WESPTSA Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2017

Attendees: Emily B, Lina C, Andrea B, Rachel, Erin F, Craig D, Patrick V, Kelly C, Sarah E, Lynette P, Sean F, Carrie H, Jeff W, Greg T, Chris L, Camilla F, Christine H, Monica S, Angie H, Melissa I, Emily S, Christine H, Stephen M, Amy M, Lizet L, Angel B

1. Welcome and intro. Emily B.
2. Approval of May minutes. Emily B.
    a. Sarah E motioned, Craig D second. Minutes approved.
3. Treasurer's report.
    a. Chad absent. Emily B presented.
    b. See enclosed report.
    c. Savings account has $25000
    d. No discussion
    e. Angie H motioned, Lina C second. Report approved.
4. Special visitor Q&A.
    a. Williamston community school Board members - Jeff W, Greg T, Chris L - present to answer questions.
    b. Discussed upcoming Board meetings and schedule. Referred people to view website with upcoming dates. Discussed recent new hires for the district.
    c. Dr. Spina will speak at – Biggby on 9/15 and Parent Info Night -state of the schools – on 9/20. Dr. Spina is focused on curriculum.
    d. Explained that the Board discusses what it would like done within the District and the Superintendent and Schools accomplish those goals (implement the Board's ideas).
    e. Board does have an email – if you have concerns feel free to email.
    f. Always working on communicating and economics.
    g. Board is proud of the support from the Williamston community- 2 approved mileages to support the schools and infrastructure.
5. Members and volunteer updates.
    a. Camilla F – volunteers - going wonderful, all spots filled. We'll have things coming up – walk to school, book sale, math night. If you're not on the volunteer email list, please let her know. Gives you the opportunity to know what's coming up and what you can do if you have time. There's an online form on the PTSA webpage.

b. Emily B – membership – at this point we have 34 members. We're right on track to where we were last year. We will continue collecting membership. There's a Google Form, send the $6 in with your child, drop it off at the school. To clarify – membership isn't a fundraiser for the PTSA. The $6 goes to the state of Michigan and national association, we pay them dues. We don't make money on this. We need a minimum of 25 members to keep our charter. Last year we had just over 70.

6. Upcoming events – Emily B. Reviewed PTSA calendar, we support school events and create our own events to help offer additional enrichment events for kids.
    a. Hornet book – Angie H.
        i. Brief history of how this program developed – we have about 60 - 70 kids participating. This week kids are meeting with adults to talk about the book they read over the summer. Parents/adults were the discussion leaders. All the books are in Angie's classroom. Went well; kids were excited. Learned a lot for next year. What % of books came back? Seems like most have been returned.
        ii. Emily B. – PTSA also supports the weekend survival kits – bags that go home with students filled with food for the weekend. Last year we voted to support the kids in other ways, with books. In December and June, we provide a book to go home with the child (in their survival kit) to keep. We will continue to do that. For sustainability, we'll see if teachers want to donate any of their free Scholastic books. Last year we had 30 students that received books through this program. Emily will send Kelly C an email about this to send out to students.
    b. Parent info night – Emily B.
        i. Next Wednesday with Dr. Spina. Michelle is still covering this, she's just absent. This year we will have 2 Parent Info Nights. We'll still host the spring event for summer camps.
    c. Walk to school- Lynette P and Camilla F.
        i. Will be 10/04 - group that meets at McCormick park and we walk from the parking lot down riverside to the school. Bus kids get off at the middle school and walk over to the elementary school. If you don't want kids to participate you can call the Bus Garage and tell them. We have lots of volunteers and police present, kids love it. Parents can walk too.
        ii. We also did hearing and vision screenings the first week of school, we had lots of volunteers. Picture Day we have volunteers as well.

d. Family math – Emily B.
    i. Last year the PTSA added this new event. Will be on Friday, 9/25 (6-8 pm), free event, we'll have games and activities - wide range of games for all ages. Drop-in event. We need volunteers. Everything will be prepped, we just need help setting up/cleaning/etc. We are working with the High School Math club and Academy, hoping to get volunteers through them as well. Grandparents, nannies, neighbors – all are welcome, just need to do a background check. Sign up genius just went out for this as well.
e. Fall festival – Emily B.
    i. Amy couldn't be here. All is well and on track. Will be held on 10/13, Another free event for the kids – dance party, gym is open for basketball, and other activities, food, limbo contest, etc.
f. Fun run – Camilla F. and Christine H.
    i. Goal this year is $30,000. Only fundraiser of the year. Handouts went home with kids on Monday, 9/11. Envelopes included. As of today, we have $2,648. Every kid that comes to school the day of the Fun Run gets a prize. What we do is support the schools with this money – tech (Chromebooks), Wharton Center performance, enrichment activities (Science Alive, Swan theater, instrumental groups, Arts integration and specialist that work with each grade level). We changed the language of the policy on how to use the funds.
g. Other –
    i. Angie H – Wharton Center – we received the picks -
        1. 1st - Petra And The Wolf - in November
        2. Y5, 2 – Dragons Love Tacos And More - in January
        3. 4, 5 – The Drummers of Japan - in February
        4. 3 Clementine - in March
        5. PTSA will also pay for the bus/transportation cost. Maybe this year just ask families for donations, if they want/can.
    ii. Lina C – collect D and W receipts – turn it into the school or just send it to school with your child. When we hit $150,000 we get $1,000 for our schools. Free money. We're at $90,000 and we just started last year.
    iii. Emily B – Box Tops – we collect those as well, please send those in too. We get $0.10 per Box Top. We can also still send in Labels for Education, we are very close to getting another iPAD.

iv. Monica S - Mileage Club - we'll need lots of volunteers. Free program in the Spring. We run 3 days a week at lunch recess. Opportunity for kids to sign up through Sparrow and they earn clips for their card. We'll look at a possible scanner system for this year. Kids get their name on a board, they earn toe tokens, etc. Big push to get kindergarteners signed up because then Sparrow will follow them through the grades.

7. Communication- Emily B.
    a. Directories – John isn't here. Emily B explained what Directories are. How it earns us a little money as well. Free for families and they go home with kids.
    b. Newsletter – Emily B – monthly newsletter, goes out electronically through the schools. If you have something you want addressed/topics please let us know.
8. Other items
    a. Lynette P – last year Helga Masinda's son, Mike, passed. A buddy bench was purchased for the playground. There will probably be a dedication and explanation to the children.
    b. Emily S – snack pantry – the Williamston Food Bank helps us stock the pantry year-round. At the beginning of the year they have a hard time w/ nut free snacks. This year Many Hands helped us obtain nut free snacks.
    c. Camilla F – Discussed idea of working with Popcorn Fundraiser (Old Towne) — you buy a case of pre-popped popcorn (flavored) we buy them at $5/bag and sell at $10/bag. Propose we sell them at events we are already having. Consistent with school policy – these are all peanut tree nut free. Boy Scouts also do a big popcorn fundraiser, this would not be in direct competition with that. Options – we buy a case (PTSA) and then put up a table at the Ice Cream Social, Fall Festival, etc. Another option, sending home order forms – NO. No minimum amount we need to purchase.
    d. Discussion - $125/per teacher – that has been communicated to teachers (no double dipping), reimbursements due in May. Teachers that participate in the Wharton Center extras receive an additional $125. There are 7 this year.
    e. Emily S – please add the Art Board for donations to the newsletter.
9. Adjourn
    a. Motion – Craig D, second Lynette P. Meeting concluded at 8:27 pm.