

MINUTES

Wydown PTO

9/21/2015 7:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Stephanie Abbajay and Brenda Guynes-Glick, co-Presidents

In Attendance

Stephanie Abbajay, Brenda Guynes-Glick, Angela Osborne, Katie Sandquist, Susan Brown, Gina Nakis, David Wilson, Vickie Feinstein, Sally Matiszik, Kim Seip Leila Kyani, Ravesh Rau, Deepika B., Felice McClendon, David McClendon, Gita Kushuaswamy, Sujala Fry, Jessica Liao, Lily Raymond, Jenaro Centeno, Lawanda Hall, Andrea Topps Gilby, Cathleen Fleet, Christine Ireland, Christy Auston, Susan Kronemer, Cheryl Waites, Sarah Melinger, Paula Sparks, Peter Sparks, Melissa Clark, Deb Dobson, Liz Jackson, Elizabeth Smith, Angela Newsom, Nicole Shelledy, Pamela Speh, Amy Ravin, Charles Quigless Jr., Jenny Diel, Becky Melander, Deborah Puricelli, Tamra Taliaferro Thomas, Amy Zaidman, Margarita Gomez, Rachel Retzlaff, Jessica Millner, Christy Thompson, Alison Schneider, Rula Winings, Erika Foreman, Fareda Lytle, plus several that did not sign in.

Dr. Jamie Jordan, Principal, Lauren Siegel, 7th Grade Counselor, Mary Lynn Hogan, Teacher, Rebecca Groves, Teacher, April Fulstone, Teacher

Board

Co-President Stephanie Abbajay opened the meeting. She read the new PTO Norms:

- Assume good will and collegiality
- Be respectful
- Share the floor
- Be mindful of time limitations
- Be constructive

The PTO Goals were read:

- To continue to make the work of the PTO as inclusive, accessible, and transparent, as possible, and to make our PTO business and communications as electronically efficient as possible;
- To continue to make the PTO a valuable resource for parents in terms of information, access to staff, and providing a forum and a voice for the parent community;
- To revamp the Spirit Gear store with new items and new designs;
- To work with parents and Wydown staff on new, more robust diversity, community service, and community-building initiatives;
- To establish a fundraising ethos and platform that works for our parent community, and that can be replicated year-to-year; and
- To help Dr. Jordan in any way we can with her transition and her initiatives here at Wydown.

New PTO position this year - Community Service Chair – Andrea Topps-Gilby

Fundraising Chair – we are still looking for someone! Please contact Stephanie or Brenda if you are interested.

Buzz Book will be ready early October.

Spirit Gear will have all new gear available early October.

PTO will take a more active role in sponsoring three programs this year for community building. April Fulstone spoke about the need for community building events with Parents, Teachers and Students. Keep an eye out for future notices.

Parent Book Club - Lauren Seigel spoke about the new collaboration between the PTO and the Counseling Team. Look for a flier posted on the PTO website. The first book will be Queen Bees and Wannabes

PTO Plus – The PTO will continue the tradition of offering special focus meetings throughout the year. The first one will be on Power School on October 12th following a brief PTO meeting.

The Budget Process was briefly mentioned and whether we should change the process to start it in the prior school year so that a budget is approved at the beginning of the next school year. Nothing was voted on.

Fundraising... Last year it was not necessary to raise money for PTO funds due to a surplus of funds. This year there was a quiet, low key ask at the beginning of the year which resulted in \$19,000 raised. Per the PTO rules, we need to have at least one year of reserves in the bank in addition to the current year. That means we still need to raise roughly \$19,000. There was a small discussion about whether to do a fundraiser or to do another ask. Nothing was decided.

Community Service ... Andrea Topps-Gilby spoke about a need in Ferguson for toiletries for elderly women. There will be a drive to collect specific items. Please keep an eye out for an email with information.

Treasurer's Report

Angela Osborne presented the budget for the 2015-2016 Wydown PTO.

The current Balance is \$57, 586.14. A motion to approve the September report was made by Susan Kronemer and seconded by Deb Dobson. Motion passed.

The 2015-2016 PTO Budget was discussed and explained line by line. A few noted items were:

After School Clubs – currently only chess club but looking to add more

Counseling Fund – includes ice cream and counselor treats as in years past but now also includes food for the 5th grade Transition event that the school district no longer covers. (An additional \$500P)

PTO Council Dues – All PTO's in the district contribute to this. Sarah Melinger from the PTO Council explained that it goes to the accounting system software and filing taxes for the schools and district.

Staff Appreciation – The amount was increased due to the newly approved policy that the Clayton School District no longer will fund any food items (including lunch on a teacher required work day).

Principal Fund – It is a fund at the discretion of the principal to use for ways to give back to and encourage the teachers.

It is a PTO requirement to keep one year of the budget in the reserve. Katie Sandquist motioned to approve the budget and Gina Nakis seconded. The motion passed.

Principal's Report

Dr Jamie Jordan introduced herself and talked about how well the transition into the new school year has been going. There will be some changes to the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences. Parents should be receiving an email by the end of the week regarding sign ups.

There was some discussion about the Student Dress Code. She said that it has not changed from previous years but that it simply is now being enforced. The Code is in the student planner and on page 10 in the student handbook.

Next Meeting

10/12/2015 7:00 PM