

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE PTO FOR
WYDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
AUGUST 22, 2016**

A meeting of the PTO for Wydown Middle School was held, as scheduled pursuant to due notice, on August 22, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. CT at the Wydown Middle School Main Street.

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

The following members were also present: David Wilson, Lawana Hall, Silvia Mutis, Julie Condrin, Cheryl Waites, Gina Nakis, Andrea Topps, Hongmei Zhu, Emily Stein MacDonald, Laura Conrad, Mary Shands, Elizabeth Smith, Jeff Krenk, Trina Taylor, Glenn Taylor, Tammara Carter, Karma Johnson, Marnie Bermingham, Manisha Patel (Webb), Katie Nafzger, Jilianne Barnes, Bryan Lawrence, Caroline Early, Heidi Joist, Karla Backhoff, Paula Sparks, Liliana Botero, Abhinaw Drioan, Darren Van't Hof, Mei Sheng, Kelly Schall, Chira Shah, Susan Kronemer, Ericka Harris, and Alyona Kroeger.

Jamie Jordan, Principal; Jennifer Shenberger, Teacher; Michael Kanaan, Teacher; and Ann Geiler, Teacher were also present.

Brenda Guynes-Glick welcomed members of the PTO and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. All introduced themselves.

Introduction of Officers by Brenda Guynes-Glick

Brenda asked the officers and committee chairs to introduce themselves. There are two positions available: Buzz Book co-chair and eight grade parent connections co-chair.

Norms and Goals for 2016-17 by Brenda Guynes-Glick

Brenda shared the following norms for Wydown PTO meetings:

- Be respectful
- Share the floor
- Be mindful of time limitations
- Be constructive

It is important to remember that we are all volunteers here, and we give our time and talents as best we can and for the same purpose—to build community and represent the best interests of our children and our school.

Brenda shared the following goals and challenges that have been identified for this school year.

- Encourage greater attendance and participation at meetings. We moved the start time an hour earlier, hoping that will encourage more people to attend.
- Establish a fundraising ethos and platform that works for our parent community, and that can be replicated year-to-year.
- Establish a tradition of giving at WMS.
- Continue to work with parents and Wydown staff on new, more robust diversity, community service, and community-building initiatives.

Meeting Times and Dates by Brenda Guynes-Glick

With a few exceptions due to scheduling conflicts, the Wydown PTO meets the second Monday of the month during the school year. There is no meeting in December. Unless otherwise announced, meetings begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. on Main Street. Special PTO Parent Programs will follow several meetings.

- Monday, August 22: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street
- Monday, Sept. 12: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street; 7:00 p.m. PTO screening of documentary "Screenagers" in auditorium
- Monday, Oct. 10: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street
- Monday, Nov. 14: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street
- Monday, Jan. 9: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street
- Monday, Feb. 13: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street
- Monday, March 6: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street
- Monday, April 11: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street
- Monday, May 8: 6:00 p.m. PTO meeting on Main Street

Treasurer's Report by Missy McCormick

Missy reported that she will have "Budget to Actual" report every month as well as the "Statement of Activity". She will also bring the bank statement and will post the reports with the minutes on the website after each meeting. The current bank balance is \$54,290.83. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Staff Requests by Jamie Jordan

Dr. Jordan presented the following staff requests, which were discussed and approved or deferred, as noted below.

Lori Barker requested funds to buy purple tablecloths. Administration has been using plastic disposable tablecloths for special events. She requested for \$500 for 49 tablecloths of various sizes. A motion was made to fund \$250 of this request, which was seconded and passed.

Susan Christopher requested the rental of the Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera art displays for two weeks. The work of these artists is included in the curriculum and they would use the displays to expand learning. The art would be displayed for everyone at the school and may also be displayed at special events. The request was for \$1,400. A motion was made to fund the cost of one artist for one week for \$400, which was seconded and passed.

Carla Miller and the directors of the fall play and spring musical requested funding for 12 body microphones. The cost is \$3,200 to rent them for one year or \$30,000 to purchase them. The request is being made because parents have said that it is difficult to hear the students in the new theater. WMS previously borrowed microphones from CHS, but CHS is no longer allowed to loan them. Ticket sales are not sufficient to cover the cost of the microphones. The PTO members requested that the theater directors get additional bids to determine the cost is reasonable, explore getting used or refurbished microphones, and wanted to know why 12 microphones are requested. The funds are not needed until November 1st, so the decision was made to defer the vote to the next meeting.

Ann Geiler and Jennifer Shenberger reported that the orchestra and wind ensemble were selected for the honor of performing at the 2017 MMEA workshop and convention, as a model for programs of this type for the state. Both groups perform January 27th at the Tantera resort. They requested funding to defer the costs of housing and transportation. The wind ensemble requested \$4,100 for a charter bus and lodging and the orchestra requested \$5,672 for two charter buses and lodging. The members suggested that the parents of the students pick up most of the cost and that the PTO fund \$2,000 to help defray some of the costs and help with scholarships. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to provide \$2,000 for this event.

Principal Report by Jamie Jordan

Dr. Jordan reported a great start to the year, with 668 students currently enrolled. This year she has instituted a model of co-teaching at WMS, which crosses grade levels and subjects. This approach allows them to differentiate the instruction in the classroom. Eleven out of 30 math classes will be supported by two teachers and science and social studies will also benefit from this model.

The staff is learning from the author Paul Tough this year through two books: "How Children Succeed" and "Helping Children Succeed". These books focus on grit and non-cognitive learning strategies. Dr. Jordan is thinking about having a parent learning group for these books.

The movie "Screenagers" will be shown soon and is sponsored by the PTO. Multiple schools have presented it and said it was very valuable and teaches how screens are impacting our kids and teens.

6th grade camp is the last week of September. Hours of preparation go into this camp and more information will follow for parents of sixth graders.

Teachers have been encouraged to continue updating Power School to keep parents informed of student performance. This year, students will have their own log in, in addition to the family's log in, to help with goal setting and preparation for high school. Families will be allowed opt out of the student log in.

Dr. Jordan is looking for feedback on creating a more consistent communication plan with newsletters, notifications, etc. between parents, administrators, and teachers. She encouraged us to follow her on Twitter at @drjamiejordan.

Fundraising by Missy McCormick

Missy reported that \$15,050 has been raised so far, which is 30% participation. \$18,800 more is needed to reach the \$34,000 goal. Missy has tracked donors and will send target messaging to those parents who have not donated by sending friendly email reminders.

Fall Programming Initiatives and Events by Brenda Guynes-Glick

"Screenagers" movie will be shown on September 12th after the PTO meeting. There will be an October Family Fun Fest this fall to build community at WMS. There will be a New Family Event hosted by Parent Connections chairs (all grades) at 6:30 on the night of the Open House (September 1st).

Staff Appreciation by Brenda Guynes-Glick

There are ten events scheduled for staff appreciation this year. The chairs would welcome anyone would like to join them or help in any way. They are especially looking for someone to coordinate box dinners for teachers after 6th grade camp.

Other Business

The next PTO meeting will be held September 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in WMS Main Street.

Conclusion

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Osborne, Secretary