**Waukee PTO Meeting – Tuesday, October 13th, 2015**

Attendance:  8 parents and 1 staff member (Adam Shockey, Principal)

**Agenda:**

* Welcome and PTO Calendar Sheri
* Treasurer’s Report and Fundraising Update Patty
* Adam’s Corner: News from the Principal’s Office Adam
* New Business: New Family Rep (Karen), Staff Various Appreciation (Janis), Book Fair (Tamera/Patty), Volunteers Needed (Sheri/Patty), Additional Ideas (Sheri)

**Welcome/PTO Calendar and Open Dates**

PTO VP, Sheri Hasan, welcomed parents and staff to the second PTO meeting and reviewed the current PTO Calendar, which has been updated with dates for PTO activities.

**Treasurer’s Report and Fundraising Update**

Patty Avilez, PTO Treasurer, provided an update on the Great American Fundraiser and Direct Donation campaign. Direct donations to date total $6,730 (this compares to last year’s total for the full year of $5,885). For the Great American sales, preliminary numbers, which do not include postcard sales (these sales will come in throughout the year), total $8,122. We receive 40% of total sales, so from this portion, we are at around $3,250. Our fundraising contact is estimating we’ll come in around $12,000 in profit.

We did receive some negative feedback regarding the Power Hour event held at school. School time allocated to this year’s fundraising approach was less than in prior years. However, we do assess all aspects of the fundraiser, including parent feedback, and will take all into consideration when determining future efforts. For example, should we limit fundraising to only Direct Donations to simplify suggesting an amount each family could donate to reach our goal? Some of the elementary schools are going to this, so we should consider this approach as well.

With current fundraising results included, our PTO budget stands at $14,214.34.

There was a question about the purpose of the fundraising. Fundraising dollars will be given to the school to purchase additional technology for the school. Last year, the school was able to purchase 45 iPads with funds raised. It is a District decision not to purchase individual technology, like Chrome books, for students, in part due to our inability to staff support staff to service this many devices. However, students can bring their own technology to school including iPads, iPods, etc. And, the library even has a program through Wilbur to “rent” online books for up to 2 weeks at a time.

The group discussed the need to get the word out about how funds were/are being used. Karen Labenz is going to draft communication we can send out with a more final fundraising total.

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

As part of the weekly announcements, Adam explained the new approach to conferences this year. Students will lead conversations about what they’re doing in each class with their families, which allows them to celebrate progress and take ownership for their work. Parents will choose a 90-minute timeframe vs a specific time, and parents and students will move between classes. Parents can talk to teachers on Conference Night, but are also encouraged to engage with teachers ongoing via email, blogs, PowerSchool, etc.

As part of Adam’s message, he shared a video (<https://youtu.be/WqzRLXFgLgYl>) to show what it will look like. The Canyon Creek login system will be available to sign up on Monday, October 19th. Conferences will be held on November 4th (early dismissal) and the night of the 5th (two separate times).

**New Family Representative**

As a follow-up to last meeting’s conversation, Karen Labenz shared the results of the new student parent survey. There are 59 new families, and we received 22 returned surveys, 37%. Overall findings concluded:

* Parents don’t want a parents-only activity, but would prefer activities including both parents and students
* They appreciated the segregated orientation for new students
* They’d like a way for students to get connected sooner with other students of the same gender
* They’d appreciate knowing more about the community, events, when signups are, and maybe even having another family connection with someone familiar with the school/area so they could reach out with questions.

This was all good input for next year’s new student connection work, and the PTO is considering ways we could incorporate some of the feedback yet this school year.

**Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast**

The Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast is all set for Friday, October 23rd. Janis Simmons coordinated this event for the PTO, and was overwhelmed by the quick response from parents. The breakfast will include: Casey’s breakfast pizza, muffins, donuts, and juice. We will also include a reminder in the announcements to encourage students to say, Thank You!” to their teachers and school staff for all they do to make WMS a great school.

For the next breakfast in February, additional ideas include bagels and cream cheese from Panera, bananas, applies, oranges, etc. Kari Lang will coordinate this breakfast.

**Book Fair**

Tamera Shumaker and Patty Avilez will coordinate this year’s Book Fair working with WMS Librarian, Kelly Reinhold. The Book Fair will be held November 2nd through November 5th. This year’s theme is Zombies. A Sign-up Genius will go out next Monday asking for parent volunteers. There will also be a jar to guess the number of pieces of candy. The teacher preview will be on November 2nd 7:15 to 8:00.am.

**Conference Meals: November 4th and 5th**

Nicole McComas and Patty Avilez will coordinate Fall Conference Meals. We will have snacks for the first day on the 4th with dinner on the 5th. The group suggested Jimmy John’s sandwiches might be a good option for the 5th. A Sign-Up Genius will be going out toward the end of October.

**Additional Volunteers Secured**

* January 21st Curriculum Night Meal: Karen Labenz
* February Spring Conferences on the 24th and 25th: Tamera Shumaker

**Additional Ideas for Activities**

School Supply Drive:

6th Grade School Counselor, Trudy Vande Kamp, had suggested a fall School Supply Drive to replenish supplies for students who didn’t have what they needed. Several PTO members belong to Lutheran Church of Hope, and suggested they will likely donate additional supplies like they did at the start of the school year donating 20 or so backpacks stuffed with supplies. Nicole McComas offered to check with Hope to see if this could be arranged again. Adam also agreed to check with the staff to gather a list of what was needed.

Spirit Night:

Several schools have sponsored Spirit Night at local businesses where a portion of sales are donated to the school. There was a new option to do this through Granite City where 10% of proceeds (including catering, gift cards, and all sales) would go to WMS PTO. Sheri contacted Granite City, and we are going with November 16th as WMS Night Dine to Donate. Granite City will produce the flyers, and we will distribute at school, on Facebook, etc. Parents just need to show a flyer or their phone with the message from Adam about the night or the Facebook post to get credit.

MakerSpace:

The PTO also agreed to use some of the funds originally allocated for activities ($500) to provide supplies for this new space coordinated by Kelly Reinhold. This will be a great way to benefit all students and allow them to apply creativity outside the classroom. Patty will ask Kelly Reinhold for a list of items to purchase.

Tailgate:

We talked about organizing a fun family tailgate event, maybe in April aligned to the track meet. Adam will check on the schedule to allow us to plan for a date.

Teacher Appreciation Week: May 2-6

This is the last event of the year, and we still do need a volunteer to help coordinate this event. All interested parents can attend an upcoming PTO meeting to express interest or can contact Sheri Hasan, ih966@msn.com, to inquire about how to get involved.

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th at 7pm in the WMS Media Center**