

Willis Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Starting Time: 2:05pm

Board Members Present: Deb Hossenlopp, Valerie Demino, Dawn Barbour, Liz Johnson, Kathy Price, Billie-Jo Fintel

Other Members Present: Listed separately

Minutes Submitted by Liz Johnson

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Financial Overview
3. Upcoming Events
 - PTO Chair/Volunteers
 - Walk-A-Thon
4. Administration Update
5. Q & A

Welcome & Introductions

1. Deb Hossenlopp welcomed those in attendance to the first PTO meeting of the year. The returning PTO Board each introduced themselves and thanked everyone for joining us.

Financial Overview

1. Deb Hossenlopp shared a list of PTO purchases from last year.
 - Being A Reader (K-3) was purchased and delivered to classrooms. This is a reading supplement that will help strengthen reading skills and provide extra support for teachers and students.
 - Basketball hoops (funnel ball) was purchased for both playgrounds, with the intent to enhance each playground.
 - Two buddy benches were installed last week (one per playground) in honor of Mr. Stenger. It was his wish to have these installed, providing the children with a place to sit if they need a buddy to play with. Plaques will be added soon.
2. Dawn Barbour shared a financial overview of PTO funds. The PTO balance is in good standing and we have several ideas for future purchases. Dawn shared some of these possible ideas.

- Mrs. Price has expressed additional interest to further enhance the playgrounds. PTO is looking into the expense of Gaga pits and the installation required.
 - Professional development for teachers and staff.
 - Technology enhancements are necessary at Willis. Connie Dixon (a colleague of Mrs. Price) donated her used Elmos that we can use in our classrooms for now. PTO will look into the cost of Promethean boards, which would be a major process to complete. Mrs. Price would start surveying teachers first, to see which teachers are interested in the first part of this process.
3. Dawn Barbour gave an update on Business Partners and is pleased with the way things have started this school year! Willis already has four new Platinum Business Partners, including Owen's Barbor Shop, Burns Boot Camp, Michelle's Brown Bag Café, and Little Town Smiles. We also have two new Gold Business Partners, including Another Broken Egg and BSK Jewelry Designs by Suzanne Kloss.

Upcoming Events

PTO Chairs/Volunteers

1. Deb Hossenlopp explained the clipboards on the front table, along with the different committees for events throughout the school year. There has already been a lot of interest for volunteering, but we will take all the help we can! There are a few committee chair spots open but there is always a need for small jobs as well.

Walk-A-Thon

1. Valerie Demino gave a brief explanation of the Walk-A-Thon for those parents that may be new to our school. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and 100% of the money raised goes to Willis. Our goal will be \$55,000 and WAT planning will begin soon.

Kindness Initiative

1. Liz Johnson shared some information about PTO's Kindness Initiative that we plan to continue this school year. Last year we hosted a uniform drive, used a school wide interactive kindness wall, had an Earth Day presentation, and donated books to Moody Elementary School. This year we plan to continue with the Kindness Initiative, kicking off in October with a book drive for Myakka Elementary School.

Administration Update

1. Mrs. Price thanked everyone for coming and introduced herself. She was happy to announce that the Safety Patrols started today and they were off to a wonderful start. She introduced a new staff member, Mrs. Thomas who will be working with the Safety Patrols (also with Mrs. Johnson) this year.

2. Mrs. Price spoke about the new volunteer application process. It is much easier this year, as it is online and available to anyone, anywhere. A Level I volunteer can work with students as long as it is under teacher supervision. A Level II volunteer can work with students unsupervised, but requires fingerprinting and a fee that will last for five years. Mrs. Fintel shared that this new application process is better streamlined and really gives everyone an opportunity to complete.
3. Mrs. Price shared information regarding the new wall and door safety installation near the front office. There will also be new safety procedures in place once the addition begins in September.
4. New and enhanced Gecko Awards! They will still be K-5 but the awards will be a little more tailored to each student. Instead of receiving a standard award, each student will be awarded with a letter to represent their achievement.
 - G - Great Effort
 - E - Excellence in Academics
 - C - Creativity in Fine Arts
 - K - Kindness to Others
 - O - Outstanding Citizenship

In addition to the Gecko Awards, there will also be 4th and 5th grade Honor Roll Breakfast held each quarter. To make Honor Roll, students will need to earn all A's/B's and Satisfactory scores.

Q & A

1. There were some parents expressing concerns over having WAT in the beginning of the school year when it's so hot outside. It was explained that although a cooler month would be better, the WAT funds are used throughout the school year.
2. Field Day was also discussed as an option to possibly move to a cooler weather month, maybe in January as a back to school field day.

Meeting adjourned 3:00pm