

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE PTO FOR  
WYDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
JANUARY 9, 2017**

A meeting of the PTO for Wydown Middle School was held, as scheduled pursuant to due notice, on January 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. CT at the Wydown Middle School Main Street.

The following members of the Board were present at the meeting: Stephanie Abbajay, President; Brenda Glick, President; Missy McCormick, Treasurer; Katie Sandquist, Communications; and Angela Osborne, Secretary.

The following members were also present: Andrea Topps, David Wilson, Gina Nakis, Allie Rossini, Silvia Mutis, Alison Hoette, Stephanie Arndt, Susan Kroenemer, Nash Shahana, and Marnie Bermingham.

Jamie Jordan and April Fulstone were also present.

Stephanie Abbajay welcomed members of the PTO and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes by Stephanie Abbajay**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November meeting, which was seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report by Missy McCormick**

Missy reviewed the Budget to Actuals report and Statement of Activity. The current bank balance is \$57,636.93. Fundraising to the general fund is \$21,960, which is under goal by \$11,000. 53% of the population has contributed and we are at 65% of our fundraising goal. We are considering reaching out again to those who have not donated to see if they are interested in making a donation for the 2017 tax year. We received an unexpected deposit earlier in the year from magazine sales in 2009, which was listed as revenue in the Giveback Programs category. There are additional items that have been approved but have not posted.

Missy is preparing tax letters and they will be going out via email soon.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded and passed.

**Staff Request for Funding Presentation and Discussion by Stephanie Abbajay**

Social Justice League

April Fulstone, sponsor of the Social Justice League, presented the group's request to sponsor an all-school assembly to culminate the celebration of Black History Month with a performance by Livety, a West African dance organization founded by a WMS staff member and parent, Anneliese Hubbard. The performance includes storytelling through dance as a joyous celebration of Black History and Culture.

As a second request, this performance could be an entry way for students who are interested in learning choreography to perform in an opening and closing act at a celebration of Wydown's community diversity, later in April. They are hoping to engage at least 20 students to be a part of the performance.

The request to hire the drummers and six dancers is \$850.

The request for the community diversity event is \$2,250.

Some members were concerned about this being a duplication of what was done a month ago with the Rwandan dancers. Discussion was also had about how we would like to commemorate Black History Month each year. Dr. Jordan said she would like to go deeper with this instead of the just the performance and perhaps integrate a lesson. It would also be good for the students to own the event and incorporate service learning. A motion was made to approve the drummer and six dancers for \$850 for a one-time event to commemorate Black History Month, with the intention to have a more thoughtful discussion next year about this event. However, the PTO would not fund the community diversity event. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### Musical Theater Request

The Musical Theater is requesting money to rent microphones for the Spring Musical. We approved their request for the Fall Play. The group followed up to determine why we are not able to borrow the high school's microphones anymore. Transporting them is too hard on the equipment. The district is considering buying the microphones as a part of the curricular budget next year so they do not need to request the money each year from the PTO. They are likely to buy a few each year to support the integrated arts performance. The district will determine the best way to acquire the microphones – rent vs. buy.

The request for the microphones is \$835. A motion to approve this request was made, seconded, and passed.

#### **Winter Care Drive by Stephanie Abbajay**

Hundreds of personal care items were collected and the bins were filled three times. The Kingdom House was very excited about the amount of donations and sent a nice thank you note.

#### **Give Back Night by Stephanie Abbajay**

Dr. Jordan reported that several 8th graders are making their presentations in the beginning of February to recommend the charity that will be supported for Give Back Night. A Penny War will be conducted to determine which charity will be supported. The PTO will provide the food again.

A parent suggested that we collect used books from the community and sell them at an event. The funds could benefit the PTO and could be the PTO's donation to Give Back Night. More discussion will occur on this initiative.

#### **Winter PTO programming by Stephanie Abbajay**

Last year, the PTO organized an event in January. February may be a good month this year to do a community event. The details of this event are being determined – we want to celebrate the diversity of the community. Stephanie suggested that would we have different stations that could be run by the students. The members agreed that they would like to hold this event and tentatively agreed on February 21st for the winter community event. February 9th is our second choice.

#### **Principal Report by Dr. Jamie Jordan**

Dr. Jordan meets every month with the principal's advisory council with kids from each grade. This month, they discussed the recent climate survey. WMS did well in most categories, but scored average on socio-emotional security. They talked through the results and analyzed the questions. The question with the lowest score was "I have been excluded from a group." The 6th and 7th graders had

conversations about groups that exclude them but the 8th graders didn't feel this applied to them as much. They talked about not having the words to stand up to students who are excluding them. They will meet again in February to discuss how to get bystanders to stand up and call out unkindness. They also admitted that a lot of the kids blew off the survey and a commitment was made to tell them what they are doing with the data for future surveys.

Dr. Jordan goes back to the board with the outcome of the middle school study. They are going to tweak the schedule as needed.

January 19th is 5th grade transition night. This Thursday is high school transition night. Elective teachers are making videos of their classes and administration is putting the schedule online. February 24th is when course selection sheets are due and requests are granted first come, first served. All practical arts classes were full this year and it is expected they will be next year as well. Course selection sheets are going out soon (week of January 23rd) and the Program of Studies book went to print already.

Dr. Jordan serves on the fundraising board for Big Brothers Big Sisters and they have a donation box we could put on campus for clothing donations. When it gets full, they pick it up and pay us a certain amount per pound. This is being considered as a fundraising opportunity.

#### **PTO Council Debrief by Brenda Glick**

The PTO has the opportunity to do a Go Fund Me page for donations. If we wanted to do something specific for the school, we could create a page for the parents and other family members to donate. It would be good to raise money for a specific item. The PTO can use Go Fund Me, but teachers cannot. Go Fund Me charges a fee and takes a percentage of the money off the top.

#### **Other Business by Stephanie Abbajay**

The next PTO meeting will be held February 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in WMS Main Street.

#### **Conclusion**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Angela Osborne, Secretary