

## **Wydown PTO Meeting Minutes November 13, 2023 @ 9 AM**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Attendees: Cara Downs, Betsy Meyland-Smith, Jenny Abeles, Indigo Sams, Katie Huffman, Amy Wilson, Joanna Dismore, Emily Milchanowski, Tanya Hayden, Deanna Simanowitz, Whitney Lorenz

### **President's Report: Betsy and Cara**

Emily motioned to approve meeting minutes from last Wydown PTO Meeting, Jenny seconded, all approved.

### **Past Events Discussed:**

**Homecoming 10/14** – band and cheerleaders, Wydown watch party was fun, all a win despite the weather.

**Food Drive 10/16 -19** – wasn't well attended so PTO Council decided not to run that at the same time as conferences next year. Liz Tucker and social workers will meet to talk through the timing in the future. PTO Council meets in the spring to discuss further. Schools are depleted by end of school year. Jordan suggested a PACK competition to bring in items, well received idea. Messaging may need to come from counselors to make more of an impact. There is still a need in our district. \$4,500 was raised across the district.

**Teacher Appreciation Conference Dinner 10/18-** Wich-wich sandwiches, and dessert and chips were donated by parents. Next will be Holiday luncheon and catered by Tres Leches and they will cater a Taco Bar on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Budget limitations and rising food costs may limit them to having 2 meals cut out. It averages \$900 per meal for teachers. The PTO Council does Open House, Fall Conference, Winter Holiday Luncheon and Spring Conference. Jenny will send budget information to Amber and Cara to review for next year. Point discussed about using the excess funds to cover this or a long-term item. Dr. Jordan mentioned that there may also be a Covid grant that we can use for snack related items.

**Clayton Connections Bowling 10/23** – well attended, about 50 people, new and returning event, WEB leaders were there to help, the next event is a parent coffee on February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Gab & Grub 10/31** \$220 – 2 tables set out, cookies were great, but the tables need to be spread out. There was an issue of crowding at the tables. The next Gab and Grub is Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> possibly with holiday cotton candy, it has been asked if we can also have a sing along? Discussed location – prefer outside if warm enough, if inside then may be able to have choir help.

**Keen Volunteer event** – led by volunteer, Jackie Stavro, was at St. Louis High school with special need students, outstanding, had 35 students in attendance.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Dine at Dewey's to Support the Wydown PTO 11/14**

**Winter Fun Fest - December 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30**, have roughly the amount of volunteers from last year. This is a celebration with DJ, music, photobooth, pizza, drinks and snacks and gym will be open, \$5 ahead of time, tickets will be sold at lunch and then they will be \$10 at the door – This event supports STUCO. There was a \$1,000 donation from PTO.

#### **Gab & Grub December 12/18 - Lori**

### **Spirit Wear Update:**

New merch - crop t-shirts, Clayton trucker hats, winter hats and sweatpants are in the works, have been ordering these under \$500 increments per guidelines and to limit inventory to store.

Emily Milchanowski motioned to increase the budget by \$2,000, seconded by Amy Wilson, and it was approved.

**Other news:** Stacey Seawalk from the Board of Education will attend our December meeting. A couple of board members may be rolling off and there may be open positions for this next school year. The deadline for filing is the first week of December. You may also anonymously nominate others for this.

### **Treasurer's Report: Amber Kempf & Stephen Klaus**

Financial statement of activity (year-to-date) and Treasurer report (info below) was distributed.

- 1) As of November 7<sup>th</sup>, the PTO has \$89,620.66 in the bank
  - a. \$26,567.71 are Restricted Funds in the Jekyll Island Scholarship Account
  - b. \$2,894.43 are Restricted Funds in the Clayton Connections Fund
  - c. \$60,158.52 in total are general PTO funds.
- 2) Highlights since our last meeting in October:
  - a. \$357.79 received as an additional rebate from School Specialty due to lateness of school supply boxes.
  - b. \$480.00 - Clayton Connections Bowling event on 10/23
  - c. \$860.00 - Which-wich Sandwiches for staff during Parent Teacher Conferences on 10/18
  - d. \$492.00 to order more Clayton Trucker Hats for Holiday sales.

Please make your donations to **Funds for Excellence** if you have not done so already, and if your job offers matching donations please apply if you can. Make sure matching donations are told to PTO so they can help with tracking as these go through one 501c3 set up through PTO Council and then are filtered down to Wydown.

### **Discussed our new Treasurer for 2024-25 school year – Michelle Abounader.**

Emily Milchanowski made a motion to approve her as "treasurer in training", Jenny Abeles seconded this, all were in favor and it was approved.

## **Principal's Report: Dr. Jamie Jordan**

Amazing year so far, the kids are awesome, thoughtful and respectful, smooth so far, genuinely good people, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class is "classy".

**School Improvement goal was 69% on "Sense of Belonging"**, and in the Fall Panorama we met that goal. The counselors have sent out more specific questions about what they need and will collect and update on this information.

**Walk through v. Open House** – teachers like the idea of 2 nights, special teachers especially. 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents need more signage and direction so this may be changed to two nights by last name alphabetically – stay tuned.

**Fall Conferences** – lack of academic feedback, short amount of time, feels more like a check-in. The emails had more personal interaction. Continue to give the parents the the option to reach out to teachers at any point. They will also be on different nights than the high school in the Spring. Parents and teachers both like to have the option of zoom.

**Jekyll Island** will move to the Fall again next year and they will be coming back on October 31<sup>st</sup>

**8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony** will be May 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> all school ceremony, 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> is promotion ceremony at Stuber gym (suggested to move to auditorium so Dr. Jordan will find out). 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents do cookies and punch at reception for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade families and then on the 30<sup>th</sup> they go to Six Flags all day. PTO Council will provide breakfast and pizza at some point TBD. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will go bowling and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will go to Main Event.

### **Other Items:**

Jenny Abeles – **Trivia Night** will be back Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 30 tables of 8, price will increase this year, 3 big basket raffles instead of the silent auction.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

**Next PTO meeting is December 11, 2023 @ 12 pm via Zoom**