



Willis Elementary PTO Minutes

9/19/2023

Starting time: 5:02 PM

Alie Freund, Jessica Tripoli, Colleen Laughlin, Mindy Buckley,
Kathy Price & Dr.Katie Fradley

1st PTO Meeting 2023/2024

- Welcome Everyone- (Alie Freund)
- Thank you all for coming
- Introduction of the Board

We are so excited about this upcoming school year, supporting our students, staff, teachers, administration & all of our school families. None of this could be accomplished without all of the amazing parent volunteers. We are so grateful.

2023/2024 PTO board officially took positions on July 1st - (Jessica Tripioli)

- Summer Landscaping was a huge project. Brooke of Bloomin Gardens & employees were amazing to work with. They really gave back to the school, the beautiful plants, flowers & many hours of labor to front of the school.
- We were very excited & happy to work on surprising the staff this summer by doing a makeover to the staff lounge. We worked hard to get it done before the teachers came back. We hope to continue to restock of snacks, drinks & just possible everyday or occasional items they may need.
- Uniform meeting with Manatee Apparel, Bringing back the much needed & wanted Gecko back on some of the personalized shirts & spirit wear.
- New playgrounds installed over the summer by the district
- Business sponsors/in kind. How they play a key role & their support makes a big difference in being able to do so much more for the school.

Spirit days/nights- (Mindy Buckley)

- A huge thanks to Jessica Tripioli (and her kiddos) for really taking the lead & bringing in record breaking new business sponsorships. Every one of us worked together to reach out to our amazing business sponsors as well
- Over the summer I spoke with the owner of Carousels, Mike - we set up monthly treats for purchase after school is released at the park. They give back 20% to the school for each event.
- We have had a spirit night at Slim Chickens

- Blaze Pizza- Spirit Night is tonight & tomorrow. They will be giving back 25% to the school as well. If you can go & show your support that would great.
- Last week Monkee's 15% give back- \$200.27
- Woody's car wash has been continuing to give 40% back to the school when purchasing individual washes. Please mention Willis.
- We are looking forward to other Spirit Days/Nights. Be on the lookout.

Open House – (Alie Freund)

- Invited Platinum Business Sponsors
- Added balloons to have photo opportunities
- The welcome back Willis Geckos sign was arranged in front of the school.
- Very successful in getting volunteers for committees & chairs for events.

Room Moms

- One room mom name was given from each teacher to- a PTO liaison. Someone that communicates all messages & communications from PTO. Alie Freund is room mom coordinator
- Missy Weinandy has volunteered to help assist any moms in making a door template
- Step ladders were added behind each grade level hallway for decorating purposes

Committee Reports

- Kindergarten play date took place. Jackie Elmore
- Staff Appreciation report/Samantha Bebe

- Welcome back breakfast by Forked
- Staff Luncheon
- September staff appreciation
- Planning for October
- Decorating- Monika Morgan
- 5th grade committee- Kim Larsen
- Grandparents Night- Alie spoke on behalf of Julia Pruitt
- Thank you to David Kincaid (Landscaping Chair) who has already donated an hour of his time to help maintain the front landscape & will continue as the weather gets cool.
- PTO board met with Megan is our grant writer, she's looking into opportunities for the school to receive funds

Budget & Finances (Colleen Laughlin)

- Landscaping Project
- Business Sponsors/Partners
- Staff Lounge & Fridge purchases
- Tools & support for the teachers from their Orton Gillingham training. Continuing education

Survey Results/future purchases (Alie Freund)

- We took everything that parents & majority voted on into account when making all decisions as a board
 - Ask what would parents like to see with future fund purchases?
- Fixing rear play area
- PTO Board meetings will rotate every other month between 9AM & 5PM to help accommodate for all

Upcoming Events

- 9/29 Bingo Night (Taylor & Beth)
- 10/6- 10/12 Book fair (Mr. Violette & Michelle Heffernan)
- 10/6 Desserts with Dad- (Gem Casanova)

- 10/27 Costume Parade/ Trunk or Treat (Jess Borsari & Jeff Zych)
- 11/9- Bubble Run- (Brittnee Klicic & Sarah Langdon)

Principal's Report (Mrs. Price)

- What an amazing PTO turnout
- Staff/students/admin are in love & its only September
- Safety update:
 - Drop off/parking lot confusion was handled quickly
 - Gate shuts promptly at 8:25
 - Praise- this year has been one of the best, record breaking with low tardiness
- Lockdown drills have moved from once a month to quarterly. Students & staff awareness.
- Privacy screen was added to Kindergarten

Teacher Report

- Thank you so much! We appreciate you all!-Dana Collett
- It's not just the big things, the things like bathrooms, snacks
- A huge thanks to PTO that paid for some grades for the amazing Orton-Gillingham training, we would love to see all grades being able to complete the same training. Thank you so much- Erin Corsiglia

Meeting adjourned: 5:56 PM

