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**WES PTO MINUTES**

**October 11, 2017**

**Attendees**: Jori Broad, Shira Goldberg, Marisa Amirian, Maureen Peters, Heather Mayer, Becky Smith, Jon Walker, Sara Stokes, Rana Bell, Rian Gianfrani, Lucinda Friedman, Kelly Smith, Stacey Farmer, Ursula Rottloff, Katie Erno, Kelly David, Amy Dauksis, Lauren Boegner, Sarah Maisey, Courtney Manley, Kristyn Sirhal, Kristin Schwarz, Danielle Carder, Brooke Borsky, Marguerite Coyle, Angie Clark, Sharon Schmidt-Mongrain, Jordan Kapel, Liz Malarski, Megan Dewey, Alan Mizgorski, Susan Hope, Cathy Campbell, Leslie Doherty, Shannon Broderick, Cara Long, Jess Amici, Katie Mancini, Heather Mayer, Jenn Sallade, Ana Lee, Deana Marcella, Jennifer Fassbender, Heather Smyth, Laura Quinn, Donna Drizin

**Call to Order: 6:59PM**

**Jori Broad:**

* Huge thank you to teachers and staff for all they do especially with the recent PSSA results!
* Kindergarten social didn’t happen which was a disappointment; reminder to drive participation in the upcoming Ice Cream Social and Book Fair; we are doing it for the kids and everyone should be excited and be there when they can.

**Principal’s Report: Mrs. Drizin**

* Great beginning of the year and everyone is so happy!
* All schools gave a report of achievement highlights and we are so proud of WES results; #1 in Math in Montgomery County and #2 in the entire state! It is all the TEACHERS. It begins the first day of Kindergarten and works all the way thru third grade. Everyone is asking why did WES do so well when the curriculum is the same and the answer is the teachers and consistency! Great job everyone!
* Letter coming home regarding a new district-wide process called GAIN (Growth and Intervention Network) which will be used to provide reading and math intervention and/or enrichment to develop the skills necessary for long range achievement and growth; will be a daily 30-minute block and is a structure for school teams to implement targeted instruction on specific skills for all students; first year and will be a work in progress.
* On Election Day, the teachers have an In-service day and the PTO in partnership with Toni Roni’s will be providing lunch for the staff as a huge thank you for all they do!
* Staff news: Welcome to Mrs. Dewey in our 2nd grade who will be the substitute for Mrs. Hurley; Mrs. Campbell is a grandmother of two now!
* Last year, screen time was a big issue that everyone was talking about but Mrs. Drizin brought an article to share, “The Problem is Wasted Time, not Screen Time” that really drives home the idea we agree with at WES that the time we do use on the iPads, etc. is time being well spent and not wasted time.
* Speaking of screen time, now that we have the $7,000 in the Technology Fund in the budget, the teachers all want iPads; Price will be $423 for the newest version and a cover; that will purchase us 16 and Mrs. Drizin would like to try and match that; new iPads will be divided grade-wise.
* Mrs. Drizin applied with the State for free thermometers via an app on iPhones; every family is entitled to one and have a $30 value; more to come on this.
* Exciting events all coming up with Scarecrow Day, Book Fair, Ice Cream Social and Family Night at the Book Fair! Please come and support these events!
* New request is for lobby furniture; Mrs. Rocchi has some that she will present at the next PTO meeting.
* Thanks again for all of the support and help!

**School Board Report: Cathy Peduzzi (per Jori Broad)**

* Please like two Facebook pages: Parents of Colonial School District Students and Cathy Peduzzi – School Board Director for higher level information in our community and lots of great info.
* Colonial Community Coffee Hour will be held on October 25th; hope everyone can make it.

**Teacher’s report:**

**Mrs. Hope**

* Mr. Walker came to talk about fire safety with the kids and tomorrow will be our first fire drill for Kindergarten.
* Thank you to the PTO for purchasing the pamphlets for the teachers to use for guidance on the positive classroom and community that we follow; they have been very helpful to the teachers.

**Mr. Mizgorski**

* Pretzel Day – would twice a month be a possibility? Used to be weekly and now it is only once a month; Heather Mayer stated it requires four volunteers and there is a rotation; something we will explore.
* Mrs. Rocchi has art gallery night every year and the proceeds are used for the 2nd grade to go to the Art Museum; Unfortunately, they didn’t have enough money this time and need $200 for 1 bus still; Approved per PTO and no vote needed because amount is lower than we need for a vote.
* Buses needed for other class trips since 2nd grade is at cap of enrollment; PTO said they will make adjustments and provide the buses needed.

