

Wheatland Elementary PTO
Meeting minutes
September 6, 2018

Present: Adelyn Soellner, Phoebe McCormick, Amy Williams, Erika Birk, Rachel Davison, Sheila Kinkelaar, Sarah Oaks, Heather Fellows, Heidi Polson, Julie Scott, Linda Westhafer

The meeting was called to order by President, Amy Williams, at 7:06. We went around the room and had introductions as this is our first meeting of the year. The agenda tonight is a little longer as we will cover things for the September meeting also. This will eliminate the need for the meeting at the end of September.

Principals Report: (Mrs. Soellner)

- Mrs. Soellner welcomed everyone and explained that we combine our PTO and site council meetings as one. Over the summer our building, as well as others in district, received all new paint, carpet and tile. We also got new furniture in the library.
- We have started a new elementary art program and students will receive art every other week.
- This year we have added a 5th section of Kindergarten. We also have a 4th section of 2nd grade. As the district grows our building does have the space to be a full 5 section school.
- They have been working on a vision statement for parent engagement.
- We are continuing the 'Here at Wheatland' shirts. Last year PTO helped fund shirts for all students. This year the building funds will cover shirts for the new students and kindergarten so all students will have a Wheatland shirt.
- This year in the morning students can still walk the gym until 8:00. Then they have some reading time until announcements start. They have been asked to keep books in their backpacks so they will all always have one. They can read alone or older students pair up with younger students to read.
- Morning drop off and the pickup line after school have started out well. The teachers are using numbered cones paired with a google document to help get students lined up and ready for parents. This document will also help when it is rainy out and the students wait inside. The car line is usually ended just after 4:00.

Teachers Report: (Phoebe McCormick)

- This year Mrs. McCormick will be our teacher representative. With this being her first meeting she does not have anything for us but is here to listen and take back information to share with the teachers. She did pass on a thank you for the back to school lunch PTO provided. Everyone really enjoyed it.

Treasurers Report: (Rachel Davison)

- There is not really much on this as we are just getting under way. Receipts for back to school lunch will come and Dillons funds have been received. Our balance sits around \$14,400. Sheila moved to approve the treasurer's report and it was accepted.

Old Business:

- 2018-19 School Supply Kits: Amy briefly explained that these were kits sold at the end of the school year and have all of the supplies each student will need in them. A parent can order them and they will be on the students desks at back to school night. We only had 38 orders last year, all online. There were no issues with any of the orders. We discussed doing them again and decided we should offer them, again only online sales. We will need to get the contract in place soon to receive our discount. We will also need a new contact person as Amy will not be here next year. Erika Birk agreed to be the contact person.

- Back to School Luncheon: Amy had Leekers put together the meal and it was very easy. Leekers was really great and easy to work with. She had a variety of meats as well as some cut fruits and veggies. She purchased various breads and wraps including gluten free items and some salads. All of the teachers and staff really enjoyed this meal.

New Business:

- Dillon Update: Amy and Sheila briefly explained the Dillons Community Rewards program and how Dillons gives back money to our school for us shopping there. It is easy to sign up with your Dillons plus shoppers card and then every normal grocery purchase you make helps go to our contribution. Sheila has a letter to go home explaining program and giving sign up instructions. We have a new NPO# so even those signed up already should log in and be sure they are still enrolled. It was decided to have teachers forward to families and to have hard copies go home as well. Over the summer we received our 2nd quarter check for \$494.34. The total we have earned in 2018 so far is \$978.09 and the total we have earned since we started participating in 2015 is \$7,428.59.
- Box Tops / Coordinator: Trish Corcoran has agreed to be the coordinator again this year. She did a fabulous job last year doing 2 fun contests. We passed around a sign-up sheet for anyone who might be willing to help her if she needs any help with contest, counting, etc.
- Fall Picture Day: We will need two volunteers to help Lifetouch do the fall pictures on Oct 3. They will get free pictures for helping. Rachel D, Linda W and Heide P all said they would help. Sheila will be sure to get these names to Pam.
- Wheatland / Hornet Wear Orders: Amy has been talking to Justin with Khaos Apparel who did our shirts last year. He is working on designs for this year and should have them ready soon. Once he does we will forward them. He has given us a great discounted price and this year we will be able to set up a shop online that parents can place all orders through. We all agreed this would be much easier and convenient. We will still need to sort and deliver shirts but it will be less work.
- Spirit Days: Sheila has the list all agreed on last year ready to go out. Our first Spirit Day will be Friday Sept 14, Crazy Sock Day. It was decided that she can send fliers to Janet in the office to get to teachers and they can send to families each month. We can also have her post to the schools facebook page and Amy can post to the PTO facebook page.
- October Meal for Teacher Conferences: Last year we provided a meal of soups and sandwiches for the teachers during conferences. All agreed this would be a good choice again. Mrs. Soellner said to lower the amount of bread from last year. We will be sure there are gluten free options as well. The meal will be for Oct 15th and have items dropped off at 3:15. Sheila will get the sign up genius put together and sent out.
- October Book Fair: Last year Mrs. Sherwood had her own sign up. We asked Phoebe to please check with her to see what help she may need from PTO / volunteers and let us know.
- Yearbook Committee: Rachel agreed to do the yearbook again this year. Our contract with Lifetouch is ending and she has a meeting with Entourage to see what they have to offer. We all agreed that since she is taking the lead on yearbook that whatever company she feels will be the best for us to go with will be fine and all will support her decision. Rachel said having some more pictures throughout the year would be helpful. Amy will contact room parents and give them Rachel's email and ask them to please send pictures from their classes. There was also a sign-up sheet for anyone who is willing to help Rachel with the yearbook if she needs help.
- Thanksgiving in the Valley: This year the event will be on Nov 17th. Amy talked a little about what the event is and how this is our main fundraiser (we try to avoid having to sell items). We have a pancake breakfast and free activities for children in the gymnasium. It is open to the community and we do presell tickets to Wheatland families. We give a percentage of the profits to a local charity, Christmas Kids. Because our school lost 4th grade and added a kindergarten

we have younger children. We may want to revamp some of the activities and gear towards the younger kiddos. A silent auction and photo booth (with Rosco and Chelsey) were mentioned. A signup was sent around for anyone interested in helping plan this event. We will contact all and set a meeting time to discuss just this event. We will need to discuss revamping activities, making the turkey bodies, advertising, etc. Amy will get save the date flyers out and posted and send order forms for pancakes home the end of October. Sheila will email all a request / reminder so that everyone can start cutting turkey feathers now as we need a ton! Sheila will also be sure to send the sign up genius out to request help for selling the feathers the week before the event.

Open Forum:

- We discussed fundraising and how we did not like to sell things but rather do events and things that can engage the students and families. We have a nice balance in our account and in the past have not had a specific need to fundraise. Mrs. Soellner did say now that construction is done we can start looking at news swings which will certainly need fundraising help. We also need more mulch for the playground. Some ideas were mentioned and can be looked into and try to get some going as the year progresses (Amazon smile was one). Sarah will work on setting up an event with Freezing Moo.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10

We did manage to cover all of the items that would be on the September meeting's agenda so our next meeting will not be until **October 30th, 2018** in the library.