

WMS PTSO Minutes
September 10, 2008

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Nikki Perk at 11:30 a.m.

President's Report: Nikki Perk welcomed parents to the first meeting of the 2008-09 school year. Nikki then turned the meeting over to physical education teacher Margie Dykema.

Ms. Dykema gave an overview of the experiential learning program for 6th graders. The day consists of a variety of teambuilding exercises that are followed by debriefing sessions to discuss how the activity applies to success at West. At the conclusion of the day, students choose an accountability partner to help them throughout the year.

This year, the Nowak team will have its experiential learning day in October. The Zonts team will have its experiential learning day in the spring. The Zonts team will have a game day in the fall and the Nowak team will have a game day in the spring.

Parents expressed disappointment that the Zonts experiential learning day was in the spring since it is a teambuilding activity and the teams are only in place during this school year. Ms. Dykema acknowledged the schedule was not ideal but said that for scheduling and other reasons the Zonts team had decided to make experiential learning a culminating activity. Ms. Dykema passed around sign-up sheets for the day and then turned the meeting back to Nikki Perk.

President's Report (continued): Nikki announced that all PTSO meetings this year will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. The meetings will be kept to one hour but administrators and parents may stay afterwards to address issues that warrant more in-depth discussions.

The PTSO is seeking a parent to serve as Secretary as well as a parent to serve as President Elect. Past President Julie Cartier agreed to take minutes during the Sept meeting.

The PTSO will update its bylaws this year. There will be a procedure established for teachers to request funds from the PTSO. Principal Larry Killips will send a note to teachers asking for funding requests for this year.

Minutes Janet Bliden made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Emmy Brown and approved by the general membership.

Treasurer Lenore Bishop presented the Treasurer's report (attached).

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

Mr. Killips encouraged parents to keep in contact with him when problems arise so that they can be addressed immediately. Mr. Killips introduced Assistant Principal Denny Roehm and encouraged parents to contact him with safety concerns. Mr. Killips explained that the PTSO is a service organization in middle school, giving parents a break from fundraising. The magazine sale held in the fall is an all school fundraiser and is the only fundraiser for the school. The distribution of funds from the magazine sale is outlined in Mr. Killips' handout. Mr. Killip's goal is to have 100% parents participate in one activity during the school year.

Mr. Killips explained that the newsletter will be sent out exclusively by email. He outlined staff changes, including the hiring of a new paraprofessional to assist students needing extra help in reading and math. Mr. Killips discussed teaming, facility updates, MEAPS, parking regulations, and the new configuration for turns and crossing on Romence Road. Mr. Killips reminded parents that West's fall parent teacher conferences will be held at the end of the first marking period. Other schools in the district will hold their conferences during the week leading up to Thanksgiving.

Other items: Nikki introduced Marsha Cellucci, who is the parent handling the Sept 12th 6th grade party. The pool will not be open during the party. Amanda Ziemkowski volunteered to be the conference assistant chair. Nikki reviewed the various committees, introduced their chairs, and explained their purposes. A chair is needed for the Yearbook, Beautification, and Vision Screening committees.

The next meeting of the PTSO will be held on Wednesday, October 1 at 11:30 a.m. in the West Middle School Media Center.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Cartier