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**WES PTO MINUTES**

**December 13, 2017**

**Attendees**: Jori Broad, Shira Goldberg, Marisa Amirian, Maureen Peters, Heather Mayer, Becky Smith, Stacey Farmer, Ana Lee, Lucinda Friedman, Christina Cowley, Sara Stokes, Sarinia Feinman, Katie Mancini, Cassie Magee, Bill Rathgeber, Marguerite Coyle, Jenn Sallade, Erin Secker, Alan Mizgorski, Carly Greis, Donna Drizin

**Call to Order: 10:03AM**

**Jori Broad:**

* Mrs. Drizin invited us to the most recent faculty meeting to help open up the lines of communication between the PTO and the teachers; the meeting was very informative and we want to thank the teachers for welcoming us and answering our questions and we hope to be invited to another one later this year. Thank you to Donna Drizin for having us.

**Principal’s Report: Mrs. Drizin**

* Great meeting with the PTO and teachers at the most recent faculty meeting!
* Holiday Shop was awesome! So much fun for the children, the teachers, and all the volunteers that helped the kids shop. Thank you so much for all of the hard work that went into such a wonderful event!
* Half day today, tomorrow, and next Friday (12/22) and we will be sending out lots of reminders and communications for each day to make sure everyone is aware.
* Conferences have started and we hope they are going well; if there are any questions, please contact Mrs. Drizin.
* Thank you for the pad for the sensory room! The room is really incredible! It is used for children with special needs and all the other children too. Whitemarsh Police Department donated $1,000.00 to the room as well! We are so proud of the room and now the other schools are adding something similar too.
* Extra day of vacation this year! We come back on Wednesday, 1/3!
* Kinsa Smart Thermometers: tomorrow I the last day to sign up for your free thermometer! Register for the app and you will be sent your free thermometer. Certain schools were selected across the country and we were one of the schools selected in PA. Parent liaisons should send out a reminder to their classes.
* Thank you for everything and have a wonderful holiday and New Year!

**Teacher’s report:**

**Jori Broad**

* PTO Expense Reimbursement Request Form: new form for teachers to submit expense requests to the PTO. Anything over $250 has to go to a vote and discussion so if it is greater than $250, the request would be tabled till the next PTO meeting. So, send your requests in!

