

Willis Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 22, 2019

Starting Time: 8:45am

Board Members Present: Deb Hossenlopp, Valerie Demino, Dawn Barbour, Liz Johnson, Bill Stenger

Other Members Present: Listed separately

Minutes Submitted by Liz Johnson

Agenda:

1. Financial Overview
 - a. Financial Update/Purchases
 - b. Possible Future Purchases
2. Administration Update
3. Upcoming Events
4. Principal Selection

Financial Overview

1. Dawn Barbour presented an updated financial report. The Father/Daughter Dance was a success with a net profit of approximately \$2500. This event is NOT a fundraiser, but with chair Denise West, we were able to receive so many generous donations! Gator Stamping has stepped up to become a new Platinum Sponsor.
2. Deb Hossenlopp went over some of the Board's ideas for possible future PTO purchases. These include math manipulatives (still waiting on state decision with Math series adoption), professional development for current teaching materials, updated playground equipment, and nonfiction books for classrooms (per teachers requests).

Administration Update (Mr. Stenger)

1. Mr. Stenger shared his thoughts on common core/standards. He will keep us updated on purchasing math manipulatives, as we need to wait for state to finalize the Math adoption before we can move forward with this. It is best to wait on any purchases to ensure all PTO funds are spent wisely and make sense. This will all depend on any changes that may occur regarding Florida no longer implementing Common Core.

2. There are two open teacher aide positions that need to be filled. With the county hiring freeze, one position has been approved, but waiting on second approval to continue with staffing.
3. The playground shade that was damaged by the storm has been assessed and we are waiting for the district to move forward with repairs or a replacement shade.
4. Mr. Stenger discussed the new addition plans. The district is using the same architect as when Willis was first built, so working with him has made the process easier. After a meeting with the architect and construction team, Mr. Stenger is confident that the new addition will not interfere with PE area or playgrounds. He believes we are looking at a completion date of February 2020.
 - a. Renee Hayes (a parent) asked whether or not the portables would stay once the addition is completed. Mr. Stenger stated that the portables will definitely be necessary at the start of next school year, but may not be needed once the addition is completed. We will also know more of an enrollment estimate for next school year in the next couple of weeks.
 - b. Leslie Toscano (parent) inquired about saving money now to purchase built in cabinets or extra shelving for the new addition. Mr. Stenger advised that we need to know districts plan first, but that it may be a good idea to think about storage concerns as we get closer to the completion of the addition.

Upcoming Events

1. Kindergarten Round Up is coming up on March 6th and volunteers will be needed.
2. Casino Night is March 16th. Free babysitting will be available from 5:30-10:30pm. Silent auction items are starting to come in!
3. Fifth Grade Graduation will need fourth grade parent volunteers. Deb Hossenlopp will look into specific times needed for volunteers and report back.
4. Liz Baas provided a yearbook update and reported that it is coming along smoothly. Ms. Collett's class is still in need of pictures.
5. Liz Johnson shared some updated information regarding Earth Day. Roxy, a representative from Mariposa will come to the school on Earth Day and help us with a tree dedication in honor of Earth Day and Mr. Stenger. The tree is being

donated, we just need to survey the property to decide on the location of where it will be best to plant. The Student Senate will take part in the actual planting of the tree and then all students will be a part of an interactive bulletin board inside the school.

Principal Selection

1. Valerie Demino shared most recent information regarding the principal selection for next school year. It has been decided by the district that the principal will be selected by direct appointment.
2. Parents should e-mail Cynthia Saunders (superintendent) and Mr. Rio (executive director of elementary schools) regarding what Willis would like to see in a new principal.
saundersc@manateeschools.net
riom@manateeschools.net
3. Parents should voice our concern regarding our new principal and do it NOW! We need to insist that current programs won't be eliminated (Making Meaning, Being A Reader, Being A Writer, Math in Practice, self-contained gifted classrooms, etc...)
4. Mr. Stenger encouraged parents to take survey that is being sent home by the district. The deadline of completion is Tuesday. The PTO and parents have more power, especially in numbers, when it comes to these decisions. It is important to speak up NOW so that the district recognizes that we are parents who research, care, and won't back down when important decisions are being made.
5. An announcement should be made by March 1st regarding our principal for the 2019-2020 school year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50am