**Wydown PTO Meeting Minutes**

**November 11, 2024 @ 9 AM**

* **In Attendance:** Betsy Meyland-Smith, Whitney Lorenz, Jenny Abeles, Joanne Dinsmore, Dell Villa, Michelle Abounder, Carlos Espinosa, Andrew Liberman, Madeline Adkins, Emily Zhou, Janis Stoll, Rene Weber
* [Approval of the October PTO Meeting Minutes](https://www.claytonschools.net/cms/lib/MO01000419/Centricity/Domain/1063/WMS%20PTO%20Meeting%20Minutes%2010.14.24.pdf) – Joanne motioned to approve, Carlos Espinosa had a 2nd to approve, no one opposed, approval of the meeting minutes was passed .
* **Principal’s Report - Dr. Cate Pautsch**
  + Parent-teacher conferences wrapped up. Seemed to go well. There was some parent confusion around being able to sign-up for multiple conferences, this is an option.
  + Huge thanks to PTO for pumpkins – parents donated more to buy than brought in so next year we will probably do a fundraising activity and raise funds and go and buy the pumpkins and possibly mums also.
  + 8th graders went to Jekyll Island – feedback welcome, students that stayed here got to see the same concepts around Saint Louis.
  + Mock Elections were held on campus last week.
  + Fall Play wrapped up, students did a great job
  + First strategic building planning meeting for input from parents – two more opportunities for parents to participate for our building space and priorities. Next meeting is tomorrow night, November 12th, and then Dec. 4th will be over at the high school. Parents take-away/feedback so far at Wydown – lacks some security with today’s world and we need better efficiency of space – instead of multiple small tables have longer bigger tables and supply an outdoor option. Field is needing upgrades due to flooding and ice in the winter, talking about turf possibly, goal is to make it more accessible to everyone year-round, track around the field is being discussed as an option. Carpool came up, but this is being addressed as a process. This has been communicated to parents by staff.
  + Winter Wonderland (rebranded Winter Fun Fest) will be Dec. 13th, sign-up genius for parent volunteers will go out soon. There is also a survey going out for parents, please add your feedback.
  + Attendance for students needs to be at 90% and it has dipped recently

**President’s Report - Betsy Meyland-Smith and Madeline Akins**

* + Past Events
    - Staff Appreciation Dinner – Grab and Go dinner with sandwiches and chips and cookies with Bru Bites, under budget $1,100.00. Teachers enjoyed it. They especially liked the assortment of snacks the next day. Holiday luncheon will be Friday, Dec. 20th, Tres Reyes will probably be catering this.
    - Grade Level Parent Parties – Lori Houslanden, these have been held at Clayton Winehouse. Next year we need one volunteer chair or two to organize all of them instead of by grade, hosts should focus on talking up the event. Lining up with Jekyll Island and 6th grade camp seems to work. Communication Chair must be the one to receive communication notices, and then it will go out from the district. Information for email blasts can be found on the Wydown PTO page with a link to the Google form.
    - KEEN Volunteer Event – we have maxed out on volunteers – successful event and will do another one in the Spring.
  + Upcoming Events
    - Wydown’s Winter Wonderland 12/13 6:30-8:30 PM – STUCCO usually sells tickets for $8 during lunch and will be $10 at the door and PTO contributes to help pay for the event. Rachel Marino is helping with the planning part, usually includes DJ, food (pizza, drinks, snacks and hot cocoa bar), and photobooth. Probably around 250 – 350 students in attendance. Usually have 20 or so parents that sign-up through the sign-up genius, that will go out soon.
    - Gab & Grub – the next date is November 22nd – no future conflicts for 8th graders going forward, may need someone to take this on for next year
    - Be thinking about future placements that you may be interested in for next year
  + Spirit Wear
    - Hat Bar has been successful. You can order through cheddar up on the Wydown PTO site
* May put together an email for December in lieu of a PTO meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report - Michelle Abounader** - Highlights since our last meeting in September: October Commerce Bank activity started at $ 93,204.77 then + $6,791.08 was added from Funds For Excellence and Spirit Store contributions with a deduction of -$2,378.32 for checks paid out to the 6/7/8th grade Clayton Winehouse class parties, teacher appreciation activities and Fall Gab n’ Grub = **$ 97,617.53** Financial details have been posted to the Wydown PTO website.

**Questions/Answers:**

When is 8th Grade Promotion? At this time it is tentatively set for May 29th.

International Festival is now February 7th

Meeting adjourned at 9:40AM.

Next PTO Meeting January 13, 9AM

* + 2024-2025 Meetings (in-person and zoom option):
    - 1/13, 9AM
    - 2/10, 9AM
    - 3/10, 9AM
    - 4/14, 9AM
    - 5/12, 9AM