**Mrs. Secker/Mr. Mizgorski/Mrs. Magee/Mr. Rathgeber**

* 2nd grade has typed up a request for 10 iPads; they currently have 10 and would like an additional 10 to share among the grade.
	+ Question from PTO Board: how many iPads does each grade have currently? Per the teachers in attendance, all grades currently have 10 iPads each. Every grade has a cart with charging station; additional carts or charging stations are not needed because there is enough room at the bottom of the cart for additional iPads.
	+ Maureen Peters asked if the ultimate goal is for every child in one class to have an iPad so an entire class could be taught with each child having one? All the teachers present agreed ideally yes, but only asking for additional 10 at this time; laptops are cumbersome and not as quick or fun for the kids and there are so many awesome things we can do with the kids if they had these iPads; Mr. Rathgeber went to a best practices fair and there were so many cool things we could be doing if we had more of them like scanning iPads to track progress and showing work instantly, etc.
	+ Mrs. Secker spoke about an app called Seesaw which is an interactive app between kids, teachers, and parents where a teacher can assign an activity and the kids can work on it simultaneously and work can be sent to the parents, etc; so many apps can be used to allow teachers to post questions and then every child puts in a response and all answers appear on the interwrite board and makes the entire lesson more interactive.
* Request from all teachers present for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades to receive additional iPads.
	+ Mrs. Magee mentioned that they are especially short in 1st grade since they have 6 classes in first grade so they usually only get 1 or 2 each time.
* Sara Stokes asked since we have $7,500 in the Technology Fund in the budget currently, what else would we use this money for if we didn’t use it all for iPads? Mrs. Secker responded with other computer programs, etc., but otherwise, would like it to go to more iPads.
* Sarinia Feinman asked if we want to do a separate fundraiser to raise money for more iPads? Shira Goldberg brought up that it is a big balancing act to please both parents and teachers because some parents would like to see more playground equipment being purchased vs. more iPads so we need to make sure that all parties are taken into consideration and we will do what we can for each; ideally, we would like to purchase more outdoor recess equipment for example AND purchase more iPads this year.
* Jori Broad – do we have an official motion to purchase additional iPads? Is there any way to schedule it so all grades can share iPads? Per Mrs. Secker, it would be difficult because K and 1st and 2nd and 3rd are flip flopped in content lessons/schedules so it would prove to be difficult; could happen occasionally but not daily.
* Marguerite Coyle asked if we could give older iPads to K, more updated ones to 3rd, etc. to move them around efficiently which is definitely something we could look into.
* Jori Broad asked to move the issue to a motion since it is an ongoing request and there is clearly a need for additional iPads; Donna Drizin stated Dr. Christian likes iPads (whereas in previous years it was always laptops) so she is hopeful that the district will add these to the tech budget; this is why the Technology Survey out there now called the Speak Up Project for Digital Learning is so important and we should all take it because it will help them get technology needs added to their school budgets so the PTO and Mrs. Drizin wouldn’t have to pay it out of our own budgets in the future.
	+ Parent Liaisons need to send a communication to their classes to take the Speak Up Project for Digital Learning survey to voice the use of technology in our school.
* Sarinia Feinman made a motion for 15 iPads to be purchased using the $7,500 in the PTO Technology Fund and upon arrival, we will decide how they are divided up; Marguerite Coyle and Carly Greis seconded the motion.
	+ MOTION REVISED by Sarinia Feinman to purchase as many iPads as we can for the $7,500 in the PTO Technology Fund; Carly Greis (and the entire room) seconded the motion.

**Mr. Rathgeber/Mrs. Magee**

* Special thanks for all the hard work that went into the holiday shop! Items were fantastic, the kids loved it, and it was well organized! Great job!

**Treasurer’s Report: Heather Mayer**

* Pasta Palooza made $3,500 but we have one more bill coming in for cafeteria workers which should be between $500-1000 so we will likely make close to the predicted $2,500.
* Holiday Shop is a little confusing because we bought the items to sell last year but we will definitely make great profit on such a successful event! More definitive totals next meeting.
* Pretzel Day is this Friday, 12/15.
* Shira Goldberg: do people think the selling of Hershey tickets is worth doing again this year? Consensus is yes! The tickets are cheaper than the township and it is free money so let’s do it!

**Corresponding Secretary’s Report: Maureen Peters/Marisa Amirian**

* Maureen Peters: Keep communication coming! If you have something that needs to be communicated, please send it to her and she will add it to the weekly Thursday evening email.

**Spirit Wear: Ursula Ruttloff (per Jori Broad)**

* All items ordered are coming by next week and will come to school so if you are ordering items as a gift and do not want them given to your child, please contact Ursula Rottloff at Ual1205@aol.com or 610-212-0188 to make other arrangements.

**Yearbook: Melissa Kerns (per Jori Broad)**

* Received 18 entries for the 3rd grade cover contest; teachers are narrowing down to three and then students will vote on the winning cover.
* $18 per yearbook; start buying!
* Photos can be uploaded via Google photos and access needs to be granted to the Google drive for uploading; parent liaisons should be uploading for their classes and if anyone else attends an event and they do not have access, you can request access to upload from Marisa Amirian.

**Directory: Marisa Amirian**

* It’s completed and was released last month.

**Restaurant Nights: Jessica Mancuso (per Jori Broad)**

* Tomorrow night is a fundraiser at Bertucci’s; bring flyer that will be sent out with communications.

