



## PTO Meeting Minutes September 11, 2019

First official Gower PTO Meeting 2019-2020

5:30 pm: Introductions and Personal Best: Dina Jason, Deana Miron, Mary Szabo, Caroline Vroustouris, Elizabeth Shaker, Loren Mokrzycki, Tracy Murphy, Gina Rodewald, Ann Bjork, Jen Fornier, Annahetha Rahman (new Gower parent)

5:40 pm: Dina Jason: Tablecloths, T-shirts, Name tags to promote PTO

5:42 pm: Deana Miron: Memberhub is up and running, cost is \$399, soft rollout, encourage use by parents but not obligated to. Teachers can access Memberhub pending approval; sub groups for bus riding and clubs have been set up.

Dina Jason: Bus riding subgroup not needed.

Elizabeth Shaker: Agreed, bus riding subgroup not needed

All Board members agree

Deana Miron: Removed bus riding subgroup

5:45 pm: Caroline Vroustouris: The PTO website has been updated; Jason Vroustouris is the new Web Admin for Gower PTO, taking the place of Chris Harris as of September, 2019.

A Gower parent asked Caroline to propose installing a hand sanitizer dispenser in every classroom at Gower West.

Gina Rodewald: Not needed, the kids at West can use sinks in the classrooms to wash their hands

Tracy Murphy: There are hand sanitizer dispensers already in place at Gower Middle

Caroline Vroustouris: Another Gower parent asked me to propose a holiday party at Gower West that includes mentions of religious holidays that take place in December, like Christmas and Hannakuh.

Gina Rodewald: Not in favor

Tracy Murphy: Not in favor

No hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed, no holiday party will be added.

6:00 pm: Elizabeth Shaker: I propose adding a link to buy Spirit Wear onto the Gower PTO website so people can buy year round.

Many people discuss. It is decided that no such link will be added to the Gower PTO website.

6:08 pm: Elizabeth Shaker: Car Magnets for a fundraiser. Gower 62 should be the logo. Also, a Gladiator logo. Perhaps: 'Proud Parent of a Gower Student'. Use Blue Ribbon School.

6:11 pm: Dina Jason: Review of calendar dates, Chairperson list, EPI school supplies went well. Gower PTO earned \$3291.75. PTO needs to sign contract for next year.

Gower New Family Night went well, Institute Day Breakfast went well, but we had too much food. Next time just buy half of the amount.

Back -to-School Bash/Meet and Greet: Kona Truck was a big hit. \$888 was the cost.

Gina Rodewald: In the future for this event, PTO can rent food trucks and earn some profits for the schools. We can set up picnic tables in the parking lot so people can eat dinner and socialize.

Gina wants this event to be focused on kids playing, people getting together and socializing and getting back into the swing of school.

Dina Jason and Tracy Murphy: Do a Kona truck at Middle School next year, while food trucks are at Gower West.

Deana Miron: Parent Night may include food trucks for 2020.

6:18 pm: Dina Jason: Fall fundraiser: Starts Monday, Sept 16. Ends Sept 30. Catalogs being sent home on September 13. Charleston Wrap: Wrapping paper, totes, dutch oven.

Elizabeth Shaker will make the display at Gower West. Caroline Vroustouris will organize and hand out the order forms for each classroom. Each teacher gets a collection envelope. Teacher collects the order forms by the 30th. Dina Jason will pick it up on the 30th. Late ones will be picked up by Dina as well, she will give it a couple of extra days.

Dina Jason: Make checks out to Charleston Wrap. Order online to pay by cc. Dina Jason has to verify that each order contains a payment.

Mary Szabo: How do we know how much money we will make?

Dina Jason: Charleston Wrap tells us as the sale goes on. Online order and Dina will verify. No cash accepted. Checks only hard copy or online order.

Orders will be delivered 3 to 4 weeks from September 30th.

6:29 pm: Elizabeth Shaker: Restaurant fundraisers: Elizabeth can do Buona and/or Chick-Fil-A fundraiser.

Mary Szabo: Chick-Fil-A and Culvers need volunteers if they do a fundraiser for Gower. Culvers requires us to clean tables. Chick-Fil-A wants volunteers to spin the wheel.

6:31 pm: Parents' Night Out (September 20): Zazzo's in Westmont, private room, apps, drinks, pizza. \$750 cost to Gower PTO.

Deana Miron: We did not have a budget for this.

Mary Szabo: No line item for this, this is not a fundraiser. There will be an expense to PTO.

6:34 pm: Loren Mokrzycki: Spirit Wear: Proud to be a Gladiator seems to be the most popular saying based on the emails of the Principals and the PTO Board members. Zipper hood, hoodie, t-shirt. Doing tie dye this year.

Gina Rodewald: To clarify, the blue logo is not the new logo or new school color for West, the blue one is only in place because Gower West has a blue gym. School colors are still Green and White.

Loren Mokrzycki: Going to focus on tie dye this year. Rainbow tie dye.

Elizabeth Shaker: I would like to offer a blanket and tag team with Loren to offer better prices and options.

