

PTO meeting minutes  
12-4-19

6:35pm call to order

Notifications should be working now on the Let's All Do Good app. Let Denise F know if you are still having issues. Everything is up to date on the website.

Principals report:

There has been a change to the dismissal. With using the old method of dismissal, the line for walkers would wrap around the corner of the building preventing the teachers covering walker dismissal from seeing these students. This resulted in some issues in line. To make dismissal safer and more orderly children are now dismissed from the doors leading to the playground area. Parents will now come down into the blacktop area and wait for their child. Please let Mrs. A know if you encounter any issues with this process.

A letter was sent home about a vaping incident that occurred during school hours. Mrs. A would like everyone to know that she is taking this very seriously and the need to educate everyone about the dangers of vaping. What was most concerning to Mrs. A was that only one child stepped forward and told an adult. This child actually told two adults but only one emailed Mrs. A. Another concerning fact was that this was not the oldest students in the building. Mrs. A thoroughly investigated and had talks with both parents and students. Coventry Substance Abuse task force will be holding an informational meeting at Western on December 11th at 6pm. In January an expert will be coming in to talk to the 4th and 5th grade students as well. See attached letter.

Holiday happenings and Santa Sale:

Sale is taking place 12-7-19 from 9:15- 12:30. There are 4,000 items wrapped and ready to be bought! The 4th and 5th graders will be having a chorus and recorder concert at 12:30. Raffle baskets will be announced after the concert is over.

Westie wear:

We have samples to try out and see which option would be better for the school to proceed with. Stay tuned in January!

United skates event:

We need a chair for this event! Email Jen K If you are interested. Potential night for this would be April 2nd. Unfortunately we can not book a Friday night due to their policy.

Treasurer report:

Nomination slate:

Secretary nominations are: Jessica Rhule and Amanda Auble

We still need nominations for president and treasurer!

Adjournment 7:25pm

Sarah Swanson motioned, Steph Pope 2nd

November 21, 2019

Dear Parents,

As the leader of this building, I believe that my top priority needs to be the safety of our students. To that end, I would like to make you aware of a situation that happened yesterday. At 8:20am, I received an email from a parent concerned that some students at Western were vaping the day before. As I am sure you are aware, vaping is the inhaling and exhaling of vapor from an electronic cigarette. I immediately began an investigation to determine if this information was true.

Thankfully, after meeting with many parents and students, I was able to conclude that no students actually were vaping. However, empty "vaping pods" were brought to school and distributed to a few students. Of course that is concerning. But what was more worrisome, was that students accepted the pods and engaged in what they thought was vaping by placing the pod to their lips. I do believe curiosity and/or peer pressure is what ultimately led some of our students to engage in this risky behavior. Many students were aware of this situation and said nothing to adults or parents. Only one child came forward. I want to empower our students to confidently make good choices and seek help when necessary.

Vaping is currently a problem for many of our middle school and high school students. We must become educated about the dangers and the proactive approaches to protect our children. To that end, I have reached out to the Coventry Substance Abuse Task Force and scheduled a parent forum at Western Coventry on **Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00pm**. We will provide childcare so parents can attend this event.

The strength of this community is in the commitment we make to our children! I understand how uncomfortable this can be to hear. It will take all of us working together to help keep our children safe. Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Respectfully yours,

Amy Anzalone  
Principal

