

Willis Elementary PTO Meeting

Date: August 24, 2022

Start Time: 2:05 p.m.

Board Attendees:

Allison Boccoccio – President

Lindsay Markun – Vice President

Kim Larsen – Treasurer

Ri Bizzaro – Secretary

Minutes submitted by: Ri Bizzaro

Agenda

1. Welcome – Introduction of PTO, our mission & things we accomplished last year
2. Budget & Finances
3. Principal's Update
4. Uniforms & Business Partners
5. PTO Events Calendar & Committees
6. PTO Communications & Room Parent Coordinator Training
7. 5th Grade Committee
8. Teacher's Update

Welcome

- i. Allison Bocaccio welcomed those in attendance to the first PTO meeting of the year. She introduced the board and thanked everyone for joining.
- ii. She spoke about our mission to support our students, staff, teachers, and administrators and stressed that none of this could be easily accomplished without the amazing parent volunteers.
- iii. Allison mentioned the 8 PTO events held last year and that these events raised \$110k with \$84K being raised by Color Run which funded new playground equipment. This year there will be more events and volunteers are needed.
- iv. Allison highlighted the importance of business partners and how their contributions and in-kind donations make a difference.
- v. Allison talked about large purchases including the Gecko Family Café, turf, and ADA table.

Budget & Finances

- i. Kim explained the formatting of the financials she prepared with left columns for monthly expenses/credits, right columns for year-to-date expenses/credits and black graph providing details of the expenses.
- ii. Kim began with the financials for July and reviewed expenses such as landscaping, 50% of turf for the Gecko Family Café, ADA table and some additional carry over costs from last year. She highlighted revenues such as the 4th quarter parking lot raffle which generated \$964.

- iii. Kim went on to discuss August financials. She explained that all book fair proceeds are moved to Mr. Violette for Media Center spend. She detailed operating expenses such as Kindergarten Playdate & Boo-Hoo Breakfast. She highlighted that we received \$1195 from tumbler sales during Open House and that 5th grade already has \$5,326 of dress down day funds. Lastly Business Partners account for \$11,400.
- iv. Kim reviewed the proposed budget noting goals for Color Run to help with funding shade structures.
- v. Allison explained that we carry big balances to help cover expenses for events, venues, vendors, etc.

Principal's Update

- i. Principal Price welcomed all of the parents and was so happy to see so many new faces. She appreciated the large turn out of support and hopes to see everyone's continued involvement.
- ii. She introduced Dr. Katie Fradley as the new Assistant Principal. Dr. Fradley introduced herself and provided her background. She noted that she was very excited to be at Willis and they both agreed on what a smooth transition it has been.
- iii. Principal Price talked about a great start to the year. Suzanne & Hanna (Cuervo) put together a teambuilding activity which was centered around water and lunch was provided. She noted a big turn out from the teachers.
- iv. She shared the new theme for this year is "Ride the Wave" and each staff member got a towel & bag.
- v. She noted that there were 15 new items being rolled out to teachers (standards, testing, curriculum) and teacher morale is a focus for the administration. She shared that added support systems have been put in place with Dr. Fradley, Mrs. Darpino and Mrs. Van overseeing the K-2 grades and Principal Price, Mrs. Thomas & Mrs. Morales overseeing the 3-5th grades.
- vi. Arrival & dismissal has been going smoothly. First time in 5 years with no tardy stickers today. Bus issues continue to improve.
- vii. Fencing is now complete with easier access for staff, more security for the school and a move from 4 foot to 6-foot fences.
- viii. The swing purchased by the PTO came 2 months earlier than expected – a nice surprise.
- ix. The ADA table has added capacity and a SignUp Genius will be going out next week for parent lunches to begin.
- x. 5th Grade – an "office assistant" role has been added. "Gecko Go Getters". Application will be available along with a requirement for an essay. If selected, students will help with filing and assisting students to class, and will help Ms. Lori & Ms. Donna.
- xi. 4th Grade – Gecko News went live for the first time. So exciting. Big thank you to the staff that helped make this happen: Richards, Cuervo, Yochim, Darpino, Violette.
- xii. Mr. Art's retirement was discussed. He will be missed. Posting is open.
- xiii. Pick up & Dismissal has been very smooth and efficient this year.

Uniforms and Business Partners

- i. Lindsay recognized the love/frustration relationship with Manatee Apparel. She talked about their strong partnership with giving us back rebate on our spend with them. She reinforced that there is a lot out of their control due to slow global shipping times. She mentioned that she has spoken with them about replacing out of stock items with similar items.

- ii. We are looking forward to adding the Gecko PTO shirts to the website. Lindsay asked for any suggestions. One mom requested the gecko symbol on the uniform shirts, and it was explained that that uniform shirts had a school logo but that we could add geckos to spirit wear.
- iii. Business partners were listed. Not all banners have been made but we continue to add. Lindsay reviewed in-kind vs. traditional partners.

PTO Events & Committees

- i. Ri discussed the many events of the year and went into detail on each of the more recent events coming up.
- ii. She introduced some of the chairs for the events and encouraged volunteers to reach out to them.

Room Parent Training

- i. Allison introduced Missy Weinandy as Room Parent Coordinator and highlighted that there will be a meeting of all room parents.
- ii. Communications from the PTO will filter through Missy to the room parents.

5th Grade Update

- i. Melissa Summerlee announced that the theme for 5th grade is "Riding the Wave".
- ii. Mrs. Podolan is the 5th grade teacher liaison.
- iii. She discussed honor roll event, yearbook dedication, 5th grade portraits as being focuses for the committee.
- iv. She will be holding the first meeting after Labor Day.
- v. Allison thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Parent Attendance:

Jennifer Hill
Mary McGuire
Monika Morgan
Jenn Beirau
Jackie Elmore
Missy Weinandy
Colleen Laughlin
Carolyn Bowerman
Lisa Scott
Hilary Varona
Marcie Torres
Kelli Warren
Devon Woods
Liz Bas
Melissa Medford
Michelle Heffernan
Julie Arone
Isil Pollak
Gal Gamustas
Allison Savaya
Alison Freund
Tara Young
Samantha Beebe
Tanya Tutcher
Kinjal Shah
Sherry Yu
Monika Shaham
Liz Calasans
Brittany McGill
Emily McLauchlan
Marni Newmann
Melissa Summerlee
Jennifer King
Jill Wallace
Nicol Hotaling
Lisa Peviti
Jennifer Kincaid
Bianca Burkee
Leona Bess
Nicole Grech