

Westtown Thornbury Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes 9/17/2025

Board Members Present: Sue Gramling, Samantha Miller, Diana Moehler, Gale Piccoli, Amanda Graziola

Motion to accept May Minutes: 1st Chrissy Anderson and 2nd Danni Lupi

Largest turnout to date for a PTO meeting both in person and virtual

Teacher Report

Kindergarten is learning how to go to school. They are working on fine motor skills and four center rotations.

First grade is working on school day routine. They are working on letter formation, adding, and subtracting to ten and graphs.

Second grade is working on reading and math stamina. They are working on unit 2 foundations with glued sounds. They are working on being good citizens and learning about themselves.

Third grade is working on cursive and typing on a keyboard. They are working on grammar skills. They have had their first math lesson with students from WCU.

Fourth grade is working on finding credible sources for their Hispanic research. They are working on their autobiography. In Science they are learning about the human body.

Fifth grade has their trip to Paradise Farms on October 1st. They are learning about volume in Math.

Design Lab- they are working on 1-day challenges, with the 4 Cs. They are working on Think, Collaborate, Creative. They are building, break apart and build again.

Art- Fifth grade is working on Light and Dark. Fourth grade- Japanese artists. Third grade - artwork of Van Gogh Second grade- Fall Cats with Symmetry First grade- Shape Lions Kindergarten- Line Monsters

Music- They are learning about Hispanic Heritage. Learning through instruments and songs.

Dr. Cruice Update-

They are wrapping up benchmark testing. They are used to track progress. Hard copies of the results will be sent home periodically. This is an internal tool that is used to progress. Next year there will be a new platform.

We will use standards-based grading for all levels this year. This is a transition for 3-5 grades. Goal is to improve communication. This will be an adjustment for parents and teachers.

President Update-

Board positions are for two-year terms. Over the next two years we are looking to work with all of you. Reach out with ideas for events and activities.

Money raised has been used recently to:

Purchase shirts for the teachers.

Supplies for two new benches the Cub Scouts built.

Stetson Middle School spirit wear to be used for PBIS incentives.

Frozen treats for the open houses, kindergarten welcome, and ice cream social.

Mileage club and school store supplies.

Treasurer Report-

We have changed from Venmo to Zeffy. The transition has been smooth. We will be closing the Venmo. The Zeffy platform helps with record keeping for fundraisers and the large volume of transactions. It is free to use, and people do not need to donate the suggested fee when checking out. We have saved over \$500 year to date on the fees we would have paid Venmo.

We will give committee leads budgets and we will communicate with them.

Additional items we use PTO funds to pay for are Student planners for grades 3-5, assignment folders, Field trip subsidies, teacher grants, assemblies, and holiday workshop.

We discussed explaining paying dues does not mean you need to attend events. Possibly sharing pie chart in the future showing what we support.

We are set up for company matching.

Committee Updates-

School Toolbox- This year we had sixty-eight for \$388. You can choose individual items from the list and do not have to purchase the complete list.

Pretzels- Zeffy made it easier this year to track purchases, 250 orders to date.

Holiday Workshops – all students make crafts to take home. We were looking for one Craft Captain(Nicole G volunteered).

Homeroom Parents- There was a lot of interest. We have a meeting after this PTO meeting to talk with homeroom parents and give guidance on what the role is responsible for during the year.

Mileage Club- Diana is looking for an assistant.

Yearbook- Send pictures to Chrissy. We have a dedicated email address.

Spirit-wear- the first sale was a success with more orders than previous sales. Looking for individuals to take over next year (Nicole M and Teri B volunteered)

Monthly “Fun”draisers –

October - Fall Mini Photos

November - Giunta’s

December - Monkey Fish- shopper discount and money back to the PTO

February - Pizza Peddler’s heart shaped pizza

Ideas brought up included- Color run, golf outing, Sixers game

Bag Bingo- Tentative February 27th. Sells out quickly. Raffles Lead needed (Josie O volunteered)

Carnival- March 7th Looking for a prize squad person (Antony F. & Christina T. volunteered)
Family event. Many volunteer opportunities. Bake Sale and Cake Walk, we receive donations.

Survey- We went over the results of the survey that was sent out at the end of the year. About fifty people responded to the survey.

Volunteers-

We had signup sheets for volunteer positions we have openings for.

We will have more volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

We will have volunteers for the Walk-a-thon. We will ask interested parents to sign up and randomly pick those to attend.

Volunteer sign-ups for Holiday Workshop will be coming out soon.

We ask that when volunteering try not to:

- Take your child home early unless you absolutely must.
- Lunch Duty do not bring special meals or snacks for your child.
- No posting of pictures taken while volunteering, even of your own children. Instead send them to the Yearbook!

We currently have two teacher grant requests from Second Grade and Design Lab. More updates to come after the funds are in action.

We had a meeting following the PTO meeting to discuss being homeroom parents and go over the packet that was put together to help give guidance to homeroom parents. We will use this packet as a resource every year going forward.