

WILKINS ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES FOR 10/12/10

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Grimes, Theresa Pint, Elizabeth Wilson, J.J. Creger, Shannon Hampson, Vicki Barnidge, Catherine Spencer, Mary Lukefahr, Deana Benson, Betsy Hardy, Michelle Dalton, Kelly Alexman, Larry Alexman, Debi Wells, Pamela Schulz, Marilee McConnell, Marian Watkins.

Meeting was called to order by Catherine Spencer at 6:30 pm

Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report given by Elizabeth Wilson: Walk-a-thon funds in with some more funds to be received yet by the Linn-Mar School Foundation and by funds to be matched. \$4548.55 received and expect it to be over \$5000.00 by the time the other funds are received. Some large items allocated to be funded will amount to \$3375 with further requests being considered.

Principal's Report given by Marilee McConnell:

- * Wilkins has received an instructional visit from the Linn-Mar Cabinet. Marilee will meet with them tomorrow for feedback. This visit should become an annual event.
- * No school on Friday Oct 15 and Monday Oct 18 for professional development days. The staff will be working in "vertical teams" - with representatives working on math, literacy and safe and supportive tools. Training will be done in Iowa core curriculum, 6 traits of reading and on areas of technology.
- * WMT radio will broadcast live here during the America Reads day on 10/21 with 5th grade students reading the weather at 11:00. All 5th grade students will be there at that time.
- * Wilkins is continuing with the fact fluency program which started here last year. Included are math computations and strategies to learn/remember facts so computation will be an easier task. Round 1 starts on 10/19 and lasts until 11/11. Round 2 will begin in December.
- * A reminder that Growl/Prowl is 10/16 and you can still sign up if interested in participating.
- * The items approved so far for purchase from the Walk-a-thon money: 1. Clavinova Digital Piano to be used in music classes which will have many benefits to all students in the school. It can record accompaniments to allow the teacher to walk around and work with the students while the music is playing. It can also be connected to a computer for many uses. 2. Drying rack for art to hold wet pieces of art until they dry. 3. Five rolling easels which are 2-sided with white boards on both sides and drawers underneath. These can be used in different classrooms as needed.

Unfinished Business:

- * Enjoy the City: Ending Friday 10/15 - please return any unsold books and orders/money.
- * Walk-a-thon: The kids had a fun time and the committee thanks all that helped out.
- * Homecoming Parade: Not a great turn-out but the kids that participated had fun walking and throwing candy during the parade and performing chants. Will decide if we will continue to participate or may have just 5th graders participate next year as it has been in the past. Anyone with any input is welcome to contact Catherine or any other board members.

New Business:

- * Staff Appreciation has started and is chaired by Carol Renz and Kelly Schoen. Monthly meals with a theme are prepared for the staff. If interested in participating, you can e-mail the Wilkins PTO website and the info will be given to the chairpersons.
- * Open House will be held in the evening of November 11 in conjunction with the book fair and the PTO spaghetti supper. A free meal will be provided. Mary Lukefahr is the chairman and if interested in helping out - can leave a message on the Wilkins PTO website.
- * Restaurants Nights have started with 5 restaurants included. Zio Johnos, Tomasos, Pizza Hut, Red Robin, and Carlos O'kellys. Portions of sales come back to Wilkins PTO. Zio Johnos will do the coloring page around the holidays again this year but to get the free food, will need to dine in and buy another meal. Carlos O'kellys will have a sign up for a \$20 gift card. The original calender had some dates in error beginning in December and it has been corrected.
- * Holiday Bazaar: usually held in the gym in early December but this year the gym is already

booked for all Saturdays this Fall and Winter. The board has decided to table this event for this year and begin planning for next year. Pam Kacena has agreed to chair this event and anyone interested in helping can leave a message on the Wilkins PTO website.

*Yearbook: Due to interest in a yearbook voiced by several parents - we want to form a committee with some parents and some staff members to work on this project. They are done through Lifetouch photo and the cost varies depending on how many are purchased and on how many extra pages are ordered. Generally the cost is \$10 or less. We are planning on running this through the PTO. If interested in being on this committee - please leave message on the PTO website.

Volunteer Update:

*America Reads: teachers will determine how many readers are needed for each class. Parents/volunteers/local celebrities come in and read. Stephanie Schrader and Lisa Hiner are chairing this event.

* Red Ribbon week is coming up to promote "just say no to drugs". It is promoted by Character Council and made up of 5th graders who will come up with fun activities each day. Watch for more information.

* Fall parties are October 29th.

* ITBS tests are coming up

Upcoming Events:

Oct 15 and 18 - No School

Oct 18 - Red Robin Restaurant Night

Oct 20 - Pizza Hut Restaurant Night

Oct 21 - America Reads

Oct 21 - 3rd Grade Music Program

Oct 25-29 - Red Ribbon Week

Oct 27 - Carlos O'Kellys Restaurant Night

Oct 29, 2:00 pm - Fall parties

Nov 1, 8:45 am - Volunteer Workshop

Nov 2 - start of ITBS testing

Nov 9, 6:30 pm - PTO meeting, Media Center

Nov 11 - Open House, Book Fair, PTO Spaghetti Supper

Nov 11 - Trimester Ends

Nov 12 - No School

Suggestions for the Good of the PTO: 4 Excelsior Middle School students are here to watch the kids tonight. There will be at least 2 students here at each meeting so parents are welcome to bring their kids when they attend the meetings.

Motion to adjourn was made by Elizabeth Wilson and seconded by Mary Lukefahr

Meeting was adjourned by Catherine Spencer at 7:15 pm.