**Waukee PTO Meeting – Tuesday, January 12th, 2016**

Attendance:  5 parents and 1 staff member (Adam Shockey, Principal)

**Agenda:**

* Welcome Sheri
* Treasurer’s Report and Fundraising Update Patty
* Adam’s Corner: News from the Principal’s Office Adam
* Old Business: New Family Rep (Karen), Change Wars Various

(Nicole), WMS Night (Sheri), Iowa Wild (Sheri) MakerSpace (Patty)

* New Business: Idea Planning for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week Various
* Upcoming Events

**Treasurer’s Report and Fundraising Update**

Patty, WMS PTO Treasurer and Fundraising Chair, gave an update on the budget. Our current PTO balance is $7,887.01. In late December, the PTO gave a donation to Mr. Shockey for $15,000! This money will purchase 30 iPads and cases for the school. In fact, since the active PTO began at WMS, 75 iPads have been purchased. This is a great accomplishment and one that wouldn’t have been possible without the generous donations of both time and money by many WMS student families. Thank you to each of you for playing a role in improving technology availability at our school!

The school was also notified of coming in second place for the Warrior Lanes Kids’ Bowl Free contest winning the school an additional $200! This was a nice surprise, and we want to do even more to promote this event this summer, so watch for flyers coming out in May.

**Adam’s Corner: News from the Principal’s Office**

Principal Shockey discussed the upcoming Parent Night #3 on January 21st where parents walk their student’s schedule and hear from their teachers about what they’ll be learning this second semester.

Also upcoming is February Iowa Assessments. Students should take these tests seriously, but also need to keep in mind this is just another data point used to evaluate student performance, and all other aspects (classroom performance, other standardized testing, etc.) need to be factored into to assess the student’s complete performance. The key with these assessments is to learn where the student is with their learning in order to provide them with the type of instruction and learning they need tailored to their personal capabilities.

Parent Night #4 is also coming up in February on the 24th and 25th when students share what they are working on in each class.

**New Family Representative**

Karen Labenz shared that new families interested in connecting with an experienced Waukee parent have been matched up. At the end of the year, we will gather feedback from both sets of parents to factor into how we design this for the start of next school year.

**School Supply Drive**

Nicole McComas coordinated the school’s change drive. The 6th Grade Gold team won the event donating a total of $163.75, and a total of $235.12 was raised. We will be adding the $200 from the Warrior Lanes win to this amount, so will have $435.12 to spend on additional supplies. Office Max has agreed to offer us a discount as well, so this will allow our money to go further.

**WMS Night at Granite City**

The second WMS Night at Granite City Dine to Donate will be held on Thursday, January 28th. The event will be publicized at Parent Night on the 21st, in Adam’s Monday announcements and on Facebook. Just bring a flyer or show your phone, and 12.5% of the proceeds will go to WMS!

**WMS Night at the Iowa Wild Game**

All families are invited to join us for Waukee Middle School Night with the Iowa Wild at Wells Fargo Arena on February 5th at 7pm when the Iowa Wild takes on the Chicago Wolves!  Tickets are only $15, and each attendee will receive a free Iowa Wild hat, valued at $20.  The order forms are included as part of Mr. Shockey’s weekly email, including an order form to be turned back in to the school along with a check payable to Waukee Middle School PTO.  Students should plan to return order forms and payment to the front office the week of January 18-22nd.

**MakerSpace**

The MakerSpace development is underway. Kelly Reinhold will be sharing al list of needed items with Patty Avilez next week to determine what PTO can donate to the cause.

**Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week**

The group shared ideas for the May Teacher/Staff Appreciation week. Ideas included:

* Coffee via Cart: handcrafted coffees, hot chocolate, or apple cider served to teachers during a 2-hour time period – Janis Simmons checked into this, and the group thought this was a great idea
* Flavored popcorn – Janis Simmons is also going to check into this further; could do this along with other snacks on the Wednesday since it’s an early out
* Thank you notes for students to write to teachers. We could consider using a big piece of paper on the wall and then do sticky notes on the wall or hand out half sheets of paper at lunch and ask students to write note about the teacher. We could pass them out the week of the 25th at lunch. We could also use colored paper and cut them out in circles. Or, we could send out a survey, select the teacher, send to parents and ask them to complete it. Adam will send a note to Trudy and Lindsay to see what ideas they have for collecting thank you’s.

A tentative plan for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week:

* Coffee bar; Patty will ask for donations for pastries for 100 staff
* Thank you notes
* Snacks for early out (popcorn)
* Lunch – Chick Fila (Patty checking into their catering offers), Agave Grill (would they donate meat – Karen Labenz will check into this), Machine Shed (Nicole McComas checking into baked potato bar)
* Lunch (Adam said the administration will provide this meal) and Desserts (Costco sheet cakes)

We’d also like to plan some giveaways for teachers during the upcoming Teacher/Staff Appreciation events (breakfast and Teacher Appreciation Week). Ideas include: coffee travel mugs, water bottles, pens, and gift cards to local merchants. The group agreed to contact local businesses to begin collecting gift cards.

**Upcoming Events:**

* Curriculum Night/Parent Night #3: January 21st (teacher meal: lasagna, from Biaggi’s, salad, bread)
* Dine to Donate at Granite City: January 28th
* Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast: February 5th
* WMS Night at the Iowa Wild: February 5th
* Conference Meals: February 24th and 25th
* Spring Tailgate: TBD
* Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: May 2nd through 6th

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, February 9th at 7pm in the WMS Media Center**