

# **Fiske PTO Back to School Meeting Minutes**

## **9/10/2020 @6:00pm**

70 Participants

### **Agenda:**

- **Vote in of PTO members and school council – Meghan LeBlanc**
  1. **PTO Members**
    - Atul Varma and Mike Stokes – Co-Presidents
    - Scott Barton – VP
    - Kim Ebeling – secretary
    - Jamie Davies and Aaron Gardiner – Co-Treasurers
    - Danielle Nixon – communications/social media
  2. **School Council – a council of teachers and parents with a focus on school improvement plans and remote and hybrid school plans. Help inform the principal and make decisions for the school.**
    - Ericka Lenard
    - Teri Watts Ebersole
    - Mike Casey
  
- **PTO Goals and Vision – PTO Leadership – Presented by Mike Stokes and Atul Varma**
  1. **Create parent engagement online and offline**
    - We want to continue to build and create an inclusive community where people can build relationships, trust people for help and guidance, have a voice and work towards a common goal of providing the best education and support we can for our children and teachers.
  2. **Revamp communications and PTO website**
    - We are looking to revamp communication to be more efficient with information being shared. Danielle Nixon is taking on a new role within the PTO to help with messaging and communication to help foster a more open dialogue. We also have a new Fiske PTO Facebook Page and plan to make updates to the Fiske PTO website.
  3. **Create structure and succession planning**
    - Atul Varma and Mike Stokes are taking on a 1 year role with the PTO. We are organized and setting up a structure to tee-up the next Executive Leadership Team.

#### 4. Rethink fundraising and spend that maximizes benefit to children in a post-COVID world

- We need help on getting creative with fundraising during COVID. If you or anyone you know who is interested in joining the Executive Committee PTO to help with fundraising, please reach out!

### 3) School Re-opening/Q&A – Rachel McGregor

- Where we are now:
  - Important Dates:
    - Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – Student Material Pick Ups. 3 – 5 will get iPads on the 11<sup>th</sup>. K-2 will be getting iPads on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – One-on-One Zoom Calls with teachers.
    - Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> – First day of Remote Learning. 8:30am start and 12:15 dismissal.
    - Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – First day of in-person learning for Cohort A.
    - Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – First day of in-person learning for Cohort B.
    - Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Picture Days
  - We want the kids back in school. Please continue to make good choices and keep health top of mind so our kids are able to attend school.
  - Sample Daily Schedules for Hybrid and Remote Learning can be found in the [Re-opening Plan Presentation](#) on the WPS website. It is not the intention to have kids on screens for 6 hours a day. Will be a combination of live zooms and asynchronous lessons. Specialist classes will be held each day, both at home and at school.
  - FAQs
    - How can I get my children ready for school?
      - Practice wearing masks
      - Send in appropriate outdoor wear for rainy and snowy weather. We want to take advantage of as much outdoor time as possible.
      - Start practicing a school routine – waking up early
    - What safety protocols are being put into place at Fiske
      - Handwashing stations and scheduled hand washing sessions before snacks, meals and before leaving school.
      - Mask breaks outside while maintaining 6 ft distance.

- 6 foot distancing throughout the school indicated by floor stickers. All specials will take place in
- Recess with cohorts – Ms. Gehrst has been coming up with fun games that keep kids distanced.
- Materials baskets. Please put names on EVERYTHING. Especially masks.
- Bathroom procedures. Some stalls will be closed. No more than 2 children in the bathroom at a time.
- This is not typical school and these are new rules. The kids will adapt and they will get used to it. Teachers and staff will help.
- What size are the cohorts?
  - Each class is divided up into Cohort A and Cohort B ranging from 8-11 children.
  - Cohorts were created with several factors in mind
    - Alphabetically by class assignment
    - Siblings in elementary school
    - Balance of boys and girls
    - Friendships
    - Academic programming
  - Is the district working to bring all K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades back 4 days a week.
    - We are working very hard to bring the youngest learners back and are feeling optimistic. As soon as this is confirmed we will be notified.
  - Will there be before school care and after school care?
    - Before school care is confirmed from 7:30-8:15am
    - Afterschool care - working with WCCC and hoping can offer from 3:05-5:00pm but this is tentative.
- Tents are Here!! Looking to get kids outside as much as possible. There are 2 Tents that are 80ft long. 1 tent for K-2 and 1 tent for 3-5. Will be used for lunch, classes, recess and mask breaks.
- Staff Training – Fiske is READY for the students to come back! Teachers have attended many training sessions over the summer.
  - Equity Training
  - Managing Student Anxiety and Stress
  - Creating culturally responsive lessons around diversity and inclusion
  - Nurturing connections in Remote Learning

- TECH classes
- Student Information Meetings
- Curriculum updates
- Safety Protocols.

