

# Willis Elementary PTO General Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2015

Present: Bill Stenger, Michelle Danowski, Ashley Henderson, Liz Combe, Deb Hossenlopp, Christa Nash, Tara Merino  
Minutes Submitted by: Christa Nash

---

## 1. PTO Mission and Purpose

- Mission is to support our teachers, administrators, and staff in providing a top quality education to our students
- As the district pulls out of financial hardship, the PTO is dedicated to ensuring that the quality of education does not suffer
- Crucial part of the PTO is to raise funds for the school
- Funds from PTO are used to
  - purchase important classroom tools and equipment
  - support educational programs and technology
  - enhancements to the school

## 2. Introductions

- Board
- General meeting attendees

## 3. PTO Financial Report

- see attached

## 4. Report on August Events

- Uniform Fair was August 7 and 8, we quadrupled our sales from last year
- Teacher's Lounge was redone by PTO over the summer, kept cost low, can now seat 20, great response from staff
- Kindergarten Playdate, Friday, August 21st was successful, handed out welcome signs to our new students
- Boohoo coffee had a better turnout than expected, will order more coffee next year
- Yahoo Night Out was a hit, we hope to plan another one later in the year

## 5. PTO Updates and Plans

- Projectors are being held up by the district, as they have new specifications that will need to be adhered to
- iPad reading program implemented, each iPad will have the Fountas and Pinnell application, which will better help the teachers to assess our students progress and identify where they may need more training. This was a \$16,500 investment.
- Recess equipment has been purchased and will be replaced as needed
- Lobby TV has been purchased for pictures and announcements, waiting on console
- Landscaping is undertaken by Abel Landscaping, this includes mowing, edging, mulching

#### 6. Future Planned Expenses

- Badge Printing System being implemented to better serve and secure our staff and students, \$5,500 investment
- Fans will be installed shortly in the P.E. area, starting with four
- We plan to continue to support staff development and training

#### 7. Fundraising

- Spirit Nights, our first of the year will be September 10th, 5-8pm at PDQ, will continue with various sponsors monthly and a portion of the proceeds will come back to benefit our school
- Willis Business Partners, chaired by Courtni Darpino, is in full swing, and has many opportunities available for businesses
- Painting Geckos is being considered, will be an evening event, may be working with Mr. Cratty on this idea
- Walk-a-thon is one of the two largest fundraisers, will be held October 23rd, students have the ability to win prizes based on the amount of money they raise for participating
- Gecko Gala, chaired by Ashley Henderson, our other large fundraiser for the year, will be held in March
- Target card can be linked to give 1% of your purchases back to the school, this can be done online on your account page
- Amazon will give .5% back to the school if purchases are made from our link
- Box Tops are collected through the year, with the first collection on Thursday, September 10th. Top 3 classes will win a Popcorn Party

#### 8. Upcoming Events

- 1st Room Parent Meeting is September 11th @2:00pm in cafeteria, Tami Silver is our room Parent coordinator
- Year Book is being led by Jennifer Bowles, we are still looking for photographers and volunteers to assist with this committee
- Newsletter is put together 4 times a year by Christine Shaklik
- Book Fair will take place in the Fall and Spring, coinciding with Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom
- Photographers are needed for both Donuts and Muffins, as well as yearbook and other events

#### 9. Announcements and Reminders

- Jeff, our cafeteria manager, is in need of volunteers to help in the kitchen, will be paid \$9 per hour to go to classroom of your choice
- communications would like to make sure that you are receiving important announcements, please sign up via email if you haven't already

#### **Calendar of September Events**

Tuesday, September 8th Fifth Grade Committee Meeting 9:30am

Wednesday, September 9th Dress Down Day \$2 or prepay \$18 for the year

Wednesday, September 9th Early Release 1:15

Thursday, September 10th Box Top Collection

Thursday, September 10th Spirit Night @ PDQ 5pm-8pm

