

WES PTA Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Beth Satterfield called the meeting to order (9:31 a.m.) and there was motion to accept the minutes from the prior meeting without reading them. The motion was seconded and the motion was approved.

Principal's Report

1. Catherine Oden represents the faculty presence at today's meeting. Information coming home on December 1st about school assignment sessions.
2. Mrs. Wahl is using the call system to run messages for 2 days to inform parents about the information session and to promote the website, assignment.wcpss.net.
3. Mrs. Oden explained that WES is approved to have a cap of 810 students.
4. Beth Satterfield mentioned that the school's available services and staff determined by number of students only.
5. Teacher/student ratio is approved to – Grade K-3: 23 students/class but classes can still go to 24, Grade 4-5: 26 students/grade. They are using the numbers 23 and 26 as a guideline for a 'full' class, but they are leaving the extra space for new families that move into the area.
6. School Website now has school of distinction information.

Fundraising Report – Catherine Smith

1. Terri Bruns gave a report about Dining for Dollars- by classroom 20 – 50% turnout,
2. McDonald's would like to do it again – 4 times/yr requested by manager of McDonald's.
3. Possible to do with another restaurant, but our experience with McDonald's has been superior - t-shirts, free stuff, happy meals, etc...
4. Mrs. Oden mentioned that Mrs. Wahl is supportive but asked that we honor the staff's request and schedule Monday nights for this type of volunteer effort.
5. We collected 370.00 for 3 hours of sales. ~200 students. Doubled Friday sales for McDonald's during the first 2 hours.
6. Motion made to have 2 more 'Dining for Dollars/McTeacher' events. Leslie Blake doesn't want to make a motion to have more 'McTeacher' nights if it remains under that name. Beth reassured that we can call it anything, but that all promotional items from McDonald's will have the title, 'McTeacher Night'. Once clarified, motion seconded and voted yes.
7. Catherine Smith was approached by the manager (father of a student here at WES) of 5 Below. He wants to do a fundraiser with WES where 10% of proceeds go back to school. Last week of November, first week of December requested. Prior information on past sales unavailable. Can we have some sort of accountability?
8. Motion made to do a fundraiser with 5 Below. Motion seconded and voted yes.
9. 'Box Tops' doing well and we are quickly approaching set goal.

Treasurer Report – given by Beth Satterfield

1. Boosterthon Report– collected 80% of money. Request to remind Sue to get outstanding checks cleared. Quickly depositing all checks reduces number of bounced checks.
2. Taxes have been submitted.

Volunteer Report – Jennifer Ellerbe

1. November Spotlight volunteer is Barb Catalfu.
2. A request was made for KITS program volunteers – The KITS program is used for student who need to be challenged in a particular subject. Curriculum based. KITS for any student and not for just AG students.
3. KITS volunteer requirements include a 1 hr training session, buying items for the kits (all which is reimbursed by PTA), assembling kits and working with a 4-5 group of students to observe and guide students.
4. Quadrel will not lead effort. Beth has that money has already been paid to supply the kits.

Membership Report – Given by Beth Satterfield

1. PTA membership - 236 total members, 57 faculty (65 total), 179 family members (some families have dual memberships) out of 454 families, 39% family membership.

2. Beth mentioned that we would like to see more than 50% family members join by the end of year.
3. Recommended that we push for family membership in January.
4. A suggestion was made that we should try a new approach next year - Biggie size your membership. You both get cards – ex. Admiral's level + 4.00.
5. Clarification from Beth that you must be PTA member to chair a committee.

Communications Report – Kira Wolfe

1. Kira Wolfe discussed new web based Student Directory for the 2012 -2013 school year.
2. Terri Bruns has volunteered to help design the UI for student directory.
3. Smart boards – electricity not available to install smart boards correctly. Robin will use the school money to hire outside contractors to install plugs for classes that are receiving smart boards (300.00/plug)

School Contest Presentation – Leslie Blake

1. Background – PTA membership drive with flowers. This type of visual presentation highlights that parent involvement is not equal between classes.
2. How can we display information differently so that all students are motivated and not just individual classes?
3. Leslie has requested to be involved in any future contest discussions.
4. Example of possible displays of data – pie graph
5. Leslie requests that we pool students into larger groups. Example – contests by grade or hallway.
6. Examples of alternative contest rewards that are not food: Extra recess, reading, visit by Robin, paint a picture party, homework passes.
7. Have a balance . 1 to 3 ratio – treat, then 3 other activities. Beth requests guidelines for the treats.
8. It was mentioned that it is doubtful if the kids/teachers have control over the parents... need to make message to parents not kids
9. Action item - Put article in Explorer Express for SAIL program and thank you for the Wacky Wheel.
10. Tom DiGiacomo voiced support of Leslie and reiterated that kids are not responsible for parent participation.
11. Catherine Smith suggested that we poll other schools to see what they do for contests.
12. A request from Beth was made for feedback on any subject including the contests.

Outdoor Classroom Update – Beth Satterfield

1. Beth is reviewing master plan with Catherine Peele tomorrow (11/16/2011)
2. Need to review master plan to apply for grants in January.
3. December is the target deadline for final master plan with review by PTA and Teacher Committee by January.

Beth adjourned the meeting at 10:53.