Loren Mokrzycki: Visor, scarf, cap, pajama pants, options for some fun items. Oct 7 to Oct 18 2019: sale for spirit wear. Items will be at Gower West and Middle between Nov 4 to 11. Only one sale a year.

West does a Field Day. Sold 151 hats last school year. Better sales than clothing. Loren likes the blanket as a gift item.

\$350 -- projected profit on 2018 Spirit Wear

\$750 -- actual profit on 2018 Spirit Wear

6:43 pm : Elizabeth Shaker: Pumpkin Fest t-shirts will be made by Elizabeth. \$500 budget. Need to up the budget because we are no longer offering candy (used to buy bulk candy).

Elizabeth Shaker: Prefers budget to be \$750. Dina Jason and Deana Miron approved.

Tax exempt problem on Oriental Trading, set up tax exempt account on Amazon.

Elizabeth Shaker: Been in contact with Kiwanis, Willowbrook PD, make an appointment with Gina Rodewald to discuss Pumpkin Fest.

Elizabeth Shaker: Random question: Trunk or Treat: Tailgating for Halloween. Pumpkin contest proposed. There was one last year.

Deana Miron: Use faux pumpkins and decorate them. Dina Jason, Elizabeth Shaker and Gina Rodewald: We agree to purchase cardboard pumpkins from Target.

6:50pm: Box Tops: Jen Fornier: Box Tops are Due Nov 1 and March 1. Get the drive done by October 15. Jen will send a flyer about it. You can scan receipt and clip and submit so you can double dip for now. Eventually will be all scanning using bar codes via the app.

Jen Fornier will send a flyer to PTO to include in the e-blasts.

6:55 pm: Dance class program: lost \$1700 dollars in 2018 so we voted not to do it this year. 14 kids signed up and 7 finished.

6:56 pm: Gina Rodewald: Oct 31: Halloween class parties at 10:30am on Halloween day.

6:58 pm: Deana Miron: Book Fair: She knows a person at Follett now. They have coordinated and we are getting a buy one get one free at the Scholastic sale in the spring.

6:59 pm: Mary Szabo: Has to work on teacher wish list and PTO dues and donations.

7:02 pm Ann Bjork: Teacher dues will be collected. \$20 per teacher. Ann will collect

Mary Szabo: \$5000 is our goal for Charleston Wrap. This year our spend was \$888 for Kona Truck. Increase budget to \$1000 for next school year.

Pumpkin Fest: increase the budget from \$500 to \$750 this year. PTO no longer paying for the Springfield trip so that cost is removed.

Grants over \$16,000 check goes to Vesna and she manages that.

Parents' Night Out: should that go in the hospitality section or community events (Back to School, Pumpkin Fest, Graduation reception?).

Dina Jason: put in community events.

Mary Szabo: Look at all community events because we have increased the expenses of % events and we are adding a 6th event.

Mary: Squares: there are old and outdated Squares. Can we update our Squares? Can we make it easier to accept cc payments? Suggesting kiosk Range from \$20 to \$50.

Dina Jason and Deana Miron: Yes, approved.

7:06 pm: Tracy Murphy: Picture Day is September 12. Forms done online. Can also send a check.

8th graders will go to the Wheaton Park District for team building.

White Pines 6th grade trip: One student requested a scholarship \$85 for 1 day, and 3 students requested the 2 day scholarships. Five 8th graders requested \$20 scholarship for the team building.

Mary Szabo: PTO will fund these scholarships. We will send a check.

Tracy Murphy: A generous 8th grade family gave a PTO donation. Mary will send a thank you. \$500 donation. Sarah Hammad, son is 8th grader Kareem.

8th Grade DC Trip: Oct 11 to 13 2019

Springfield Trip is: April 17 2020

Gina Rodewald: School Dismissal manager: She is going to start using an app for school dismissal. The app will allow parents to change from calling to school to change car pick up or bus, to doing it online. Supposed to save 75,000 phone calls per year.

Grandparent Bingo: Gina's favorite event, bingo, popcorn, filled the gym and the cafeteria. There were candy bar prizes. Staff turnout is also high.

Ann Bjork: Thank yous from teachers: Sketch books, using our magazines. 2nd graders are heading to a play.

Mindfulness is a very big focus during school this year so the things we bought help; teachers doing more meditation stuff, helps kids to focus.

7:17 pm: Kayla Miron: Gower Middle has the water bottle fillers. Can Gower West get those too? I would like to see one by the gym. \$495 for a water bottle dispenser. Kayla proposes a \$5 fundraiser per water bottle to raise the money.

Tracy Murphy: requires some plumbing in the wall to do this.

Gina Rodewald: Gower West would have to coordinate the construction and the install.

Tracy Murphy: Vendor only provides the product. Maintenance staff could look at Gower West to see if we can install a water bottle filler.

Gina Rodewald: Probably not possible in the older part of the building. Will get someone to look at where the plumbing could work.

7:22 pm: Meeting adjourned.