**Waukee PTO Meeting – Tuesday, November 10th, 2015**

Attendance: 7 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
* Old Business: New Family Rep (Karen), Conf. Meals Misc. (Nicole/Patty), Book Fair (Tamera/Patty), MakerSpace (Patty)
* New Business: School Supply Drive (Nicole), WMS Night Misc.

at Granite City (Sheri), Tailgate for Spring (Adam)

* Upcoming Events: Curriculum Night (Jan. 21), Teacher/Staff Sheri Appreciation Breakfast (Feb. 5), Tailgate (TBD), Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (May 2-6)

**Welcome/PTO Calendar and Open Dates**

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

**Treasurer’s Report/Fundraising Update:**

* $4,748.51 from Great American fundraiser thus far ($9,300 last year total) with an additional $7,000 in direct donations. We anticipate additional profits to come in from Great American through January, so a final total is not yet known.
* Total available funds $17,766.81, with $9,308 slated to come out for additional budgeted items (conf. meals, fundraising prizes, etc.).
* Haven’t gotten a breakdown yet from the fundraiser by magazine sales or tumblers, but have requested this.
* Tumblers came in unsorted, so Patty is going to go in this week to assist with this. We need to pass this along to our organizer, as this wasn’t to be the case.
* As for the fundraiser as a whole, there was a lot of confusion around the postcards, what parents were supposed to do, etc. Need to consider this when planning next year’s fundraiser.
* Discussed again the need to state the purpose of the fundraising is so it’s clearer to the parents and students how the funds will be used. We will need to push out the communication.
* When we get the funds in January, cut the check right away so kids can use the technology yet this year. We receive discounts on the Apple products so plan for iPads to be purchased again this year. Karen Labenz will draft something on this.
* Another idea was mentioned for the direct donations - could also consider using RevTrack for parent donations; there is a fee either the parent or PTO would need to pay

**Adam’s Corner:**

Parent Night (or Conferences) was held and a big hit. Adam shared a video created from the pictures taken by a teacher of the evening and conversations with students. While there was some that expressed dissatisfaction with the format, most of the feedback was positive. The intent was to allow students to showcase their work and for them to take ownership of the progress they are making. Adam said the experience of walking around the classrooms and seeing all the smiles, laughter, and hearing students talk about their learning was such a powerful night vs in prior years, feeling stressed because of being behind, waiting in lines, etc. Teacher 1:1 may be missed, but there was still time to talk to the teacher that night, or parents can always follow up with the teacher at any time. A survey will be sent out to request additional feedback on the new format.

The group then discussed PowerSchool questions and wondered if there was a PowerSchool 101 class offered, as grades were confusing. Adam said he hadn’t heard this feedback in a while, but will look into offering this. Adam explained that the standards-based grading is looking at the full body of evidence as a way to assess student performance. If students are assessed multiple times on a specific skill, they have more evidence to get a more complete picture.

**New Family Representative:**

Karen provided an update as a follow up to the new parent survey. She sent out an email to 56 addresses (heard back from ten) regarding interest in matching up new parents with seasoned parents as a way to ask questions, seek support, etc. Three of the ten said they were interested with the remaining seven stating to keep this idea in mind for next year. Of the three, Karen is going to follow up again to ask the gender of their student so we can match up these parents yet this year, and then we’ll keep the idea in mind for August. When we have a new set of parents. Then, we could name parents in advance. For this year, once we know the genders, we can ask for volunteers of parents with the same gender student.

**Conference Meals:**

Conference meals were a success. In addition to the meals, Nicole purchased some water bottles and filled them with mints to raffle off for the teachers. Teacher feedback was great, and the food quantity was on target. One idea was to find out additional ideas and teacher preferences via a survey or for Adam to include in his staff announcements.

**Book Fair:**

The Book Fair was held during conferences and was a success. The students helped decorate for the zombie theme, even some of them dressing up as zombies (with makeup by a 7th grade student) to walk around during conferences. There was a total of $2,800 raised in Scholastic credit for the library with total sales at $5,667.

**MakerSpace:**

Patty continues to work with the school librarian, Kelly Reinhold, to come up with a list of items to donate to the MakerSpace. There was also mentioned there is a current MakerSpace for the public across from Central Campus, 515 MakerSpace. The PTO will donate $500 from Activity Budget to allocate to this from the original $3,000 budget. Staff is thinking about making this available during study halls and before or after school. They do have supervision lined up, and want it to be accessible for all students.

**School Supplies:**

Given the number of recent parent donation requests, we decided to hold off on this for now. However, we want to be able to meet the need. Adam mentioned there are still supplies left from the initial donation made by the Lutheran Church of Hope, but he was going to check with Trudy VandeKamp to make sure. The group is considering a change drive asking students to get involved with a competition between advisories with four groups (purple and gold for each class) that would last a week. Nicole has also reached out to Office Max to see if they could donate supplies. We will discuss this further at our December PTO meeting.

**WMS Night at Granite City:**

WMS Night is November 16th, where 10% of total sales from WMS families will be donated back to the school. Table sales as well as gift card purchases and take-out are included. We are publicizing this via flyers to students, Adam’s announcements, the team announcements, and on our Facebook page. Please come out and support WMS!

**Tailgate Date:**

Adam is checking on a date that may work in the spring for this event. We are targeting a track event.

**Upcoming Events:**

* **Curriculum Night on January 21st:** Karen Labenz will coordinate the meal.
* **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast on February 5th:** Kari Lang will coordinate.
* **Conference Meals February 24-25:** Tamera Shumaker will coordinate. An idea of a baked potato bar (potatoes from Iowa Machine Shed) was suggested.
* **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week:** Nicole McComas offered to help with this, and we’d like to do the Wufu idea used last year for students to write why they appreciate their teacher. These will then be read throughout the week over the school intercom. Suggestions for teacher items include: gifts to open up, purple colored paper clips, sticky notes, highlighters, etc.

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, December 8th at 7pm in the WMS Media Center**