

Willow Lane Elementary PTO Minutes for: November 16th 2009

In attendance:

Board Members: Tracy Miland, President; Amy Bachmeier, Vice-President; Julie Perreira, Co-Treasurer, Kara Andres, Co-Treasurer, Carrie Sunder, Secretary; Scott Keen, Teacher; Barb Kearn, Principal

Coordinators/Chairs: Heather Karls, volunteer; Carrie Brumond, co-yearbook; Jennifer Tantuu, Bingo; Patty Erickson, Art/Science; Tonya Sisterman, bulletin; Patty Nelson, carnival-affle

PTO Members: Gina Meyer, Mary Pokorny, Jenni St. Cyr, Jeni Hamlin, Margaret Messerschmidt, Mary Jane Marier, Suzanne Hardee-Gillman, Tamiko Edwards, Mewnika Brown, Cheryl Eterno, Jenifer Hamlin, Jessica Elbing, Kirk Miland, Kurt Berends, Laurie Blandino, Shannon Johnson, Julia Ekherth, Kathy Manke, Erin Maas, Sara Greenbaum,

The meeting was called to order by Tracy Miland at 6:30. Informed audience of change in agenda.

PTO Business; Fundraising:

Culver's: To take place Tuesday, November 17th. Sign food-runners up with Carrie Sunder.

Geckler: Proceeds significantly less than last year income. Overall all schools showing deficits attributed to the economy. Geckler has guaranteed our previous year's proceeds: \$8800

School Dance: Great success. Between 140-150 students plus their families attended! Incredible job done by Mr. Keen who DJ'd and kept the kids entertained the whole evening. Thank you Andy and Michon Sommers!!

Spirit Wear: Over \$500 of spirit wear was sold at the dance!

Introduction of Superintendent Dr. Lovett:

Dr. Lovett presented the programmatic changes for District 624(available at www.whitebear.k12.mn.us) They include: Lowering class size average; High School Remediation; Technology; Early Childhood Funding; Co-Curricular Opportunities; New Partnerships; STEM Initiatives; Collaboration of Interventions; Comprehensive School Transition Support (WEB, CAMP); Orchestra
New district proposals:

- Develop measures of student success and plan for accountability and reporting.
- Continue to complete phase one of planning for long range facility needs by looking at: elementary school choice given new IB option; consideration of the demographic shift of the population of WBL; continue to look for partnership opportunities; and look at long range usage of facilities.
- Ongoing financial stewardship on investments and budget management.
- Communication and Marketing- goals and needs.
- Strategic Planning; How are we going to get there?
- Operational Improvements.

Questions:

How will the new IB school at Parkview/Centerpoint affect the demographics at Willow?

There will be a 'redrawing' of existing attendance boundaries, but with very little difference for the first year. Must wait and see how the choice given to families will affect attendance numbers. Need to keep Willow an attractive option for families.

How do you anticipate class size each year? Elementary schools must wait to see who enrolls. Marketing in the area by the school could help.

District school safety: At Willow there are security codes, new keys for limited access. WBL Police did a safety audit and mentioned the idea of having a controlled access entry way but budget constraints make that difficult.

4th grade class size: Wait and see through-out the year, keeping a close eye on it.

World Language, how and when: Will see after strategic planning, must find out the priority of community vs spending limitations.

Why isn't there a full-time media specialist? The school is too small to support the salary of full-time specialist.

Why is money being spent on busing to Parkview/Centerpoint?: It is a 30-year program with high user loyalty. IB must be made available to all students. Level of commitment of the community is strong, and needs to be maintained, needs to be inclusive.

Introduction of new math curriculum Expressions (Kathy Menke/Erin Maas):

Expressions curriculum values: deep knowledge of math, problem solving, persistence and confidence and encourages a deeper understanding behind the math to prepare learners for algebra and beyond. There is a website for the students to visit to get more practice and learn more about the curriculum: www.eduplace.com.

PTO Closing Business:

October minutes: Tonya moved, seconded. *Motion carried.*

Website: PTO has a new website, find out by following the PTO link on Willow's web page!

Future Business:

- Art residency presentation by Mr. Keen
- PTO By-Laws: vote to approve
- Climb Teachers (Title One); Who are they? What do they do?

8:15 Meeting Adjourned