

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES

MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

- 1.) Meeting Opened: Charlotte Karmilowic made motion to open the meeting, Scott Stevens seconded the motion.
- 2.) Principal's Report: Mrs. Lowery reported that the opening of the school year had gone well. There are 50 new kids this year, bringing total enrollment to 422 kids. The Block Party was a success and it is something that the staff has ideas for expanding next year. The Whole Foods carnival was also a success, the school is looking at future partnerships with Whole Foods and possibly other businesses.
- 3.) Fa-La-La Luncheon: Ann Knapke is running this year's Fa-La-La luncheon, the second annual all-school holiday party and lunch that will take place on December 18, 2015. The lunch takes the place of individual class parties (with the exception of kindergarten), each child can bring one guest. Box lunches are purchased in advance, the vendor is still being arranged. Mrs. Lowery has already spoken with Columbus Children's Theater about performing at this year's luncheon. The Theater's hour and a half performance of "Rapunzel" would cost the school \$550.00. Mrs. Lowery was able to tentatively book the Theater for December 18th, but needed approval from the PTO for payment. Mrs. Lowery proposed spending money on the Columbus Children's Theater instead of COSI on Wheels, which had previously been proposed for some time during the year (cots for COSI, \$1500.00). The 2015SY dates that COSI on Wheels was available conflicted with statewide testing (April) and the last few days of school (June). Allowing the kindergarten classes to come to the luncheon was discussed.

Motion: Ann Knapke made a motion to approve spending \$550.00 on the Columbus Children's Theater as proposed by Mrs. Lowery. Bridget Coontz seconded the motion. Kathy Wolfram called for a voice vote, all present were unanimously in favor. Motion carried, PTO approved \$550.00 on the Columbus Children's Theater. Mrs. Lowery will sign a contract and finalize the details.

- 4.) Movie Nights: will be planned this year. Steven Starr will be chairing. Tentative dates for the first movie night are November 6th, 13th, 20th or December 4th.
- 5.) Publishing Shop: Publishing shop has been open for a few weeks. Each child will publish two books this year, generally in October or December and some time at the end of the year. A request for publishing party volunteers will be coming out soon. Volunteers are also needed to help assemble books and book kits at home. This is a great opportunity for parents to volunteer at their own convenience. Before school started the publishing shop was cleaned and the worn out supplies, which were 10 years old, were discarded. We are working to update and replenish publishing shop supplies and are looking for donations, including stickers, glue sticks, and decorative duct tape. Supplies can be dropped off at the school.

- 6.) Read at Home Program: This year 155 kids participated in the summer read at home program. Participants read books, completed the corresponding chart, and completed worksheets describing what they read. 77 kids also completed the summer math at home program. Participants completed one of three levels of either program and will be rewarded based on the level they reached. Extra recess with a popsicle for those completing Level II will be on September 22, 2015. The party on the patio, which is a picnic lunch, ice cream sundae bar and extra recess for the kids who reached Level III, will be on September 25, 2015. Volunteers are needed to assist. Contact Kim Turner at kimberlyrae47@hotmail.com.
- 7.) Walk-a-Thon: The walk-a-thon is scheduled for Friday October 2nd. A pep rally to promote the walk-a-thon will be held on Friday September 11th. At the walk-a-thon students will walk laps on a course outside the school. Students will raise money for the school based on pledges for laps walked or flat pledges. Informational sheets and donation forms will go home with students the week of September 21st. Donations can also be made online. The class raising the most money will win a prize. Money raised through the walk-a-thon will be used to fund PTO and school activities, including but not limited to additional funding for specials (gym, music, art), teacher support, classroom mini grants, and the publishing shop. Thanks to corporate sponsors each student and staff member will get a Washington Elementary walk-a-thon t-shirt. Each grade will wear a different color. Volunteers are needed to set up, during the walk-a-thon, and for clean-up. Sign up on sign-up genius through the Washington Elementary home page.
- 8.) Treasurer's Report: Jenny Starr provided and walked through the 2015 budget report. Every entry on the budget was discussed, as well as what items would be increased and decreased. It was discussed that, as is true every year, the budget is contingent upon raising enough funds to cover each expenditure. Items discussed included whether to purchase a media license for one year or at a reduced price for multiple years. Purchase of helium tank was discussed. Tank will fill 500 balloons. Initial price is \$368. Re-fills are \$178, with a \$15 delivery fee, and \$6 per year for tank rental. The school and the PTO are splitting the cost. Tank will be secured in a locked location. There will be no student council this year and that expenditure will be removed from the budget. Safety patrol will be re-instituted once the car line is settled for the year.

Fundraising: Fundraising ideas were discussed. There is no one to chair the fun-for-all festival. Absent a volunteer or group of volunteers, the fun-for-all festival will not take place. Last year the PTO struggled to find volunteers to fill all 300 volunteer hours needed to make the event happen. The festival raised \$11,500.00, \$9500.00 of which was from the silent auction. Alternative fund raisers which would incorporate a silent auction were discussed. Ideas included a social event/silent for adults at the Golf Club of Dublin, a spaghetti dinner, or other family events.

9.) Hilliard City School District: The District will be giving iPad updates at 6:30 p.m on the following dates at the following locations: September 17th at Heritage Middle School, October 20th at Hilliard Memorial Middle School, and November 17th at Weaver Middle School.

10.) Room Parent Updates: We are still in need of a volunteer to coordinate room parents. Room parents coordinate end of the year parties, assist teachers with events as requested, and assemble class baskets in the event a silent auction is held.

Motion: After discussing fundraising and budget needs Scott Stevens made a motion to accept the 2015 PTO budget as set forth on the agenda, not to exceed the amounts therein. Kim Turner seconded the motion. Kathy Wolfram called for a voice vote and the motion unanimously carried.

11.) Before the close of the meeting those in attendance suggested an October meeting to discuss budget issues once the amount of money raised through the walk-a-thon is known. A meeting will be held **October 21, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the media center.**

Motion: At 9 p.m. Kathy Wolfram made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlotte Karmilowic seconded, all were in favor and meeting adjourned.