-laws as revised to be effective immediately – Joe Bass**
 - i. **Seconded by Dorigen Lonergan**
 - ii. **Approved unanimously**

5. Events Wrap-up (Margaret Harrison)

- Week of Service was a wonderful event, thank you to Ms. Cummings.
- Teacher Appreciation Week has seen an incredible amount of support.
- The art show was a huge success.
- Thank you to everyone who put them together, volunteered and attended.

6. PTO Executive Board (Margaret Harrison)

- Current line-up:
 - i. Co-presidents – Meg Wicks and Margaret Harrison
 - ii. Treasurers – Dorigen Lonergan and Todd Hartley
 - iii. Secretary – Justine Bass and Joe Bass
- We raised \$83,000 in the fall fundraiser, revitalized in-person events, brought back teacher-led clubs in a sustainable way, updated the PTO by-laws, broadened the board significantly, developed a promotional video, held the school's first Week of Service,
- Proposed executive officers:
 - i. President – Rachel Olson
 - ii. Vice President – Jessica Jarrett
 - iii. Treasurer – Ginger VandeWater
 - iv. Vice Treasurer – Jacquese Groves
 - v. Secretary – Mary Kathryn Wells
- **Motion to approve Rachel Olson as President – Margaret Harrison**
 - i. **Seconded by several**
 - ii. **Approved unanimously**
- **Motion to approve Jessica Jarrett as Vice President – Todd Hartley**
 - i. **Seconded by Dorigen Lonergan**
 - ii. **Approved unanimously**
- **Motion to approve Ginger VandeWater as Treasurer – Margaret Harrison**
 - i. **Seconded by Dorigen Lonergan**
 - ii. **Approved unanimously**
- **Motion to approve Jacquese Groves as Vice Treasurer – Margaret Harrison**
 - i. **Seconded by Joe Bass, Dorigen Lonergan**

- ii. **Approved unanimously**
- **Motion to approve Mary Kathryn Wells – Margaret Harrison**
 - i. **Seconded by Joe Bass**
 - ii. **Approved unanimously**
- Other office positions (no approval needed)
 - i. Mary Tidwell will continue as VP, Volunteers
 - ii. Ashley Grooms VP, Student Clubs
 - iii. Aimee Le – Play spaces, events
 - iv. Dabney Brittain TBD
 - v. Lynn Blocher - Backpack Program Coordinator
 - vi. Erin Yu – Boxtops & Rewards Coordinator
 - vii. Erin Gilmore – Spirit Wear, many others
 - viii. Todd Hartley – Tours and Watch D.O.G.S.
 - ix. Margaret Harrison – Fundraising
 - x. Dorigen Lonergan – Unicycle, Spirit Wear, other programs from Erin Gilmore
- Special thank you to Ms. Walle, a faculty representative and wonderful partner to the PTO.
- Dr. Shumate: I went through the entire chat and tried to answer questions and give more clarity. Contact me if you want or need more. Both budget presentations will be available on the PTO website.

7. AOB/Adjourn 6:22

Meeting Chat

From Dorigen Lonergan to Everyone 05:06 PM

These are growth numbers over what period? Fall to January?

From Codi Lind Cummings to Everyone 05:08 PM

Dorigen, when the students took the test in August, each child received an individualized growth goal that would be consistent with national norms. The growth percentage reflects the students who met their growth goals.

From Dorigen Lonergan to Everyone 05:08 PM



From lynnblocher to Everyone 05:10 PM

Do you feel that COVID quarantines or absences affected the absentee number and held us below 95%, or just greater chronic absenteeism?

From Mary Kathryn Wells to Everyone 05:11 PM

The percentage of students chronically absent is really striking. I wonder what we can do to support that.

From Waverly Belmont PTO to Everyone 05:11 PM

Thanks for the Q, Lynn! I'll share all questions with Dr. Shumate at the end. Keep 'em coming!

From Mary Kathryn Wells to Everyone 05:11 PM

I heard reference to the behavior data but didn't see any specific data; would love to see that if it's possible.

From Waverly Belmont PTO to Everyone 05:12 PM

Got it, MKW, thanks - we'll make sure to request that!

From lynnblocher to Everyone 05:13 PM

Can you remind us who specifically works as the bookkeeper vs secretary vs School GA?

From Waverly Belmont PTO to Everyone 05:13 PM

Kathy Wells is our bookkeeper - she took over from Mr. Calo in the fall.

From lynnblocher to Everyone 05:13 PM

TY

From Rikki to Everyone 05:15 PM

Does the behavior data include the students that have a behavior plan in place (like an IEP) or just those who are not on a behavior plan?

From lynnblocher to Everyone 05:16 PM

What about EE teachers? Where do those fall?

From Codi Lind Cummings to Everyone 05:17 PM

Lynn, we will have 4 EE teachers next year.

From Waverly Belmont PTO to Everyone 05:17 PM

Thanks, Rikki! Lynn, I think she will cover EE momentarily

From lynnblocher to Everyone 05:19 PM

Can we get an understanding of whether the EE, PP, Para, etc are up/down compared to this year?

I think we are glossing over the fact that Spanish will essentially no longer be provided for all grades, from my understanding, at 0.6

From Waverly Belmont PTO to Everyone 05:21 PM

We have some options there, Lynn. Thanks - we'll cover in Q&A

From yuen's iPhone to Everyone 05:26 PM

My kids seem to be bringing home lots of unused math workbooks this year. If those aren't being used, is that an opportunity to cut something from the budget?

