

WMS PTSO Minutes October 1, 2008

Nikki Perk, President

Lenore Bishop, Treasurer

Dawn Powell Fitch/Angie Kuppler, Co-Secretaries

Attending: Lenore Bishop, Paula Awuori ,Robyn Krill, Dawn Powell-Fitch ,Julie Cartier, Janet Bliden, Sue Bourget-Coles, Terri McDonald, Deanna Rothe ,Colleen Semler, Jeanie, Jessica Vaderleen, Vicki Cessna, Joon Park, Emmy Brown, Amanda Ziemkowski, Larry Killips, Denny Roehm

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Nikki Perk at 11:35am

Minutes: Sue Bourget-Coles approved the minutes from the September 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Janet Bliden.

Treasurer Lenore Bishop presented the Treasurer's report (attached)
Other financial issues discussed: Parent asked Mr. Killips if the money in the account could be partly used for teacher's wish lists or classroom requests. He is still checking on options for that to happen.

Principal's Report: Mr. Killips handed out an agenda (see attached) and highlighted a number of areas:

Mr. Killips once again mentioned the newsletter being sent out exclusively by email. Out of the 760 or so that were sent out, only about 50 bounced back as rejected email addresses. Overall that process is going well.

There has been a new Para-pro hired to work with Barb McCoy. Her name is Katie Clark and she will focus on ELA/Math with students.

The magazine sales went very well. The sale yielded approximately \$56,000 sales, \$22,000 revenue. That amount was in alignment to last year's sales and profits, taking into consideration that this year enrollment is down a bit from last year.

It is still a possibility to bring 20 new tennis courts WMS. To combine those along with the cross country course that is currently at West, some reconstruction with the woods to make the parking lot larger could be in the future.

The Portage Cross-Country Invitational will be taking place Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4. This is the largest event of its kind in the Midwest, with expectations of approximately 10,000 people to attend.

WMS is tentatively housing the NHS Trades Classes while NHS is under construction.

DIBELS testing for 6th and 7th grades are completed. Mr. Killips reiterated the fact that at WMS we take the student's comprehension of reading and writing very seriously. By the DIBELS testing, we are making sure the student's are equipped to succeed in high school.

A parent asked if perhaps WMS could use parent helpers to sit with students, if they are having problems comprehending and Mr. Killips agreed that they could look into that after the test scores are totaled, and if needed.

Mr. Killips also touched on the upcoming MEAP testing in October and how attendance is critical during those specific days. Those dates are October 14, 16, 21, 23. It is very critical to make sure your child is in attendance as make-up tests will be problematic.

Parent Teacher Conferences are taking place November 5, 6, and 11. Forms to sign up are online. Note that these are different from PPS dates due to West being a Site Based Team.

The state requires 10 disaster drills throughout the school year and WMS is constantly tweaking these practices in a way to teach our children to keep panic and chaos to a minimum should a real disaster occur.

Mr. Killips also talked about student achievement and overall school improvement. Generally speaking, he said school is off to a great start. The 6th grade Galer team experimental learning day that was scheduled for October 2 has been canceled. It is postponed until spring, which is when the other team is scheduled. Parents expressed extreme disappointment that this event had to be cancelled and explained they felt it was not handled properly as the reason for canceling was presented on the website due to 'no volunteers'. Some felt that calls should have been made to parents asking for help and it more than likely would have been taken care of. There was also concern expressed regarding doing this learning day in the spring instead of the beginning of the year as the whole idea of the day was to be a team building and strength exploring exercise, which would be best put to use throughout the school year when fresh in the kid's minds.

New Business: Deanna Rothe explained the DAC Report, which is a group combined of a staff representative and a parent representative from each building in the district forming a committee to communicate ideas and information in order to better PPS.

The Call to Action meeting that took place September 22 was also explained. This is a new community program held at city hall. It is not school based. They will meet Monday evenings once per month and if anyone is interested in getting involved, they should contact Sarah Baker via email.

Janet Bliden expressed our need for one more parent volunteer for the Site Base committee. The Site Based team meets the second Thursday of each month for approximately one hour. Anyone interested can get an application in the office.

President's Report: We are still in need of parent volunteers for the upcoming all school party scheduled for October 10. Discussion of the pool being open remained a question; taking into consideration we need extra lifeguards. Mr. Killips will take a list of available experienced lifeguards, so it should not be an issue in the future.

Nikki introduced Amanda Ziemkowski, who has volunteered to be the conference assist chair.

Hospitality Chair, Janet Bliden explained that they will be serving the teachers breakfast in the staff lounge on Friday November 7. She is in need of hot casseroles and breakfast dishes and is looking for volunteers to help with this. The food should be at the school by 7:00AM. This is taking place of the usual lunch served during daytime conferences, since the conferences this year are all taking place in the evenings.

Nikki explained she is doing a Newcomers Coffee to welcome new friends and families to our school. She would like parents that have been in the area to volunteer to help welcome these families. This will take place October 21 at Rykse's Restaurant at 9:30AM. Anyone interested, please contact Nikki.

The media center's book sale went well. While sales were down a bit from last year, the first sale did approximately \$3800.00 in sales.

Next Meeting of the PTSO: Scheduled for November 5, 2008 at 11:30AM

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Powell-Fitch, Secretary PTSO