

Willis Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes  
Friday, October 25, 2019

Starting Time: 2:05pm

Board Members Present: Deb Hossenlopp, Valerie Demino, Dawn Barbour, Liz Johnson, Kathy Price, Billie-Jo Fintel

Other Members Present: Listed separately

Minutes Submitted by Liz Johnson

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Financial Overview
3. Walk-A-Thon
  - PTO Purchases
  - Future Purchases
4. Upcoming Events
  - Chair Guest Speakers
5. Open Board Positions

**Financial Overview**

1. Dawn Barbour reviewed the financials. Willis surpassed our Walk-A-Thon goal of \$55,000 which leaves the PTO in an excellent place. It is with great excitement that we will be able to enhance certain things at our school with such amazing fundraising efforts.
2. Willis has some new Business Partners. New Gold Business Partners are Spice & Tea Exchange, along with Beyond Dancing. A new Platinum Business Partner is D1 Training Center.

**Walk-A-Thon**

1. Deb Hossenlopp shared information about current and future PTO purchases. Manatee County's Director of Technology will be ordering 12 "whiteboards" to begin our technology enhancement project. It is expected to take about 4-6 weeks for the delivery.
2. Mrs. Price also shared that in her meeting with the Director of Technology, she expressed her concerns over our lack of working laptops. He has generously agreed to swap out 176 laptops with new Chrome Books and ALSO provide us with extras, for a total of 240 for our students. We will start with fifth grade and eventually continue with fourth and third graders, so that our school will

have a 1:1 ratio in those upper grades. After the Spring Fundraiser, the PTO will consider purchasing 50 more laptops.

3. The PTO is also researching ways to enhance the playgrounds. The gaga pit for the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade playground has arrived, been installed, and the students are loving it. Mrs. Price shared a petition from one classroom stating that they want to have a tire swing. PTO will research the cost of adding a tire swing to one or both of our playgrounds.
4. Also using WAT money, we have purchased more math manipulatives, Cranium Core/SSYR for the Media Center, and continued staff development. In the future, PTO plans to show videos of exactly how our money is being used and the students in action!
5. WAT dates for prizes have all been finalized and letters have gone home with students.

### Upcoming Events/Chair Guest Speakers

1. Amy Hammon - Chair of the Spring Fundraiser Event. Amy is very excited for this event and planning is underway. Prospective dates include February 15<sup>th</sup> at The Grove or March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Founders Club. More research is being done to choose a date. The theme will be 80's, complete with a costume contest. Amy is interested in hearing any feedback from years past - what has worked, what can be improved, especially with the Silent Auction piece.
2. Denise West - Chair of the Father/Daughter Dance. The theme for this year's dance will be Under the Sea and will be held on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Tickets will go on sale (using EventBrite) on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. This will be a ticket entry event since we have a fire code to follow for the cafeteria at school. A committee meeting will be held Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. Leslie Toscano - Chair of the Holiday Shop. Volunteers will be needed to set up, take down, and also help the younger students shop.
4. Liz Baas - Chair of Yearbook Committee. Liz reminded everyone to continue taking as many pictures as they can, especially with the upcoming classroom parties. Yearbook needs most of the pictures by the end of January.
5. Deb Hossenlopp spoke about Donuts for Dad and the Fall Book Fair. Volunteers are needed for both of these events as they are quickly approaching.
6. Field Day will be May 15<sup>th</sup> - more details to come!

Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm