

WILKINS ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES FOR 10/18/11

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Grimes, Mary Lukefahr, Deanna Howard, Shannon Hampson, Nicole Harmer, Heide Sletteland, Catherine Spencer, Lindsey Starmer, Tiffany Kinzenbaw, Michelle Dalton, Tracy Read, Elizabeth Wilson, Marilee McConnell

Meeting was called to order by Mary Lukefahr at 6:32 pm.

Presentation by the 4th grade teachers: Nicole Harmer, Lindsey Starmer, Tiffany Kinzenbaw. A new website (www.tikatok.com) is being used initially in Mrs Starmer's classroom and to be implemented in the other rooms. This is used to help engage the kids in writing. This website can be used for the following: create calendars, create memory books, create stories from scratch, create stories from StorySparks, link student work to teachers and parents, expose teachers to engaging writing lessons plans, parents and teachers can comment on student work. The website can be used at home and is good for all ages. Student's illustrations can also be uploaded onto the site to be used with their writing. Books created by students can be ordered and bought.

Minutes from previous meeting were approved – motion by Catherine Spencer and seconded by Heide Sletteland.

Treasurer's report/ Finance committee report: given by Elizabeth Wilson. The finance committee has not met but will meet before the next meeting. Motion was made by Marilee McConnell and seconded by Catherine Spencer to increase the budgeted amount for the Old Creamery Theatre production by \$10 to pay for a travel cost. Motion was approved unanimously. Revenues from Enjoy the City is \$4900 (budgeted at \$4800) and for Walk-a-thon was \$3000 (budgeted at \$5000). The proceeds from the Walk-a-thon is to fund technology for the students.

Principal's Report: given by Marilee McConnell

- Wilkins has a new volunteer coordinator: Lisa Gedraitis
- Red Ribbon week is next week with an assembly on Mon Oct 24. The students are asked to wear red on Monday.
- ITBS (now called Iowa Assessments) are coming up. The test booklets are now in 4 colors instead of 2. The package has been updated and the tests are more modern and simplified. The report that the parents will be getting are different and show a growth model rather than a national ranking.
- The teachers are continuing to work hard with implementing the new programs and filling in gaps in background especially with the 4th and 5th graders. The staff is working on doing more co-teaching which is a way of using more adults and splitting the students into smaller groups within the classroom to give more assistance.
- The 3rd grade vocal music program is coming up on Oct 20 for about 30 minutes.
- Fall parties will be on Friday Oct 28th this year to allow the students to ease into the weekend instead of having them on Monday and disrupting the first part of the week.
- Reminder of no school on November 11.

Update on District PTO: by Elizabeth Wilson. The last meeting was with Dr Mulholland. Report on the group talking about going with Linn-Mar on building a pool for use by community and by Linn-Mar schools. The plan is to have a pool in place within 30 months. She discussed classroom sizes and long range planning re the possibility of new school buildings and adding onto existing buildings. Discussed

talking about implementing foreign language in the elementary schools in the future – not able to implement at this time but looking at putting some foreign language/culture exposure in place. Discussed the Governor's Blue Print for proposed changes in the educational system in Iowa.

Unfinished Business:

- Enjoy the City: by Deanna Howard. The project is finished. Any leftover books will be donated to the baskets for the raffle.
- Spaghetti Supper: by Mary Lukefahr. Approximately 540 people were served. The open house and book fair went well.
- Homecoming parade: by Catherine Spencer. Due to the high winds, the kids did not get to use the kazoos. The kids did a good job on making the posters that went with the banner. A high number of kids participated this year.
- Walk-a-thon: It was a gorgeous day and the kids had a fun time. Money raised is to be used to buy technology for the kids to use in their classrooms.

New Business:

- Carlos O'Kellys/ Applebee's coupons will be offered for sale from Oct 31-Nov 10. Wilkins will get 90% of the sales from them.
- Holiday Bazaar: it was moved by Elizabeth Wilson and seconded by Tracy Read to not hold the Holiday Bazaar due to lack of interest in running the project. The motion was passed unanimously.

Volunteer Update: No report

Upcoming Events:

- Thursday October 20: America Reads
- Thursday October 20: 3rd Grade Music Program – 6:30 pm
- Monday October 24: Red Ribbon Assembly (wear red)
- Friday October 28: Fall Party Day – 2 pm
- Friday November 4: Volunteer workshop – 8:45 am
- November 2-10: Iowa Assessments (formerly ITBS)

Suggestions for the Good of the PTO: Hills Bank has agreed to provide t-shirts and Zio Johnno's will provide a meal for 1 day for the Camp Learn a Lot next summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50. (Moved by Elizabeth Wilson and seconded by Shannon Hampson and approved unanimously).