

WILKINS ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES FOR 8/24/10

Members Present: Julie Grimes, Catherine Spencer, Theresa Pint, Nikki Schweitzer, Deana Benson, Mary Lukefahr, Marilee McConnell, Lori Manley, Pam Schulz, Kelly Schultz, Vicki Barnidge, Sue Wilson, Dana Lumby, Joslin Hanna, Betsy Hardy, Jenny Guerth, Laura Stradt, Elizabeth Wilson, Tracy Read, Jen Christopherson, Anna Bousset, Shannon Hampson, Marcia Grassfield, Tiffany Kinzenbaw, Nick Mohwinkle

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Catherine Spencer

Minutes from previous meeting from April 2010 were unanimously approved with no corrections noted.

Treasurer's Report :

* 2010-2011 budget was discussed by Elizabeth Wilson. It was moved, seconded and approved as submitted. Some highlights: due to statewide budget cuts and the possible need for the PTO to assist Wilkins with funding in different areas, most of the expenditures were decreased from the previous year's budget. Also, revenues were not added into the budget for scrip and holiday bazaar as there is no chairperson for these events. If chairpeople are found, the extra revenue will be used in areas of need. Also, **it was approved to carryover prior year Walk-a-thon funds for use in purchasing software that was planned to be purchased but not available last year.**

Principal's Report: given by Marilee McConnell

* New staff were introduced: Nick Mohwinkle is the new counselor replacing Mr Hanson who resigned this summer. Dana Lumby is the new art teacher, Jen Christopherson is a kindergarten teacher. New staff not present are Kris Peterson - music teacher, Karen Ward - 5th grade teacher, Carol Martin moved from 1st grade to 2nd grade and Lisa Drinkell moved from part-time 3rd grade to full-time in 2nd grade. There are also several new ancillary staff.

* Wilkins has 448 students this year. 245 boys and 203 girls K has 84 students, 1st has 72 students, 2nd has 87 students, 3rd has 66 students, 4th has 61 students, 5th has 78 students with an average class size is 22.4 students.

* Wilkins is working to follow the Healthy Kid Act which includes 30 minutes of activity every day in schedule and communication to parents regarding bringing healthy snacks. At lunch this year, all the students can get an extra serving of fruit and can only decline 1 item instead of 2 as in the past.

* Parents nights are scheduled for next week for all grades.

* Assessments are underway in the building to assess educational needs for each student.

* Construction is underway on McGowan so the staff is working on helping kids get to the school safely.

* The kindergarten students have 5th grade helpers assisting kids off the buses and into their appropriate lines to enter the building.

Unfinished Business:

* Thank yous to Lisa Hiner for helping with the kindergarten snacks, Mary Lukefahr for working on the pool party, Deana Benson for assisting with the 1st day of school donuts for the parents.

* **Open committee chairs: Scrip, Holiday Bazaar (1st Saturday in December), Homecoming Parade, Restaurant Nights (4 nights/month - Tomamos, Chili's, Pizza Hut, Zio Johnos). There is an option of working with Carlos O'Kellys, also.**

* With money from the Campbells soup labels - Matt Sinnott has ordered stacking cups which will be used in PE classes.

New Business:

* District Policy for Evening Activities: All buildings need to be closed by 8:00 pm.

* Eulenspiegel Puppetry event for Olweus Kickoff: will be held at Wilkins on September 10th at 9 am.. PTO is using funds to share the cost with the district to help fund this event.

* Bring a friend night will be at our next meeting on September 14th. Everyone is asked to bring one or more person(s) with you and the executive board will provide snacks.

Volunteer Update: by Anne Boussetot

* Persons who want to help in classrooms need to be registered with the disclosure signed every year. Forms can be found on the website and may be found in the office.

* Recording volunteer hours can be done on the computer or in the office. If not sure which area to report the hours in, you can put under other with a brief discription of what you helped with and they will put them in the correct category for you.

* Class parties: there was a sign up sheet in each classroom at the Meet and Greet. Lisa Hiner is heading this up. If there are any rooms without help signed up for they will have them in the rooms during the parent meetings next week.

Upcoming Events:

*August 31, morning - Picture Day

*August 31, 5:30 pm - Grade 1 Parent Night

*August 31, 6:15 pm - Grade 2 Parent Night

*Sept. 2, 5:30 pm - Grade 3 Parent Night

*Sept. 2, 6:15 pm - Grade 4 Parent Night

*Sept. 2, 7:00 pm - Grade 5 Parent Night

*Sept. 10, 9 am - Eulenspiegel Puppet show

*Sept. 14, 6:30 pm - PTO meeting, Media Center

Suggestions for the Good of the PTO:

* Enjoy The City books will be arriving soon for sale for a fundraiser.

* Spirit store order forms will be coming - due to requests, there will be some better quality adult size sweatshirts available at a higher price.

* PTO funds requests for teacher - requests to go to Marilee with Walk-a-thon funds to be prioritized and divided as appropriate. An interest has been made to obtain bins for each student to be kept in the classrooms to keep supplies for the "Daily 5" program (1. read to self to build stamina and comprehension with reading at appropriate reading level. 2.read to someone 3. listen to reading 4. work on writing 5. word work). Each child would have appropriate level books, writing and word supplies in their bin. Also, interest in getting magnetic white board on easels that can be rolled around room as needed.

* Discussed if any way to request money for new items for existing schools as new schools when built get all new furniture and supplies.

* Math focus program will continue this year. It is a math fluency program started last year and thought to be a very good program.

* 2nd graders do not have lockers this year due to felt they are not at a developmental level to go up hallway away from their classrooms and have organizational skills to utilize them properly. The 5th graders will each have their own lockers to give them more room which is needed.

* New program to work on being explicit with students regarding respecting common area including hallways, bathroom, lunch room. Also have a new scale for voice level that the students are learning and signs will be posted in the future as follows: 5 - an emergency such as need an ambulance 4 - outside recess/playground voice 3 - regular classroom, cafeteria 2 - whisper - bathroom 1 - no voice

* Staff requested parents to please send kids to school in outfits they can handle especially not wearing flip flops as they are difficult to wear out for recess esp in wood chips. Silly bands may also be too distracting for some children.

* Report on the HVAC system - have found there are 3 setting: dehumidify, cool, heat. Staff are working on keeping on top of it to keep building at a comfortable temperature level.

* All students are having recess before lunch this year and an extra 5 minutes has been built in to give students more time to get to lunch room. Kindergarten and 1st grade can stay longer if needed to ensure appropriate time to eat their lunch. Parents should let Marilee know if their children complain about not having enough time to eat. Staff is working on teaching good manners during lunch time. Also, every child has to use hand sanitizer before eating and if any

child has visible dirt on hands that is not eliminated by sanitizer - an adult staff or volunteer will assist child to bathroom to wash hands.

Motion to adjourn was made by Elizabeth Wilson and seconded by Deana Benson

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm