

## WMS PTSO Minutes November 5, 2008

Nikki Perk, President  
Lenore Bishop, Treasurer  
Dawn Powell-Fitch, Secretary

**Attending:** Lenore Bishop, Debbie Rude, Janet Bliden, Julie Cartier, Beth Freeby, Larry Killips

**Call to Order:** Julie Cartier (filling in for Nikki Perk) called the meeting to order at 11:32

**President's Report:** We still have the President Elect position open. Please contact Nikki Perk if you are interested. The All School Party is coming up Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, and volunteers are needed. Please contact Julie Harlen if you can help.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance \$4,825.35

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the October meeting were not presented due to secretary's absence.

### Principal's Report

- ❖ The newsletter is now being sent to West families electronically. Tracking shows a high percentage of families are viewing this online. Hard copies of the newsletter are still being sent to families without internet capabilities.
- ❖ New Para-pro's Barb McCoy and Katie Clark are setting up a literature club to help struggling students.
- ❖ Red ribbon week went well with most students participating.
- ❖ The district is still considering the possibility of building 20 tennis courts at West. A decision should be made in March.
- ❖ MEAP testing was done in October and went very well.
- ❖ Thanks to a grant, an anti-bullying survey was completed with students.
- ❖ Electronic devices are becoming more of a problem with student use during school hours, especially texting. These devices will be confiscated if found in use.
- ❖ We are expecting a 90% turnout for conferences.
- ❖ Thank you to the PTSO and West parents for providing breakfast this coming Friday.
- ❖ Automatic suspensions are given to students for inappropriate remarks at school. Parents are informed, the situation is discussed, and further recommendations are made if needed.
- ❖ A list was presented for possible PTSO financial assistance for teacher requests. These items will be discussed and voted upon at the January meeting.

**DAC Report** – Beth Freeby

The Bond projects are on track. Currently working on rubric for in district transfers for elementary students. They are also looking at substance abuse training which will start with HS teachers and counselors. A new PPS pull-out section is being included with the Portage Gazette. Parents may also sign up for email alerts for information regarding their children's school/s or district news. To do this, go to the PPS home page and click on the blue box in the lower right hand corner.

**CIC Report** – Debbie Rude

Focus now on curriculum for K-12 reading, writing and math. A formal vote will be taken this month regarding new 9<sup>th</sup> grade English materials.

**SBT Report** – Janet Bliden

Team is looking for ways to attract more teacher involvement; one possibility is to hold meetings every other month, unless a pressing issue warrants a more timely decision.

**Strengths Initiative** – Debbie Rude

West MS piloted the Clifton Strengths Explorer test last year through a grant from the Gallop Organization. There is a lack of engagement in community schools for the use of this test and funding is not available for individual schools. Therefore, future testing will not be taking place unless funds become available. A short video was viewed showing the benefits of using strengths.

There will be no December PTSO meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, 2009