**WES Serves: Shira Goldberg**

* Project this year did really well; Giant gave $500 to purchase all of the items that were missing plus a $20 gift card was included in each of the baskets to purchase any extras the family may want; Giant really went above and beyond this year and we are very appreciative.
* Mrs. Drizin said a grandfather came to pick up his daughters’ basket and he was so appreciative; all of the families are so very appreciative and no one minds coming to pick them up, they are just so thankful so it really is a wonderful project that we do every year. There is one family in particular that she has known for years and all three children are life skills children and they were in Colonial school district then moved but their new school couldn’t provide the services they were used to receiving at Colonial so they moved back to Colonial again. The mother got funds for Habitat for Humanity and worked 200 hours on building homes and took 16 classes (3 hours each) on budgeting, organizing your home, etc. and the dedication for their new home was this Saturday in Bridgeport and it was one of the most incredible experiences. There was a formal dedication and the mother read a ten-page speech about how thankful she was. The holidays are here and you sometimes don’t realize how fortunate you are.

**Holiday Shop: Steph Levin (per Jori Broad)**

* We already touched on this earlier; amazing event this year and thanks for all the hard work that went into it!
* Mrs. Secker: thank you for all the hard work! Kids learn so much doing it every year.

**Operation Gratitude: Jori Broad/Becky Smith**

* We shipped 24 boxes of candy to the troops via Operation Gratitude; Operation Gratitude just shipped their two millionth package to the troops.
* Partnered with Dr. Slawek who is paying for most of the shipping costs of the candy to Operation Gratitude so we are awaiting his final donation amount and will update at the next meeting.

**Bingo Night: Marisa Amirian**

* Big changes this year! Moving Bingo Night to PW’s new cafeteria which will be awesome!
* Event is on Friday, February 2nd and we won’t have to pay for police, no crossing issues, more parking, etc.
* Book Fair is donating posters and we will be asking for book and DVD donations soon that will be used for prizes at the event.
* The only challenge will be getting everything to PW that day but with lots of volunteers, we will get it all done and it will be great! Mrs. Drizin mentioned a van we may be able to use for the event which would be a huge help.
* Pizza will be served again so stay tuned for pre-order forms.

**Eagle Scout Project: Marisa Amirian**

* At a recent Eagle Scout ceremony, Marisa was approached about a path being built to the outdoor classroom as another project or is naturescape a possibility? Jori Broad stated that getting a new playground is harder to do because there are a lot of gray areas with approvals; Mrs. Drizin tried to find out if something would be possible and did not receive any answers from the district; Teachers also stated that there is such little time in the day to use the playground we already have so if we are looking to spend any money on outdoor spaces, maybe we should think about updating the current equipment vs. building an entire new space.
* Life Skills children would benefit from a naturescape or updating of the equipment as well and since all the children come to WES and are currently unable to use the equipment we have, this is something we definitely want to look into for the future.
* Mr. Yem will need to be contacted about putting in a new path to the outdoor classroom; having a path would be helpful for entry and if we can get the approvals, we should do it.

**Misc. Items:**

* Mrs. Drizin: Gov. Tom Wolf visited our Colonial Middle School which was very exciting! The Department of Education contacted the Governor and said you need to go and see what they are doing there with robotics! It starts in Kindergarten with coding and goes right thru to high school; asked Dr. Jason Baconi (Principal at PW) to come talk if he has the opportunity about the courses being offered and all of the fantastic resources thru all the amazing technology; they are really trying to look ahead to make sure a job is actually still a job after four years of college, etc.
	+ Marguerite Coyle echoed this because she has high school kids and what they are doing blows your mind and it’s all so fantastic!
* Next PTO meeting in January will include the Principal’s Corner with a speaker at 6:30PM and then the regular PTO meeting will follow from 7PM-8PM.
* Next Colonial School Board Meeting is January 4th at 7PM.
* Ana Lee: Giftwrapping Station idea – would this be of interest to anyone for next year (too late for this year)? People could pay via donation to have their gifts wrapped; could offer evening hours and have volunteers wrapping and purchase wrapping at the end of the season at a discounted rate for next year; Marisa will send out a poll to gauge interest.
* Jori Broad: Would there be an interest if the CSD Education Foundation had a quizzo night? BYOB at night? Everyone said they would have some interest in this type of event. Stay tuned!

**Adjourned:**

11:00AM

**NEXT PTO MEETING ON JANUARY 10TH AT 6:30PM**