

**Willard PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**October 2, 2017**  
**Willard LLC**

**In attendance:**

Laura Huseby, Laura Minnis, Caren Teclaw, Jeff Bachner, Alissa Digman, Elizabeth Stoker, Gwen Geraghty, Beth Vlerick, Mary Lynn, Natasha Von Roenn, Erin Llanes, Jenni Townsend, Diane Wood

**Laura Huseby:**

Call to Order 7:05pm

**Principal's Report, Diane Wood:**

Thank you to the PTO for the Empathy assembly. Ideas and examples of Empathy versus Sympathy were presented. Students were excited to see Imagination Theater sign. The students were able to comment and participate with the actors in role-play. During the half day In-service on Friday, September 22, the faculty attended a workshop from the National Equity Project. The presentation included ideas related to implicit bias. Staff also learned about "priming" through a short video called: 6 photographers - 1 man - 6 perspectives. Ms. Wood recommends it. You can find it on You Tube. It presents the idea of how a person's perspective or thoughts about something or someone can be influenced based on what they know or think they know. All 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes led the Town Hall meeting on Monday. They did a great job sharing recent math learning through SeeSaw and reading aloud some of their writing. They also presented a fun video on Growth Mindset. As a follow up to fall benchmarking, next week staff will meet in teams for GPS - Group Planning for Students. They discuss ideas such as: What do the kids need? Who needs intervention, enrichment, etc.? October is safety month at Willard.. In the coming weeks students will practice lock down, fire, earthquake, bus evacuation and tornado drills. Principal Wood has been meeting with the PTO Chairs for several events. Hats off to everyone for planning ahead and attending to all the details! As a reminder, please get a Building Utilization Form from Silvia whenever you need to reserve or request space at school and to take down any posters/flyers you put up to promote an event. Laura Minnis asked about amending the BUF to indicate trash and recycling needs. The Parent Teacher Conference system opens on Tuesday. Even though it is a long weekend, please schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher. If you can't be in town, they are happy to set up a phone conference during conferences. The COW Meeting is Tuesday. Draft drawings for expanding space at Willard is on the agenda.

**PTO Presidents' Report, Laura Huseby and Laura Minnis:**

LH: School pictures are on Wed., Oct 4.

Pancake Breakfast was a success. 325 attendees. 24 Dads. Brian M. said next year we don't need so many dads on duty.

Open House was a full house. We had a lot of parents attend.

An old laptop for the PTO Secretary was recycled.

In the next few weeks, LH and LM will go through the attic and recycle, repurpose or give away. We need more storage and may buy shelving units to organize.

Erin Llanes asked if we can use the storage space for PTO stuff and Laura Huseby replied that yes, you can as long as it's in an appropriate storage container and labeled.

LH presented a thank you note from Ann Pesce for the retirement gift from the PTO.

The PTO has purchased a 10x10 pop up tent for PTO events, including use for the Welcome Wagon and any outside events (Field Day, Ice Cream Social, etc.). It will be stored by Mr. Bean.

**Secretary's Report, Caren Teclaw**

Approved the minutes from the August 28, 2017, PTO Meeting

**Treasurer's Report, Ginger Riessen**

No updates

**VP of Volunteer's Report, Gwen Geraghty**

All spots are filled for parent socials. Still need a few room parents and art parents. The first orientation was well attended. Introducing a new service learning component for room parties. For at least one party per year, room parents should include a service learning activity through which students can do good for others in the community. A director of Sarah's Inn is a Willard parent and will reach out to all the local charities and give a list to Gwen.

Laura Minnis suggested using SignUp Genius for parents to collect money for teacher gifts. Gwen will reach out to SignUp Genius to see how it works.

**VP of Technology's Report, Katherine Nix and Andrea Morowczynski**

Not much new on the Web Store although for the first time raffle tickets are for sale online. Feedback about your experience buying tickets, or anything else on the Web Store is always welcome.

The Web Store team has long wanted to give committee chairs the ability to run their own RevTrak reports to stay current on ticket sales, registrations, etc. Andrea is creating a tutorial for this and we may ask some of you with upcoming events/activities to test out these new procedures so we can troubleshoot as needed before the tutorial is final.

**VP of Communications, John Beck**

No report

**School Board Liaisons, Erica Bachner, Melissa Healy, and Todd Moore**

No report

**Pancake Breakfast:**

See President's Report

**Yoga, Caren Teclaw**

All 20 spots are filled for yoga and it began on Thursday, September 28 without a hitch! A second session of yoga is scheduled for the spring.

**Fall Raffle, Mary Lynn**

Raffle is Friday, October 13. We will do a live drawing on the playground (in the gym if it rains). Last day of sales are Wednesday, October 11. Up to this point, PTO has made about \$100 - \$150 at the Pancake Breakfast. There was only one table to share with the Spirit Wear. Diane Wood said to ask for a second table.

**Dance, Alissa Digman**

Note the conflict of the dance and the raffle only a week apart - may be too much and overwhelming for parents. Suggestion from Mary Lynn: maybe next year draw raffle prizes at the Pancake Breakfast. Piggyback starting raffle sales with Spirit Wear. Suggestion from Jenni Townsend: Maybe sell at Open House when most parents are there.

The same DJ from last year will be at the dance with the hype dancers. Theme is ALL PURPLE. No taping Diane Wood to the wall this year. Instead she will wear a big purple blow up suit if we sell enough tickets (whatever the goals is). We can sell tickets for that on the Web Store too and if enough are sold maybe Diane can do something on Friday before the dance. TBD. Volunteers are still needed to work the dance. Two purple airmen will advertise the dance and those can be used for other events too.

### **Restaurant Nights, Natasha Von Roenn**

Portillo's Night is tomorrow from 5 - 8. You have to show the actual flyer or show it on your phone. How does the money get to the school? Good question. It should be sent to the school in the care of Willard PTO. Follow up with Portillo's.

### **Hospitality**

No report

### **Family Reading Night**

Tom Watson, author of *Stick Dog*, will come in. The theme is illustrators. Kids will do posters to welcome him. Maybe a VIP parking spot for him with a sign?

### **Book Fair, Beth Vlerick**

Book Fair will be in the library. STEM and Library will be in classrooms during the event. We will use both sides of the library. Dates are November 7 - 10 (7th is the set up day, actual fair is 8th, 9th and 1/2 of 10th).

A link will be available to order online.

One Book, One District book is *Growth Mindset* and that will be at the Book Fair.

SEL titles will also be available.

Book Fair will be promoted at Parent/Teacher Conferences

### **Kindly Wizards, Jeff Bachner and Colette Basil**

Jeff reported the the 3rd and 4th graders will be separate groups. Sign up wasn't ideal. There is a limit for each group. Now there is a waitlist. Please email Jeff if you would like your child on the waitlist. The two themes are Hunger and Homelessness in the fall and Inclusivity in the spring. Question from Gwen Geraghty: How can we have more kids in it? We need a way to make it work. Such an important, good group.

Challenges are that it's only one hour and the kids must have lunch and there will usually be a speaker and an activity. Space and classroom management are issues. Further discussion about ways to expand.

### **Connect4Kids, Elizabeth Stoker and Jenni Townsend**

ES: We had five attendees at the first meeting, which was focused on "Making Morning Routines Run More Smoothly." It wasn't enough time and we didn't get through all of the material. Willard C4K met with Lincoln C4K and the goals differ slightly at this point. Team is working on a plan to make it work. One idea is a newsletter and another is a guest speaker district-wide.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Laura Huseby**

Adjourned at 8:17pm