**Wydown PTO Meeting Minutes**

**October 9, 2023 at 12:00 PM**

**Wydown Room 126**

**Welcome and Introductions:**

In attendance: Betsy Meyland-Smith, Cara Downs, Amber Kempf, Whitney Lorenz, Dr. Jordan, Tanya Hayden (PTO Council), Melissa Rideout, Dan and Allyson Lavender, Rachel Mario (TA) and Bridgette Hoette (TA), Emily Milchanoski and special guest Dr. Patel (District Superintendant)

**Approval of Minutes from the September 18, 2022 PTO Meeting:**

* There was a motion to approve by Allyson Lavender, a 2nd by Emily Milchanoswski, all in favor, motion passed.

**Special Guest, Superintendent Dr. Nisha Patel:**

* Challenging time with Isreal and Palestine – support is available in the building for those who need it
* End of 1st quarter, parent teacher conferences will be heldnext week
* Strategic Plan is updated on the site, “Data Dashboard” under each goal with metrics and measurements
* Wydown is still #1 in the state on Niche, Clayton High School is #2
* We still have areas needing growth – community has voiced that we aren’t meeting the needs of students with IEP’s, in response, meetings have been held, action plan proposed, will take it to the Board to ensure all students needs are met
* Safety update – major upgrades in all buidlings in the district, specificially for Wydown we now have new safety film on windows, new camera in front, amber lights that will flash in the building, we partnered with Tier 1 Captitol who will regularly do safety checks by checking doors and windows and asking staff a series of questions and then will give a list of recommendations on how to make our building safer. After the most recent check on all accounts he feels that Wydown has the best protocols and procedures in the district. Intruder drill practices have been done, also walked students to reunification points to practice that. Fire drills are not announced ahead of time, told ahead of time, but intruder drills will be.
* Cell phone usage in an emergency question brought up – new policy is that we don’t lock them up so that they can access them in the event of an emergency.
* Question on are anti-racism conversations on going? Answer: Yes, every day we are having conversations around this and mainly with relationshiops with trusting adults, professional learning and bringing in outside professionals, trying to bring in diverse individuals to our campus and making sure they have a feeling of belonging. Amber mentioned she would be willing to facilitate a “Witnessing Whiteness” series if needed.

**President’s Report: Cara Downs and Betsy Meyland-Smith:**

• Past events:

- WMS Clayton Connections movie night on September 22 – went well and the next one will be a bowling event on Monday, October 23rd, 1-3PM.

- Gab & Grub Sept. 29th – went well, lots of students bought swag

- Middle School Night at CHS Football Sept. 29th – all good

• Upcoming events:

* Homecoming Float on Oct. 14th - Parade starts at 11:00, be there at 10:15 to decorate the float – all kids are welcome and 8th graders can ride in the truck. Dr. Jordan will send out email with details to students and parents, groovy tie-dye theme was discussed and students can use camp shirts, will have location for Wydown students to observe the parade also – possibly in front of Garbonzo off of Forsyth. More details on this will go out by Dr. Jordan in an email announcement.
* District Food & Essentials Drive Drive Oct. 16-20th - Posters are up and bins are out and this will be during conferences
* Gab & Grub Oct. 31st - Working with student council on this because they will be decorating pumpkins that day in PACK
* PTO Collecting Pumpkin donations for decorating contest week of Oct. 23-27th. Parents will be asked to bring in pumpkins as we will need 56
* Staff dinner on conference night Oct. 19th. - Conference night and will be catered by Wich-wich, they are asking for snacks through Sign-Up Genius
* Jackie Stavro will be helping coordinate a Volunteer Community Event for our students with KEEN. This organization helps incorporate special needs kids in sports, this will be held at SLU High School field. More details will be coming soon. Spenca soccer league was also mentioned as an option
* Clayton Connections – movie night went well, Bowling on Monday, October 23rd, 1-3PM.

• Spiritwear Update - One more drop before holidays. These continue to be successful.

**Treasurer’s Report: Amber Kempf & Stephen Klaus**

Financial Statement of Activity Year to Date – see expense report posted

1. As of October 3, 2023, the PTO has $86,265.91 in the bank.

* $26,567.71 are Restricted Funds in the Jekyll Island Scholarship Account
* $2,894.43 are Restricted Funds in the Clayton Connections Fund
* $56,795.77 in total is in the general PTO Funds

1. Highlights for the Month of September:
   1. YTD: $6,222.30 was raised through Spirtwear Sales
   2. YTD: Funds for Excellence Donations is $7,496.53
   3. Rebate received for School Supply Kits: $1,325.15
2. $15,043.98 raised (our budget is $27,475.00) so we are halfway there!
3. Events: Gab and Grub 9/29: $221.40 and Teacher Breakfast 8/14: $356.01

**Principal’s Report: Dr. Jamie Jordan**

* Great week at 6th grade camp, rained the entire time, but they were resilient and had very few behavior concerns. Jekyll Island is off to a great start, pictures are being posted on Instagram. This may not have happened without Trivia Night, Dr. Jordan is very grateful.
* Walk through v. Open House – parent concern that they are too similar, could we combine that? A formal form through a newsletter will go out to see what parents are thinking.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM

**Next PTO meeting is November 13, 2022 at 9:00 am.**