

GWE PTO Agenda

October 7, 2021

2021-2022 PTO Board

Shannon Cooley – President

Carla Santoro – Vice President

Eve Paquet – Treasurer

Laura Anastasia – Recording Secretary

Cara Misiewicz – Corresponding Secretary

genewittpto@gmail.com / www.genewittpto.com / [Facebook](#)

Call to order 7:21 p.m.

Otis (Shannon)

- The fundraiser was a great success. We expect to have raised about \$25,000 for the school.
- Thank you for your patience with Stackers. We ran out of them and had to get more. The last batch were put in teachers' mailboxes today (10/7) and should go home with students tomorrow.

Spirit Nights (Shannon)

- We have a recurring Spirit Night on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers in the Creekwood Crossing plaza, 7376 52nd Pl E, Bradenton.
 - September sales were \$200 (low due to a thunderstorm and a traffic accident), October sales were \$800.
 - Freddy's donates 15% of those sales to the school when people mention they are with Gene Witt.
 - The next Freddy's Spirit Night will be on Tuesday, November 2.
- The PTO board is working adding additional spirit nights at other restaurants.

Fall Food Truck Event (Shannon)

- Mike Lynch and the FBI are setting this up. It will be on October 27th from 5-8 pm. There will be four main course food trucks and two dessert food trucks.
- Help is needed with set up/take down. You can volunteer here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A48AEAB28A3FE3-gene>

Trunk or Treat (Shannon)

- We will hold a Trunk or Treat on October 29th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- We will share more details, including a sign-up list for trunks, on Facebook and in PTO emails.
- We will gladly accept donations (candy, small toys/prizes, fake tattoos, stickers, etc.) for the Trunk or Treat. Please send them to school marked PTO.

Boo Run (Eve)

- Gene Witt will have a group participating in the Boo Run 5K on October 30.
- Families participating through Witt will get a discount. Adults: \$25, Kids: \$15. (It used to be that if you paid for an adult to run, your child could run in a children's race for free. I will check to see if this is still offered.)
- This is a fun event. We try to gather beforehand for photos and do the run as a team representing Witt.

Runner's Club (Shannon)

- We are hoping to restart Runner's Club, possibly in January. We need 4-5 parent volunteers to commit to being there every Wednesday for this to happen.

- In the past, Runner’s Club started at the same time Witt opened for breakfast and ran until about 10 minutes before school started.
- If you are interested, please contact the PTO via Facebook or email, genewittpto@gmail.com.

Budget Update (Eve)

- For the grants approved previously, we spent about \$200 on the Earth boxes and about \$6,000 on the materials needed for the new program to go with the BEST standards.
- We added reimbursement money for the front office staff—\$50 each, for \$250 total.
- The Opt Out fundraiser brought in about \$12,000. We are still waiting on final Otis numbers. We have raised about \$5,700 through business sponsors.

Mini Grants (Eve)

- There were no mini grants submitted.

Possible items for Future Mini Grants (Mr. Marshall)

- All the existing memory bricks have been laid near Building 3 and the car rider loop. There are about 300 to 500 blank bricks left. We can get rid of the blank bricks, or the PTO can pay to have them laid and then pull from those as we get additional memory bricks in the future.
- I’d like to get an outdoor eating area for parents and students. While wooden picnic tables are cheaper, even painted they tend to last only 3 to 5 years before needing to be replaced. I would like rubber coated tables, but they run about \$1,000 each. They last 12-15 years.
 - Before the renovation, we had 9 wooden tables under the 25x40-foot covered area, but they were 8-footers, not 6-footers. We also had about 12-15 wooden 6-foot tables around campus. Also, square vinyl coated tables that had been there before I came to Witt, so they do last a long time.
- I would also like to get some rubber-coated benches to put in front of the school by the office. The planters where parents used to sit are gone, so this would offer needed seating.
- I would like a shade cover to go on the south side of the lunchroom, over the picnic tables, but there are rules about how close a sunshade can be to an existing building. Some schools have custodians put out umbrellas every day but those do not offer consistent shade.

Ryan Bruck: Can ESSIR funds cover the outdoor seating since it is related to social distancing?

Marshall: Those funds, which are related to the pandemic, are not going directly to schools and they only cover specific items like cleaning supplies and paper towels, not furniture.

Eve: The PTO does have funds in its savings account that we specifically saved for post-renovation needs. Is there a specific vendor we would need to use for the tables? Does the vendor for the sunshade need to be approved by the district?

Marshall: The school district has vendors you could buy from, but the PTO is not limited to the school district’s vendors. For the sunshade, there are two vendors approved by the district. Miller Recreational is the one the PTO bought the playground sunscreen from. And then there is one more. I will reach out to Danielle at the district and see if she can send a list of vendors other schools are using for tables.

Eve: Is it cheaper to lay the bricks now than to toss them and buy new ones as needed to fill around future memory bricks?

Marshall: Yes, I think in the long run it is more cost-effective to keep them. But it is up to the PTO.

Laura: Would we send the blank bricks to the company that inscribes them for the Memory Bricks?

Eve: No, that company supplies those bricks. But we usually buy blank bricks from a local vendor to put around them, so this would save us from having to buy those. I will follow up with Mike Lynch about the cost involved and I will also look at the pricing for the tables, benches, and sunshades. Those would end up being a mini grant, as they would be a one-time purchase.

Upcoming Events: (Shannon)

Friday, October 8 – No School – Record Day for Teachers

Wednesday, October 27 – Fall Food Truck Event

Friday, October 29 – Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 30 – Boo Run

Thursday, November 4 – SAC/PTO Meeting 6 pm

Friday, November 5 – School Picture Retake/Make Up Day

Thursday, November 11 – No School – Veteran's Day

Wednesday, November 17 – Spirit Night (PTO working on details)

November 22-26 – No School – Thanksgiving Break

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.