From Codi Lind Cummings to Everyone 05:27 PM

GoMath is provided by the district. Because we use Eureka as our math program, those GoMath books get sent home for extra practice. Our school does not pay for those.

From Mary Kathryn Wells to Everyone 05:29 PM

Follow-up Q about that: is that something the PTO could help with, especially since it's related to parents and transport?

From Codi Lind Cummings to Everyone 05:31 PM

Improving attendance at the Elementary School level often requires incentive based ideas for families. I think PTO could definitely partner with the school to get an incentive program going for families struggling with attendance.

From Mary Kathryn Wells to Everyone 05:32 PM

Thanks, Ms. Cummings.

From lynnblocher to Everyone 05:33 PM

I'm still a bit confused about how a .6 person teaches Spanish and acts as a counselor?

From Grant's iPhone to Everyone 05:33 PM

I would like to express my feelings of the importance of elementary aged kids and foreign languages. My daughter loves Spanish and I would love to see that continue.

From Waverly Belmont PTO to Everyone 05:33 PM

Lynn, it's an either/or

From lynnblocher to Everyone 05:33 PM

Exactly...why are we cutting out foreign language? I fear it will never be added back once it's cut

From Waverly Belmont PTO to Everyone 05:33 PM

Our options are a .5 Spanish and a .5 counselor or a 1 counselor

From Justine Bass to Everyone 05:33 PM

I agree about importance of exposure to foreign language.

From lynnblocher to Everyone 05:34 PM

I'm unclear - I thought we have 1 FT counselor, and .4 counselor. You're talking about adding the .6 and /4 together to make 2 FT counselors, and ditch Spanish?

From Rikki to Everyone 05:38 PM

Yes, that would be great to be able to see the breakdown....thank you

From Dorigen Lonergan to Everyone 05:41 PM

I would suggest this be shared with the entire school. The pto email does not reach everyone.

From Waverly Belmont PTO to Everyone 05:41 PM

Lynn, Spanish and counseling are both on the table

From Grant's iPhone to Everyone 05:43 PM

If there are 23-24 classes at one hour of Spanish a week, it pretty much equals a 0.6 FTE.

From Robin Shumate, Principal, Waverly Belmont to Everyone 05:50 PM

Current 21-22 school year -

Current 21-22 school year - Bookkeeper - Kathy Welty, Secretary - Melissa Richmond, General Assistant - Mikah Diaz

Comparison of EE staff from 2021 to 2022 - staff for EE teachers is the same, Para professionals is a growth of one, we will hire two paraprofessional positions due to one para following a student moving to 5th grade.

From Robin Shumate, Principal, Waverly Belmont to Everyone 05:54 PM

In looking at the Master Schedule for next year, there will be only one grade level that will have only Art, Music, PE for related arts. All others will receive Art, Music, PE, Spanish or Classroom Guidance Lessons. One grade level will have a Library as an additional option.

The .6 position will cover from 10:30 to 3:00 in a school day if that helps.

From Robin Shumate, Principal, Waverly Belmont to Everyone 06:01 PM

One thing to note for the next two years is that we are seeing a purposeful decrease in enrollment numbers. This is causing a loss of funds for the school budget. We are doing this to make room in the building for 4 classrooms of 5th grade in two years. Our current 2nd grade students will be able to stay for 5th grade.

From Justine Bass to Everyone 06:03 PM

Thank you all for working on updating those! Great work!!

From Rachel Olson to Everyone 06:04 PM

Yes, thank you!

From Todd Hartley to Everyone 06:06 PM

aye

From Alice Asako iphone to Everyone 06:06 PM

Adding to what T Hartley said... I am thankful that WB has a PTO so passionate and strong . My fellow music teachers in other schools (even in MNPS) are always very jealous I work for a parent community who care and care for improvement.

From Robin Shumate, Principal, Waverly Belmont to Everyone 06:07 PM

And the amazing ART Show

From Codi Lind Cummings to Everyone 06:07 PM

THANK YOU PTO !!! Teacher Appreciation Week is much appreciated!

From yuen's iPhone to Everyone 06:08 PM

What time is the 4th grade promotion event? I haven't been able to get that info!

From Brittain Family to Everyone 06:09 PM

Thank you, Margaret and the whole PTO for your service this year!!

From Robin Shumate, Principal, Waverly Belmont to Everyone 06:09 PM

The invitations are going out this week, they are being printed.

From Casey Goodman to Everyone 06:10 PM

Thank you so much to all of our PTO for your constant love and support for our school community. You all are truly the best- we are so blessed to have you all!

From Robin Shumate, Principal, Waverly Belmont to Everyone 06:10 PM

4th grade promotion 9 am in the gym

From Justine Bass to Everyone 06:13 PM

Any chance kindergarten promotion may move to be inside too?

From Alice Asako iPhone to Everyone 06:13 PM

Amen M. Harrison 🙌 we have a talented community of parents and staff. Positive Change takes energy and WB is filled with positive energy.

From Robin Shumate, Principal, Waverly Belmont to Everyone 06:15 PM

We definitely know that a foreign language is very important to our parents and our students. We are doing our very best to maintain the programing with the funds we have available.

From Grant's iPhone to Everyone 06:18 PM

Thank you very much, Dr. Shumate.

And to all PTO and WB personnel.

From Todd Hartley to Everyone 06:20 PM

Thanks MH for all you do.