**Mrs. Campbell**

* Special thanks to the WES student that made fun bookmarks and gave them to the library.
* Thank you for the contributions to make the Innovation Lab what it is and it is used as a model throughout the district.
* Book Fair is next week! Please support the event as it helps the PTO, teachers, and classes; Coin Challenge every day will be used to raise funds down South for victims of the hurricane; Family Night will have a photo booth for selfies this year!
* Author Susan Stevens Crummel will be here on November 15th and we will have books at the Book Fair by her and she will sign them when she comes.
* iPads are so valuable in the search for digital resources for the kids to use and it is important to help them navigate it elsewhere so thank you for getting us more iPads.

**Treasurer’s Report: Heather Mayer**

* We had our first Pretzel Day and it is again this Friday!
* Back to School Movie Night was a loss but again, it was not intended as a fundraiser.
* Teachers are given $175 for supplies this year so please remember to use it.
* Motion made by Courtney Manley to approve extra buses for 2nd grade trips to art museum, zoo, and Crayola Factory; Second motion was given by Marisa Amirian; total expense should be approx. $600.

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

* Directory deadline is tonight; extending deadline until Friday and teachers will send out an email reminder to all parents.
* Make sure Kindergarten parents know about the WES PTO Facebook page; link to it will be included in the Thursday email.
* Maureen sends the weekly emails and anything that needs to go in the email, please email Maureen to have it added; especially important for event chairs to email for their event info to be added the week before and week of the event.

**Scarecrow Day: Sarah Maisey**

* Event is this Friday! Help needed tomorrow at 1:30 to put up all the cornstalks on the poles; volunteers provided.

**Fall Book Fair: Jori Broad**

* Help needed tomorrow from 4-5PM to set up and you can bring your kids; volunteers provided.

**Family Night and Ice Cream Social: Ursula Rottloff**

* Help and donations still needed; please sign up and communicate the sign-up geniuses to your classes.
* Kristyn Sirhal mentioned attending the 4/5 school ice cream social recently and they included water ice as an option and everything was pre-scooped and ran very smoothly so some ideas for next year.

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

* Lifetouch is excited and we they will have a unique cover; possibility to have a 3rd grade cover contest? Everyone loved the idea; Cover needs to be submitted by December and the school can vote on the winning cover via a can drive; more to come!

**Back to School Movie Night: Jori Broad**

* Thoughts on why the event did not have a good turnout? More notice of the event next year and at a later date once everyone is settled into the school year a bit; idea that kids can vote on the movie next time via a canned food drive; Will explore having another one in the Spring.

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

* 10/23 will be Pizzeria Uno; everyone will need a form and can be for lunch, dinner or takeout.

**Box Tops: Jaimee Salvato (per Becky Smith)**

* Winners were selected for the first deadline of October 6th.
* Jaimee will provide winner details and next deadline to Maureen Peters so they can be included in the weekly emails.

**Spirit Wear: Ursula Rottloff**

* Sale starting on 11/2; short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts, flannel pj’s, headbands, and sweatshirts will be sold this year; Dri-Fit option was very expensive; more to come on this!

**Pasta Palooza: Jori Broad**

* Next month on Thursday, November 16th **;** moved this year to November because it was in the Spring with the book fair, etc. and November was a month that was open; it’s in 6 weeks and have a lot of work to do!
* Lots of volunteers will be needed so please sign up to help.
* Looking for a local restaurant for the food and want them to provide it cooked this year to make it as simple as possible; next year, explore having it on a night other than a Thursday since restaurants are very busy on Thursday nights and less inclined to offer to help.
* Committee will be taking inventory of supplies over the next couple of days.

**WES Playground Update: Jori Broad**

* Current playground is not an ADA compliant playground and would like to explore the possibility of us raising money to update the playground.
* District approval will be needed.
* Jess Amici suggested a Naturescape playground idea which would be less expensive, different than the regular equipment we already have, lower area of equipment so very ADA-friendly and the kids would use their imaginations while playing more.
  + Everyone loved this idea and definitely something that will be looked into; more ideas will be brought to the next PTO meeting.

**Adjourned:**

8:04PM

**NEXT PTO MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8th at 10AM**