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## Attendees

- Board Members: Carrie Differ, Marie Grant, Olga Mason, Laia Tideman
- Administration: Mr. Schultz, Ms. Pachino
- Members: 17 general members
- Other guests: Mandy Rimmell, county executive's office, area rep

## Welcome

- Google Meet Etiquette and Tips

## PTA Updates

- Membership Update
  - Go Fund the PTA - \$10 per month
- Volunteer Opportunities
  - Book Fair
  - 5th Grade Committee
  - Interested in volunteering? Email us at [westownepta@gmail.com](mailto:westownepta@gmail.com).
- Current Events
  - Charleston Wrap fundraiser
- Upcoming Events
  - Restaurant Night
  - FUNding Friday - Nov 20
    - In honor of American Education Week-
    - write a note of thanks or draw a picture for one of your teachers or any Westowne faculty.
  - Listening Session with Lisa Mack, BCPS Board of Education Member At-Large
  - Learning session on talking to kids about race, ethnicity, and inclusion
  - Spirit Wear

## Westowne Donations

- Administration is collecting items for families displaced by fire
- Administration is collecting items for gift baskets for Thanksgiving
- Collection bins available outside the school - please place items in bins during school hours
- Any questions - please email Megan Massie at [mmassie@bcps.org](mailto:mmassie@bcps.org).

## BCPS Updates and Information

- [BCPS Reopening](#)
  - [Reopening Plan - Health Component](#)
- Report Cards are coming!
  - Info on checking student grades:

## Westowne Elementary School PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting - Google Meet



- [Parent Schoology Support - Featured Tip Archive](#)
- [Video: How to check your grades \(Student View\) – Schoology Support](#)
- Equity in Baltimore County
  - Equity Committee
  - Initial Report Available [here](#)
  - Equity and Special Education report available [here](#)

### Treasurer's report

- Reward programs
  - AmazonSmile = \$911 since Aug 2020
  - Box Tops = \$41
- Restaurant Night - Peace of Pizza = \$600
- Charleston Wrap earnings = \$562! As of today
- Donations

### Updates from Teachers

(Ms. McKnight, Ms. Thuro, Ms. Singer)

- Thank you parents for your support!
- Background pictures
  - make learning difficult and may be taking up bandwidth
  - Makes it difficult to see and engage with students
  - Blocks things they may be holding up
- Schoology
  - Recommend parents become familiar with checking work (see previous slide) and work with children to become more adept at using (particularly for younger grades)
- GoGuardian is not working as effectively for special area classes as it is for homeroom teachers
  - Especially with younger grades, Special Area teachers have trouble using GoGuardian to assist students with opening new tabs (Ms. McKnight)
- Ms. Pachino - having teachers identify graded assignments more clearly in Schoology versus ungraded practice assignments

### Westowne Administration Update and Q&A

- Welcome Westowne Administration!
  - Ms. Lisa Pachino – Assistant Principal
  - Mr. Anthony Schultz – Assistant Principal
- Update from Westowne Administration
  - Diversity, inclusion, and equity
    - Administration centered around a book discussion
    - Monthly meeting
    - Next steps - move from teachers/administration having conversations with each other to providing a space for students to have those conversations

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- Creating Space
  - Ms. Pachino shared a presentation that was presented to staff
  - Begins with “creating space” among the staff to even have the conversations
- End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – Grades, Report Cards, and Conferences
  - Conferences in December
    - Interpreters available
    - Also Talking Points has language resources
- Other questions from families:
  - Screen time especially in the lower grades?
    - Concerns about student performance in class, talk to classroom teachers first.
  - State mandated standardized testing in the Spring
  - Reminder to reach out to teachers with any concerns
  - Options to align different grade level schedules?
    - Mr. Shultz and Ms. Pachino - lots of considerations go into making the schedules. Tricky, tricky balancing act
  - Reminder that asynchronous work does not need to be done during the assigned time
  - Reminder that all tech support issues must go through the hotline: 443-809-4672 or Schoology or BCPS
- Questions from Chat
  - Please enter questions you have into the meeting chat and we will try to take them in order!

## Resources for Families

- Curbside meal pickup continues at the school on Mondays and Wednesdays
  - Pick-up anytime between 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM
  - [Full list of BCPS Student Food sites](#)
- BCPS Resources for Families: [Parent U](#)
- Baltimore County Supports: [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)

## BCPS School Calendar

- Nov. 10 – [Baltimore County Board of Education Meeting](#) TONIGHT!
- Nov. 11 – Half Day
- Nov. 13 – Marking Period Ends
- Nov. 16-20 – American Education Week
- Nov. 19 – Restaurant Night at [Farmhouse Greens/Burger and Sausage Co.](#)
- Nov. 20 – FUNding
- Nov. 24 – [Baltimore County Board of Education Meeting](#) @6:30 PM
- Nov. 26-27 – School Closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov. 30 – Report Cards distributed

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- Dec. 1 – Preschool-3 and Pre-K Conference Day
  - Dec. 2 – Preschool-3, Pre-K, and Elementary Conference Day
  - Dec. 8 – Westowne PTA Meeting via Google Meet @7:00 PM