

Wheatland Elementary PTO
Meeting minutes
February 26, 2019

Present: Adelyn Soellner, Phoebe McCormick, Erika Birk, Sheila Kinkelaar, Linda Westhafer, Heidi Polson, Trish Corcoran, Julie Scott

The meeting was called to order by Secretary, Sheila Kinkelaar, at 7:00. Amy was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The January minutes were emailed out for corrections / approval and have been posted to the schools website.

Principals Report: (Mrs. Soellner)

- We began with a review of the site council report Mrs. Soellner will be turning in. We have continued growth within our building. With increased amount of grade sections we have a focus on a master schedule and collaboration between teachers. We have some updated playground equipment but swings are still in discussion for replacement. There is a focus on the school and parents being partners for students. Assessment / literacy scores continue to increase yearly. Reviewed possible vision: schools and parents are equal partners in academic, social, and emotional success for all students. Reviewed possible goals: Academic – provide parents opportunities to acquire necessary information, knowledge and skills to support their child's education at home. Social – welcoming school; timely communication. Emotional – building relationships based upon caring and trust.
- Mrs. Soellner has accepted a new position within the district. Therefore we will be getting a new principal next year. Interviews will begin very soon.
- She expressed appreciation for all of the work our PTO put in to the ASL Fair, especially with all of the weather / rescheduling. The winners have all been invited to come present their projects at the school board meeting on March 18th. They will arrive at 6:45, meeting begins at 7:00, and they will be featured during the Hornet Highlights.
- Thank you in advance for the upcoming conference meal. Conferences will be Mon and Thursday next week.
- We will have many new staff changes / members next year. K will continue with 5 sections. We will add a 5th section of 1st grade. Lacy Chavez will be added to the 1st grade teachers. Mrs. Burbach will be leaving the second grade team to go to learning support position that has been added. Mrs. McGee will also be leaving. One position has been filled and another is still open. There is also an open position for 3rd grade as a new section is being added.
- She is beginning to work on next year's calendar and will need any dates we have sent to Janet soon (like spirit days, TITV, ASL Fair...)

Teachers Report: (Phoebe McCormick)

- Thank you for the chili meal and also for the upcoming conference meal.

Treasurers Report: (Rachel Davison)

- Rachel was not at the meeting but had sent a copy of the updated treasure report. This was passed around for review.

Old Business:

- Art, Science and Literature Fair: This event had to be rescheduled due to school being cancelled for weather. The reschedule date also had issues with potential bad weather so it was decided to hold the daytime part so the students could view projects and vote but to cancel the chili / evening part of the event. The chili and desserts were served to the teachers and the students had an awesome day. We left the projects set up so that families could come to view them in the morning and we did have some come. Sheila gave a brief update on the event and a few suggestions for whomever would take over this event next year. She can pass on all sign ups

and documents to them. We had close to 70 projects which was close to expected. We had 5 requests for refunds on chili. A list / pictures of winners can be found on the PTO facebook page. Short videos showing all of the projects can also be found there. Sheila also expressed a huge thank you to all who helped with this event and to the teachers who were so great helping with their classes! Mrs. McCormick also mentioned Abilene has the Boy Scouts come to their ASL Fair and demonstrate some “older” science projects.

New Business:

- Conference Meal: Amy will be doing sandwiches and fruit trays on Monday (3/4). She will have it at the school at 3:30.
- Yearbook: Reminder Rachel needs pictures. Her deadline will be here soon!
- Sting Stride: There was a brief explanation of what this event was and how we need to decide if we would like to have it this year. We did not have it last year and we have also not sold any items in several years. There has not been a need for money / fundraising. As this is Sheila and Amy’s last year we will support PTO if they would like to bring this event back but would like someone else to head this up and make it their own. It was decided all could think about this and let Erika know within a couple weeks. If there is interest, planning meetings will need to be set. We might be looking at a need for swings / playground equipment and that can be pricey.
- Spirit Days: March 22 will be Nerd Day. Sheila asked if anyone would be willing to take over spirit days next year. Heidi volunteered. Sheila will send her all of the information from prior years to help her get going. She will need to get dates and themes chosen soon to send to Janet and get added to next year’s calendar.

Open Forum:

- Sheila reminded all that Mrs. Sherwood still needs help for the book fair. If you can help please let her or Mrs. Sherwood know or sign up on the link (sent in email previously)
- Erika asked if any other classes might be taking field trips and requesting \$. Mrs. McCormick can remind them to let us know.
- Erika said her and Heidi met with a rep about World’s Finest Chocolates and Yankee Candles. They discussed each and tried to determine if we needed or wanted to participate in either fundraiser. The candles would be all done online and we would just promote the links. They would run all year. Based on this Sheila suggested it might be good to hold off on that one and rollout at back to school night next year. Most seemed to like the chocolate sales. Trish moved to sell them and Heidi second and all approved. Erika will get going on rolling this out after spring break and set a date with Mrs. Soellner for the kick off assembly.
- Erika also mentioned she has set up an email address for PTO so this can be used in the future as needed.
- There was general discussion of ideas moving forward in to next school year as far as getting more new faces in PTO, reaching out to parents – especially new K parents, back to school nights, fundraising needs and possible meeting over the summer. Some of this can be further discussed and planned as the school year comes closer to an end, potentially setting summer meeting dates at the last meeting in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15

The next meeting will be March 26th at 7:00 in the library.