

**Willard PTO Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2017
Willard Teacher's Lounge**

In attendance:

Diane Wood, Laura Huseby, Laura Minnis, John Beck, Caren Teclaw, Todd Moore, Sara Wienkes, Natasha Von Roenn, Beth Vlerick, Ashby Mims

Laura Huseby:

Call to order at 7:01pm

Principal's Report, Diane Wood

Big thanks for Book Fair and Family Reading Night to chairs.

Data Review on Wednesday. Every 6-8 weeks, teachers meet in grade level teams to share ideas on students and what's working and what needs improvement.

Construction Update: Electrician has been at Willard recently. Formal walk through will happen this month to shore up details and then it will go out to bid. Keep in mind that construction will start immediately after school is out.

Four teachers are having babies this school year: Mrs. Bynum, Mrs. Zika, Mrs. Huska and Mrs. Bradford. We are in the process of finding subs and we treat it like we would hiring staff.

Every building has a BLT (Building Leadership Team) and we meet once a month to talk about school issues and events coming up.

December is a festive month, but it's important to keep as much structure and routine to keep children focus and not get overwhelmed.

Early dismissal on 12/22 at 2:30.

President's Report, Laura Huseby

Trying to coordinate with the One District, One Book initiative, Growth Mindset. Working on January 11 (look in the Wizard Weekly) to get an event for discussion.

Fun Lunch milk cooler/refrigerator - please be careful when opening. It's very heavy, so please be very careful.

Staff Luncheon Sign Up still has open spots. Please sign up!

If you have a Jan., event, please get info to Katherine Nix before the holidays.

Report, Secretary, Caren Teclaw

Minutes from the November PTO Meeting are approved.

Presented thank you cards from staff for dinners during Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Report, Vice President of Volunteers, Gwen Geraghty (report by Laura H.)

Still in need of volunteers for the staff holiday luncheon.

Gwen will send out a reminder about collecting for room parent gifts, food, etc.

Report, School Board Liaison, Todd Moore

By 2122, the school board announced our district will be \$3.7 million in deficit spending. Also, 54% or more of teachers at Willard missed 10 or more days during the last school year. Principal's note: in the past, ISBE never took teacher attendance; it's new this year. Facilities report and budget is January 9, at 7pm at Roosevelt is COW meeting: \$1.8 million project at Willard. Because it's not taking up more real estate, it's considered a remodel. Willard families should attend to get information. See Board of Education website for plans and more info.

If you go to the north end of Willard, primary construction is going on top of that wing. It was built to support construction.

Board adopted advanced notice before viewing R rated movies.

Family Reading Night

Tom Watson was here and the kids were really engaged. Teachers had good breakout activities afterwards and it worked out well.

Book Fair, Beth Vlerick

Event was fiscally successful. We made so much money at the book fair and we were able to take the surplus in books and cash. We sold almost \$14,000 in books and we chose to take 45% in books and 25% if you choose to take it in cash. There is library need and classroom need, but having both books and cash option (cash goes to PTO) is best of both worlds. PTO gave over \$600 dollars to families at Willard. Almost \$1000 was donated by a family to teacher bucks.

Challenges: We had such a hard time with technology (laptops weren't working on Family Reading Night), etc. It is such a commitment; you're managing a store basically for four days and Anderson is a little behind in the tech component.

Couple of observations from Todd Moore, is a Saturday possible?

Can the wish list aspect be tweaked a little because many books on the wish list seemed to be gone already.

Legacy Sports Camp

Underway in January. All spots are filled. There is a waitlist.

Fourth Grade Science Club

Sign ups are Wednesday, club runs January - April. Only open to 4th graders.

Fun Lunch

New sign ups will come out after break

Math Fest, Sara Wienkes

Event is January 28. Dennis Watkins, magician, who was here last year will be there again. In terms of games, we're bring in new games to engage 3rd and 4th grade a little more. New games include, Crypto Cards, Fraction Squares, Block by Block, Geo Sticks. New games explore math concepts instead of just finding answers. New plan is to keep 3rd and 4th graders in the auditorium and create a geo board with the students. Sign Up Genius looking for volunteers will go out soon. We are looking for prizes and games for the event. We need another committee member.

Science Fest, Ashby Mims, Natasha Von Roenn

Original idea was a solar system theme and we wanted to present it to Science Alliance, our old vendor, but his company, (Bill), cannot do it this year due to health issues. So, we are moving on to looking at two vendors:

1. GetScience.Net: Presentations in the gym and then an assembly as well as hands on stations. We could set up in hallways or classrooms. Format would be presentations, Science Magic Shows in two presentations (30 mins) and then 10 hands on stations.
2. Moblie Ed Productions (Jeff) Hands on Steam Museum, 12 stations. He needs a 50x50 space.

Still deciding on a vendor.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

8:19am