**Willis Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, February 23, 2018**

Starting Time: 8:45am

Board Members Present:  Mr. Stenger, Bianca Lawrence, Sky Galliano, Tara Merino, Cathy Magda

Other Members Present: Listed separately

Minutes submitted by Cathy Magda

**Agenda:**

• Welcome / School Security

• Casino Night / Staff Appreciation

• Book Club / Box Tops

• Financial Update

• Mr. Stenger Remarks

• Speaker Session

• Q&A

**PTO Welcome Message / School Security**

• Bianca welcomed and thanked attendees for taking time to come.

• Bianca ensured parents the PTO Board understands and agrees with parent concerns on school safety and security.

• The PTO Board is committed to getting all information to parents regarding school security changes and updates.

• Security/Safety meeting with Dr. Greene was postponed but will be rescheduled in the near future.

• Parents are encouraged to attend the Manatee School Board meeting on Tuesday, February 27. The location is 215 Manatee Ave. West.

**Casino Night (Spring Fundraiser) / Staff Appreciation**

• Valerie Demino spoke about the upcoming Casino Night event.

• Casino Night is on Friday, March 16 at Polo Grill 6-9:30pm.

• Babysitting is available.

• Silent Auction will be available online for classroom baskets and much more.

• Ticket sales are still available.

• Valerie also discussed Staff Appreciation Week

• Staff Appreciation week is May 7-11.

• The committee will be having a meeting on March 9 at 8:30am

• Volunteers are needed as well as raffle items such as gift cards, etc.

• Sponsorships are available.

**Book Club / Box Tops**

• Heather Caserta spoke about the newly formed PTO Book Club.

• Book Club is March 9 from 9-10am. Location TBA.

• The book is Mindset: The New Psychology for Success by Carol Dweck.

• A fun social event for parents.

• Heather spoke about Box Tops indicating 100 more box tops are needed to have 5,000 for the collection this week.

• The next collection is Thursday, March 15.

**Financial Update**

• Tara reported on current financials.

• Fall and Spring Book Fairs were successful. Fall Book Fair raised $1000.

• Holiday Shoppe raised over $4000 due to volunteers like Deb Sharpe.

• PTO purchased the second part of the Making Meaning libraries for the classrooms, Writing Program and STEAM items as well as science supplies.

**Mr. Stenger Remarks**

• The safety of the students and staff are the school’s highest priority.

• Mr. Stenger has been working with Dr. Greene, the sheriff’s department, other school principals, and the District to discuss and implement procedural and physical changes to the building (wall, gate, buzzard system).

• Continue doing drills to be as prepared as possible.

• Increased training for staff and students.

• Age appropriate discussions with students.

**Speaker Session**

• Middle School Panel Discussions: Parents from each school presented an overview as well as discussed their experiences with the process of choosing a middle school best suited for their child.

ODA – Candice McElyea

Nolan – Becky Levar

St. Stephens – Mira Milburn

Braden River – Shannon McCoy

• The common message from each parent was to take a tour of all the schools so the best choice can be made for your child.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.