**MINUTES OF A MEETING**

**OF THE PTO FOR**

**WYDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**March 12, 2018**

A meeting of the PTO for Wydown Middle School was held, as scheduled pursuant to due notice, on March 12, 2018, at 6:00 PM CT at the Wydown Middle School (WMS) Second Floor Foyer.

The following members of the Board were present at the meeting:

Allie Rossini, Co-President, Alison Hoette, Co-President, Stephanie Gross, Secretary.

The following members were also present: Jeffrey Lewis, Tanya Vedantham, Jeff Orgel, Caroline Earley, Sivia Mutis, Tamika Nelson Bobo, Community Service Co-Chair.

Jamie Jordan, WMS Principal, Sean Doherty, CSD Superintendent, Susan Kronemer, Budgeting & Fundraising Committee member, Beth Deutsch, All*in* Clayton Coalition were also present.

Alison welcomed members of the PTO and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2018 meeting, which was seconded and passed.

**Beth Deutsch representing the All*in* Clayton Coalition**

The mission of the All*in* Clayton Coalition is tokeep Clayton youth safe from the effects of substance abuse and its key objectives are to: prevent substance use among Clayton youth, reduce the prevalence of substance use disorders in Clayton, educate the Clayton community on key issues related to substance use disorders, and advocate for policies and practices that prevent substance use among Clayton youth.

The All*in* Clayton Coalition’s next speaker series event is Teen Mental Health & Substance Abuse, supporting teen health in the age of cell phones, juul pods, and the opioid epidemic. The event will be held Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7-8:30 PM at the Wydown Middle School Auditorium. Speakers are a panel of experts from Clayton Behavioral. Clayton Behavioral provides treatment to persons with mental health and addictive disorders. They offer psychiatry and individual therapy as well as a comprehensive outpatient treatment program for alcoholism and addiction and a specialized program in pediatric Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. All high school and middle school parents are welcome.

All*in* wants to branch into middle school (currently only at the high school). They plan to use TRIAD (student run) to mentor younger students at CHS and eventually WMS with the supervision of NCADA.

If you are interested in displaying a yard sign for the Alli*n* coalition (placards say “Be a Parent, Not a Friend”) they are available from mid-April until graduation as friendly reminder of its mission during this highly celebratory time (prom, graduation, etc.). Principals will communicate how to pick up the signs.

**Dr. Sean Doherty – Clayton School District Superintendent**

Dr. Doherty reviewed the District’s Strategic Plan and its four key areas: academic excellence, teacher and administrator excellence, growth and development of the whole child, and resource management. In addition to the long-range plan, he and the district want to develop a profile of a CSD graduate (What do we want for every graduate?) and work backwards. The district needs to determine what is realistic and attainable, how it wants to grow and how it can be visionary. Dr. Doherty asked for our input as to what we would like to see continue, what we would like to start and what we would like to stop within the district.

**Treasurer’s Report by Missy McCormick**

As of February 16, 2018, we have $53,010.33.

Activity from last meeting:

·Collected an additional $50.00 in Funds for Excellence

·Credit of $745.40 to Staff Appreciation due to an over payment.

·Paid just over $400 for mural in the PE hallway

**President’s Report by Alison Hoette & Allie Rossini**

Uniform Drive Recap

The recent uniform drive for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri to support the Saint Louis Public Schools was an overwhelming success and we want to repeat it next year. Nearly 100 pairs of pants and shirts were collected and will be distributed soon. SLPSD students who do not have the appropriate school attire are sent home which effects school attendance. Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative.

Food Pantry Update

Rising 6th graders helped stock the food pantry by bringing requested items to their recent curriculum night.

There will be a final food drive the week of April 30th to help families over the summer vacation. A list of suggested food & personal care items (feminine hygiene, soap, detergent, shampoo, deodorant) will go out shortly.

Looking Ahead:

Staggering Meeting Times

Next year, the PTO will host meetings alternating between mornings and evenings so more people can attend.

Open 2018-2019 PTO Positions

A list of open positions and descriptions is available on the PTO website.

Welcome Wagon Initiative

There will be a survey going out to parents asking, “If you were new to Wydown, what would you want to know?” Information will be disseminated to incoming and new WMS families.

Fundraising Efforts

We will continue with Funds For Excellence in lieu of selling items and other ideas.

Upcoming Events

Give Back Night will be April 26, 2018 at WMS.

Volunteers are needed to run PTO portion of Give Back Night which is food sales. An email for volunteers will go out in the next week. PTO needs 10-15 people for 1 and a half hours.

**Principal’s Report by Jamie Jordan**

Give Back Night

Give Back Night will be held April 26th from 6-7:30 PM at WMS. Entire community it welcome to attend. Information will be sent to elementary schools.

6th graders are participants, 7th & 8th graders sign up by team to run the booths.

Raffle donations are needed. They can include tickets to sporting and cultural events, baskets (family game night, movie night, candy, vacation items), gift certificates (services such as haircuts, manicures, legal affairs, etc.), homemade quilts, memberships to the Zoo, Magic House, Science Center, etc. Please contact Lori Barker (loribarker@claytonschools.net or 314.854.6411) with any questions or to make a donation.

Event tickets are $5 and can be purchased ahead of time or at the door. This year’s recipient organization is Lydia’s House, the only transitional housing program in Eastern Missouri that is specifically for battered and abused women and their children. They have 36 confidentially located, fully furnished apartments where families can find refuge, safety and support. All proceeds will benefit Lydia’s House and our goal is to raise $5,000.00 (surpassed that in past years).

Possibility of 8th graders using their last day of school to do charity giving related to this organization.

Seventh Grade Fieldtrip to Memphis
Seventh graders traveled to Memphis in two groups this year. It seems to have been more impactful with a smaller group.

Eight Grade Fieldtrip to Jekyll Island

Eight graders will travel to Jekyll Island the first week of May.

Replacing Stationary Technology

All dedicated technology rooms (7 in total) will be modified one-by-one with technology carts, stackable furniture, partition walls, white boards, etc. The goal is to give teachers more flexibility and as rooms will be done one by one, we will learn as we go.

Budget

Discussed moving Wydown Extra budget line to the PTO budget instead of District budget.

Budget will be discussed at the next PTO meeting (April 9) and approved in August 2018.

$300 was approved for the band to bring in professionals to meet with 7th and 8th grade band members and receive feedback. Dinner provided for the visiting musicians.

**Jeff Orgel**

Walk Out vs. Walk Up on March 14th

Jeff suggested instead of students walking out of school on March 14, students should find 14 students and 3 adults to walk up to and say something nice in honor of those who died in the Parkland Florida school shooting.

**New Business**

Susan Kronemer, Budgeting & Fundraising Committee member discussed the upcoming Board of Education election to be held on April 3, 2018. Candidates are Amy Rubin, Jason Wilson and Jenaro Centeno (2 spots open). A PTO sponsored Voter Guide was mailed and is available online. A candidate forum will be held Wednesday, March 13th at CHS in the auditorium at 7 PM.

There will be a May 8th Jump Start meeting for anyone joining or continuing on the various CSD PTOs. This meeting is a chance to meet your counterparts at the different CSD schools.

**Conclusion**

Next PTO meeting will be Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie L. Gross, Secretary