**MINUTES OF A MEETING**

**OF THE PTO FOR**

**WYDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

A meeting of the PTO for Wydown Middle School was held, as scheduled pursuant to due notice, on November 13, 2017, at 6:00 PM CT at the Wydown Middle School (WMS) Main Street.

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

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

The following members were also present: Susan Kronemer, Katie Sandquist, Tanya Vedantham, Tivoli Majors, Jillian Barnes.

Jamie Jordan, WMS Principal, Celeste Gillette, Clayton School District PTO Council Representative, Genaro Centeno, School Board Member, and Sarah Bernard representing the All In 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 October 9, 2017 meeting, which was seconded and passed.

**All In Clayton Coalition – Sarah Bernard**

The All in Clayton Coalition was started 3 years ago by Clayton parents, students, and administrators to keep Clayton youth safe from the effects of substance abuse. The coalition’s goal is 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.

All in will host a speaker series, starting November 28, 2017 (7-8:15 PM in the WMS auditorium) The Power of Parents: Talking and Setting Boundaries With Your Kids About Alcohol. There will be a Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) presentation and expert panel including a therapist and law enforcement, followed by Q&A. On January 17, 2018 (7-9 PM CHS auditorium), they will host Hidden In Plain View: An interactive display of a teen’s bedroom containing 60 items that could signal risky activities. Followed by a presentation and Q&A. And on April 18, 2018 (CHS auditorium) they will host Opioids, Addiction and Recovery where experts at Clayton Behavioral will present a provocative talk on the opioid epidemic. Speakers include a recovering heroin addict, substance abuse therapist and psychiatrist.

There is also a student led group called Trypod – (try putting off drinking) led by sophomores and juniors at CHS.

All in is looking for volunteers to share their time and talents. Please visit the allincoalition.com (or All in on Facebook) to see a schedule of meetings and peruse volunteer opportunities.

**PTO Council - Celeste Gillette**

The PTO Council is sponsoring a district wide speaker series. RSVP’s are requested.

Monday, Dec. 11, 2017 7 PM CHS auditorium
Topic: Permission to Screw Up (based on the book of the same title)
What can we be doing to equip our children for success? How do we help future generations reach their potential? How can we support our children by allowing them to fail, so that they learn and grow? In this talk, author Kristen Hadeed will share the exciting story of founding Student Maid, all the while giving us the understanding and tools we need to help our children achieve everything we hope they will and more.

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, 7 PM CHS auditorium

Topic: A Parent's Guide to Social Media for 2018
This presentation will include topics such as the most current research on social media and students; the social anxiety it causes; specifics of laws and terms of service; the importance of coping skills; ways to protect digital identity; techniques for spotting misinformation; personal branding; and good vs. bad apps.
Presenter: Julie Smith

**Treasurer’s Report by Missy McCormick**

Account Update: **A**s of September 15th, we have $46,347.02 in the PTO account.

Tax Documents: We have sent in our Tax Preparation Documents to the Accounting Department for filing. We have a zero discrepancy.

Funds for Excellence Update: We collected an additional $1,935 in Funds for Excellence with our reminder email to 6th & 8th grade parents. FFE Fund is now currently at $12,080.  This is $12,920 from our goal. We are at 48% of our financial goal.  And still only 24% of the parents have contributed.

Expenditures: We paid out for 6th grade camp.  They went over budget by $275.00.

**Budget to Actual Report**

\*Nothing significant to report.”

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report, which was seconded and passed.

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

Upcoming Events – Update

There will be a WMS parent only event the evening of Friday, January 5, 2018.

Tentative venue is Molly Darcy (7 Gables Inn, downtown Clayton). The PTO will provide appetizers and there will be a cash bar. Appetizers funded by $300 from parent connections budget ($100/grade) and a $500 donation from a parent.

Fall Festival: Why we had to cancel and what will this event look like next year?

Previously the event was chaired by the Student Advocates for Social Justice. Going forward, the PTO will host the event and various clubs will have booths. Will look to grade level representatives and volunteers to help with food and activities..

We discussed how to utilize grade and event chairs more to organize events and help teachers

organize end of year events and other activities. We also talked about Parent Connection events – should they be grade specific or for the entire school?. What will help get people to attend?

It’s time to start thinking about grade specific end of the year events. What will those look like going forward?

**Principal’s Report by Jamie Jordan**

Dr. Jordan is working with Heather Cochron of the Sam Fox School of Design to idea share how to improve the parent-teacher conference and make this time more effective.

Discussed how to improve transition time for rising grades. Counselors will meet with students, electives will be reviewed (a video with descriptions will be posted) beginning in January 2018.

**New Business**

The PTO is launching Wydown Pantry Project, a food pantry for needy WMS students, after Thanksgiving. There will be a canned, non-perishable food drive December 4-15th to stock the pantry.

The PTO will purchase 12(?) gym/duffel bags for student recipients to transport items home anonymously.

Susan Kronemer is looking for a PAC.ED representative from each Clayton school (6 positions total).

PAC.ED is the parent advisory council of children with educational diversity. They work for understanding, respect, and support of all children with disabilities in the School District of Clayton. PAC.ED helps parents network and communicate with other parents, provide support for parents including access to relevant information, training, and emotional support, improve communication between SSD and the District, collaborate with parent-teacher groups, school councils and other organizations for the betterment of education in Clayton, and create a positive awareness and understanding of students with disabilities.

A PAC.ED representative responsibilities include:

* Representing and providing information regarding Pac.Ed to each school population
* Counselors and front office staff to refer parents with questions to school representative, restock brochures in front office if needed.
* Providing resources and information to interested parents within the school
* Referring parents to SSD and other outside agencies when appropriate
* Publicizing Pac.Ed events within the school through PTO meetings and school newsletter.
* Attending Pac.Ed committee meetings to discuss long term goals for organization and update the group on any issues or questions (meet 2-3 times annually as needed).
* Training will be provided to representatives to make them aware of tools and resources available to parents of students with IEP and 504 plans, or those whose children may qualify for such.

If interested, please contact Susan Kronemer or Christina Blankenship.

**Old Business**

Next PTO meeting will be Monday, January 22, 2018 6 PM at WMS. There will not be a December 2017 meeting.

**Conclusion**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie L. Gross, Secretary