**Waukee PTO Meeting – Tuesday, February 9th, 2016**

Attendance:  6 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: School Supply Drive (Nicole), WMS Night at Granite City (Sheri), Iowa Wild (Sheri) MakerSpace (Patty), Various

Parent Night (Karen), Teacher/Staff App. Breakfast (Kari)

* New Business: 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 $8,175.41. We earned $112 on the Iowa Wild tickets and another $74.25 from the Dine to Donate at Granite City. The group also discussed fundraising options for next year including more of these extra events.

Upcoming expenses budgeted for the remainder of the year include: Teacher Appreciation, Conference Meals, Maker’s Space funding, and an additional $2500 for a student event or activity.

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

Principal Shockey discussed teacher professional development. The teachers read a book, “Teach Like a Pirate”. They are building on this focusing on the inquiry process and are using the pirate ship as a metaphor with the process as the vessel, sails the teams, and the goal or destination is to increase the percentage of 6th and 7th grade students meeting or exceeding their target growth as measured by the 2015-2016 MAP math total.

They are also focused on interdisciplinary work and critical thinking and have asked teachers to come up with ideas for making connections between one class or area of learning to the next. This will allow students to apply skills learned in different subjects across the learning experience and use in other classes. For example, an Egypt project connected several teachers or subjects. PE is working with Science on muscle development and endurance. In music class, the students are talking about balance and can connect to other classes where balance is a concept students learn.

Critical thinking is also an important skill. If we can teach our students to think, we can solve problems and build better life skills. Adam shared an article, “Critical Thinking: Developing Reasoned Thought” with the group.

Last year, the focus was on learning across literacy and building reading strategies across content areas. They then moved to comprehension strategies. At the end of the year, staff members identified their experience with visuals representing their learning and bound the ideas in a book entitled, “None of us are as Smart as All of Us”.

There was a question about class choice in middle school. Adam responded that although there’s less choice, it’s more about the experience. Each elective is part of a strand that will run through high school, for example, Gateway to Engineering connects to the engineering classes, There is Exploratory Spanish and Exploratory German with a taste of foreign languages, etc.

**School Supply Drive**

Nicole McComas coordinated the school’s supply drive. All school supplies have been purchased and donated to the school. Thanks, Nicole for coordinating this event!

**Parent Night Meal**

The third parent night on January 21st was a huge success, and so was the delicious meal from Biaggi’s coordinated by Karen Labenz – thank you! Teachers and staff appreciated the delicious meal donated by parents and want to pass on their sincere appreciation for the meal.

**WMS Night at Granite City**

The second WMS Night at Granite City Dine to Donate was held on Thursday, January 28th. The event raised $74.25. We will also be planning a third night where WMS will receive 15% of the proceeds. Thank you to all who came out to support WMS!

**WMS Night at the Iowa Wild Game**

The WMS Night was held on February 5th. We raised $112 in ticket sales with $4 from each purchased ticket going to the PTO. Thanks to all parents and family that purchased tickets. Those attending said it was a fun night, so the PTO will likely offer this event again.

**Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast**

Kari Lang coordinated a teacher/staff appreciation breakfast on February 5th. Local businesses supported the event by donating food including: Cash Saver (100 bananas and 100 apples), Fareway (6 gallons orange juice), Costco (oatmeal) and Krispy Kreme (5 dozen donuts). These businesses were very generous, and the WMS PTO thanks them for their donation. We will be sending thank you notes to express our thanks. And, thanks to Kari for coordinating the breakfast!

**MakerSpace**

The MakerSpace development is underway. Kelly Reinhold has shared a list of needed supplies, and Patty Avilez, who is coordinating this event, will be purchasing these on behalf of the PTO.

**Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week**

The group continued discussing 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 is coordinating, and has secured this service. The UPS store is also donating cards that say, “Thanks a Latte” we’ll pass out to teachers and staff to allow them to turn in for their coffee. In addition, Patty Avilez is checking with Hy-Vee to ask them for a donation of pastry items.
* We plan to coordinate snacks for Wednesday for the early out.
* We’ll also have thank you notes for students to write to teachers. Several parents offered to coordinate this by purchasing paper, cutting it out in circles, and then the school will ask students to write notes to teachers. We will pass them out the week of the 25th at lunch.
* Lunch – Chick Fila seems to be the best option for catering the meal (Patty is coordinating this and will check on how they can keep the food hot). Karen also checked with Agave Grill for just taco meat to have a taco bar and will report back what she finds.
* 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 has started collecting gift cards from local businesses and will continue to collect more in the coming months.

**Upcoming Events:**

* Conference Meals: February 24th and 25th (will be Mexican food)
* Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: May 2nd through 6th

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