

## WILKINS PTO MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

**Members present:** Deanna Howard, Julie Grimes, Catherine Spencer, Betsy Hardy, Jenny Guenther, Jacy Buck, Shannon Hampson, Heide Sletteland, Lori Manley, Michelle Dalton, Theresa Pint, Jessica Stiers, Dawn Nissen, Tracy Read, Elizabeth Wilson, Mary Lukefahr, Michelle Heidelbauer, Debi Wells, Marilee McConnell.

The meeting was called to order by Deanna Howard at 6:30 pm.

**Principal's Report:** by Marilee McConnell: Reminder that school board elections are tonight. Gave a big thank you to Anne Boussetot for her service as volunteer coordinator for the past one and a half years. Anne has unfortunately resigned her position so a new volunteer coordinator is being sought. Back to school info: there are 442 students at Wilkins this year. Numbers by grade level are: K - 62, 1<sup>st</sup> - 83, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 72, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 89, 4<sup>th</sup> - 69 and 5<sup>th</sup> - 67. Average class size is 20 in the lower grades and 23-24 in the upper grades. Nate Frangella left Wilkins and took a position at Oak Ridge Middle School – we miss him and wish him the best. Amity Preston has move up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Vickie Pitstik has transferred here from Novak to also teach 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Conferences are coming up October 3-13. Online conference scheduling is ready to begin on September 14. An informational sheet went home with the kids today with instructions on scheduling a conference time with your child's teacher. Oleweus kicked off today with a program by the NED show which stands for "Never give up, Encourage others, Do your Best". An e-mail was sent home from school with info re the show and yo-yo's that are available for purchase if interested. Information was given by Marilee re the new math curriculum "Everyday Mathematics" which includes an online suite of information, resources for parents and teachers and games for the kids to play. Some of the games can be played by 1 or 2 players so parents or siblings can play some of the games together. Linn Mar was able to obtain the online suite free for the next 6 years when the curriculum was purchased. Marilee demonstrated one of the games available. The teachers can also assign each child to a particular level to get the best benefit from the lessons. It has been reported that the kids are having fun while they are learning.

Minutes from the last PTO meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** by Elizabeth Wilson. Review of the 2010-2011 school year budget was done with an excess of \$1147.44 noted. Review of the current year expenses/revenues so far looked at with a net of -307.28 so far. The budget information is posted on the website.

**District PTO:** This is a group consisting of the officers of the PTO for each elementary school in the Linn Mar district. They get together every other month or so to share ideas, problems and information to work toward common goals to benefit the students in the schools. The last meeting was and introduction of new officers from each school. If interested in attending a meeting, contact Mary.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Survey :** Surveys were sent out to each family last Spring with 46 families responding. The information gathered has been looked at which will help to guide the PTO for future activities or ideas. The PTO plans to send out some type of survey each year in late Winter – early Spring to help when formulating the budget and activities for the next year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Enjoy the City:** reported on by Deanna Howard. We have sold 420 books so far this year. It was scheduled to end last Friday but will continue to process orders through this week. Please send in orders or any books not wanted this week so it can hopefully be closed out by next week. If there is an error in your order or in receiving your free book if 5 books were sold – please contact Deanna. This project was started earlier this year than previous years to get a headstart on the other schools and daycares that are also selling the books.

**Spaghetti supper/ Open house/ Book fair:** The book fair is occurring September 13-15. Open house and the book fair will be from 5:30 – 7:30 pm on September 15. The free spaghetti supper will be served starting at 5:30 and end at 7:00 due to time needed for clean up. RSVPs have come in about the same as last year. Please return RSVP if not already done.

**Homecoming Parade:** reported on by Catherine Spencer: will be held on September 29 at 5:30. The route has been changed this year and the parade will begin at the new Linn Mar stadium and end at the High School with the route going west of the high school campus. It has been discussed and decided to go back to the previous way of having only the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students walk in the parade this year. Catherine is coordinating with the 5th grade and the art and music teachers re the parade. Kazoos have been ordered for the kids to play while marching. A vinyl banner will be purchased that can be used for many years. The students will be able to complete some art work that will be attached to the banner sides in a way that they can be rotated throughout the parade for display. A motion was made by Catherine and seconded by Elizabeth to increase the budget for the parade by \$50. The motion was passed.

**Walk-a-thon:** Reported on by Theresa Pint and Tracy Read. The walk-a-thon will be held on October 7. More information will be coming out re helping with the event. The money raised will go for the purchase of iPads and iPods for use by the students of the school.

**VOLUNTEER UPDATE:** Anyone interested in being the volunteer coordinator can contact Carla Terry at the district office as she is looking for a replacement for Anne Boussetot who has resigned.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Tuesday, September 13: Book Fair – 3-5 pm

Wednesday, September 14: Book Fair – 3-4 pm

Thursday, September 15: Volunteer Orientation – 9 am

Thursday, September 15: Spaghetti supper 5:30-7 pm, Book fair & Open house – 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Friday, October 7: Walk-a-thon

Friday, October 7: Volunteer Workshop – 8:45 am

Thursday, October 13: End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

Friday, October 14: No School K-12

Monday, October 17: No School K-12

Tuesday, October 18: PTO meeting – 6:30 pm

October 3-13: Parent/Teacher Conferences

**SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE PTO:** Julie Grimes reported that the Wilkins day at the Kernels is scheduled for Sunday, April 29.

The meeting was adjourned by Mary Lukefahr at 7:34 pm.