

Steuart W. Weller Elementary School
PTO All Hands Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2022

Called to order by: Jenn Shelton and Bob Shelton, President(s), 8:00 AM

Meeting Venue: Our meeting will be conducted virtually via Google Meets. Link provided.

<https://meet.google.com/krt-wrtj-mck>

Board Members in attendance: Jenn Shelton, Bob Shelton, Kasonya Blevins, Quan Tran, Carolina Pardo

General Membership in attendance count: (insert # here)

Open and Welcome – Jenn and Bob Shelton (2 min)

- **Thank you** for joining us we have a robust agenda

After School Program: Jeremy Beck/PTO

- Jeremy Beck, Program Sponsor
- Registration open NOW
- Two sessions 2/28-4/8 and 4/27-6/2
- Sessions and classes filling up!!
- Added another session of Scooter Hockey!!
- Questions let Jenn Shelton or Jeremy Beck know (Jeremy.beck@lcps.org)
- Updates:
 - Enrollment is amazing for a program we're bringing back after a couple of years
 - Exceeded expectations
 - Not as high of an enrollment for round two, but we're going to keep it open for students to sign up
- **Registration ends Saturday 2/26 at midnight for the 1st session.**
- <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/steuart-weller-elementary-pto-after-school-activities-program>

Welcome Rebecca Gratz, Coding and Computer Science update (Instructional Facilitator of CS @ SWES + 7 additional Elementary Schools)

- What is Computer Science?
 - Educational pedagogy that develops students' computational and critical thinking skills and shows them how to **create**, not simply **consume**, new technologies.
 - Ex. Creating algorithms to complete a task.
- How do we integrate CS & Technology?
 - Preparing for Middle School + High School
 - Creating a Foundation at an early level
- What do we need to prepare them for?
 - What does it mean to be safe?
 - It's important for students to know what a digital footprint is.

- What are we up to?
 - Minecraft EDU
 - Used to build models and showcase students learning through collaboration and Creativity
 - Building Ancient Civilizations
 - Using Fractions (ie. 1/5 of this building will be used with X material.)
- The value of coding and computer science.
- What's ahead
 - Continuing to expose them to the language that comes with it.
- Questions

Read Across America, Kadie Jones, Librarian

- Program overview:
 - Digital flyer Sent via email on Monday and also available in the kid's Library Schoology Course
 - <https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1VKz9XDc6y4jOpyhh6FDIldlx12-08ve1VFeFiWnSCB8/edit>
- Spirit Week:
 - Monday – Wear your favorite color
 - Tuesday – Book a selfie & share
 - Wednesday – Crazy About Reading: Silly Socks, Mismatched outfit
 - Thursday – S.U.R.F.'S Up at SWES! (Silent Uninterrupted READING FUN!) Bring a beach blanket, hat shades, and a favorite book to read
 - Friday – Favorite Book Characters: Who are your favorite book characters? Pick one and dress up like them!
- Book Diorama Contest – Shoe Box
 - Submit by March 4th
- Vote for Books!

Community Liaison (Annie Nichols)

- Update on community needs
 - Still working on Backpack Buddies
 - Still open to receiving donations
 - Non-perishables: chef boy cup, ez mac in packages instead of cup, shelf milk (individual milks), snacks.
 - We have about 25 families in the program, may go up to 30 by next month.
 - If items are brought in by kids, they can drop them off in the main office.

Principal Update

- Masks on the bus
 - Federal policy is still in effect, but the bus drivers are not going to enforce: Students still need to wear masks on the bus

- About half of the kids are still wearing masks in school. Want to make sure everyone is comfortable in supporting one another's choices.
- Last Week, Virginia Kindness Week – ask your kiddos about it
 - This was a great way to see how the student's see, how to be kind.
- This week, Kindergarten and 1st grade celebrated the 100th day and 101st day of school.
 - A lot of connections to math – counting, measuring

No Frills Campaign, Heidi/Karyn

- Sponsoring indoor and outdoor educational spaces and teacher workspaces
- The ask – just asking for support
 - We've found that it can be easier not to ask parents to sell anything, but just for support
 - Anything that you can give is much appreciated
 - All donations are tax deductible
- Timing
 - Kicks off next week, flyers will go out next week
- Contest
 - If the entire school reaches the goal, the entire school will be rewarded
- Thank you for your continued support

Valentine candy grams, Jenn/Bob/Kate

- Thank you all for your support!
- We sold 235 candy grams in recognition of SWES teachers and staff
- PTO supported recognition for all staff members 106
- This fundraiser raised \$1500+ for the PTO!! Thank you for your support!!

Caring and Sharing Committee, Darla and Kate

- What's coming in March, Lucky Luncheon
 - Who: for our teachers
 - When: March 24th
- More details to come

Spirit Night(s) Upcoming:

- Looking for a volunteer to support SWES spirit nights for the remainder of the school year
- Current Volunteer will hand over her list and will have some help to start.
- If interested contact Jenn Shelton jennifer.shelton@hitachivantarafederal.com

MSAAC Update, Kasonya Blevens SWES PTO VP

- Update on MSAAC meeting (Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee)
 - Topics:
 - Equity & Education (past and present)
 - Honors History Elective courses, African American History Course & Latin American History Courses. There are no pre-requisites for those courses.
 - Gifted & Education program: brief overview and how the identification process

- Evaluated 4th graders last year, evaluated and how they would screen and selected
- They're going to do the same for the 3rd graders in the spring.
- **Next Meeting: March 16th at 7:00 pm – Virtual Meeting**
- Agendas and recorded videos are posted online:
<https://www.lcps.org/Page/164836>

NEXT Meeting: March 18th, 8am

- Join us!
- Want to hear more about something specific? Message the PTO direct at Jennifer.shelton@hitachivantarafederal.com

Open Floor Q&A (parents and attendees)

- Any additional topics not yet discussed?
- Thank you all for your time and Happy Holidays!

Q: Kate Gallagher – Lansdowne is housing Afghan Refugees, will this affect next year's resources?

- National Conference Center will be hosting Refugees there for about a month, there hasn't been any discussion about settling in Northern Virginia. There was a meeting with federal agencies, local law enforcement, and there isn't going to be any impact. For next year we aren't going to see an impact in our schools.

Motion to adjourn meeting: 2nd (Bob Shelton)

Meeting adjourned: (8:47 AM)