#### Open Q&A –

- How will the remote learners participate? What kind of tech, cameras, and audio are available?
  - Students will be able to see and hear the lessons. It will be focused on the teacher and they are working on updating sound.
- Will there be lunches for purchase?
  - Yes. There will not be hot lunches, but there will be bagged lunches.
- Sample Schedule – Are the blocks of synchronous time set?
  - Teachers will send individual schedules for their class.
- On remote days where there is a conflict and a child misses a live session, is that ok? i.e. need to pick up another child from preschool.
  - Attendance will be taken, but child safety comes first and that will be taken into consideration
- What needs to be accomplished to get the K and 1<sup>st</sup> graders back 4 days.
  - Elementary schools need to be equitable and all Wellesley elementary need to meet a threshold. At this point, Rachel feels we are close to meeting that threshold.
- How will Remote Learners participate in outdoor lessons?
  - Working on extending wi-fi, but also thinking the sample lesson will be done in the classroom and then kids at home will do independent work.
- Will RLS combine with hybrid on remote days?
  - RLS are completely separate from Fiske. Remote learning and hybrid will not mesh. RLS can choose to come back in January if you choose. Students in hybrid can choose to go to RLS at anytime.
- Will zoom log-in information be consistent so kids can be more independent.
  - There will be one zoom link a day and will be posted in google classroom or Seesaw. K-2 is going to focus on helping them set timers and alarms so they know when to log back in.
- If you need to pick up a child early for a doctor's appointment – do parents come into the school?
  - No, call the school and wait at the flag pole and your child will be brought out to the car.
- What are the carline rules?
  - Fiske is encouraging carline except for walkers. Do not park in the neighborhood walk in. Carline will be ½ as long and staggered so it should be fast.
- If a hybrid student is home sick, but feeling well enough to participate, can they join remotely on those days?

- Encourage sick children to take a break if not feeling well, but if they are quarantining for some reason and feel ok to learn, they are welcome to join remotely. Will be left to the parents discretion.
- Are asynchronous classes taught by Fiske staff?
  - Yes
- What efforts are being made to keep kids off tech all day?
  - They will be sent home with books and manipulatives to use during independent learning times.
- What approach is being taken to make sure new material is being brought to children and when will the pace pick up?
  - Teachers will be looking at where they are coming in. Some curriculum adjustments have been made knowing kids have been home since March. Students will be learning new material every day with a new lesson, but will leave time for review and will adjust accordingly.
- Do kids take iPads to and from school?
  - Yes, iPads need to go both ways.
- How will we know if what we are doing is working for families and teachers?
  - Expecting open communication between families and teachers and that surveys will be sent out during the year.
- All materials needed for remote learning will be sent home tomorrow.
- When will RLS students get teacher information?
  - They will be notified soon. 300 elementary aged students in RLS.
- For in person school for Cohort A on October 1, will cohort B have remote learning on that day?
  - Yes. Also, on weeks where there are holidays, students who miss the day will have a full-day on the Wednesday of that week.
- Will we see more packets and worksheets from the teachers so we can see more pen to paper work?
  - Teachers will include printouts for activities, but most will need to be printed at home.
- Public Service Announcement – please make sure all iPads have the most up to date software.

#### 4) **Wrap up and next steps**

- Thank you to all the teachers, staff and parents for joining. The PTO is looking forward to reaching all of our goals this year and we will reach out with updates on upcoming meetings and strategies we are working on. Please email [pto.fiske@gmail.com](mailto:pto.fiske@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if you have any ideas or feedback to share!