**Willis Elementary PTO**

**General Meeting Minutes**

Friday, August 19th, 2016 @ 2:00 pm

Minutes Submitted by: Christa Nash

**PTO Mission and Purpose**

* Mission is to support our teachers, administrators,and staff in providing a top quality education to our students
* As the district pulls out of financial hardship, the PTO is dedicated to ensuring that the quality of education does not suffer
* Crucial part of the PTO is to raise funds for the school
* Funds from PTO are used to
  + purchase important classroom tools and equipment
  + support educational programs and technology
  + enhancements to the school

1.  **Introductions**

* **2016-2017 PTO Board**

President: AShley Henderson

Vice President: Deb Hossenlopp

Vice President and Business Partner Coordinator: Courtni Darpino

Treasurer: Tara Merino

Secretary: Christa Nash

2.  **PTO FInancial Report**

* see attached

3. **Report on Past Events**

* **Summer Spirit Nights: Menchie’s and Blaze Pizza** Menchie’s spirit night was successful, we raised $50, the owners of Menchie’s doubled this amount and we brought in a total of $100! Thank you to Menchie’s. We are still waiting on totals from Blaze.
* **Uniform Fair** was held on tax free weekend. Our new dri fit shirts were introduced. We grossed $5,200 on Friday, and $2,000 on Saturday. Any orders placed will be filled soon and will be delivered to your child. We used an outside source for non logo uniforms and supplies.
* **Back to School Night** was a great success! We grossed $3,600 in sales. Thank you for coming.
* **Kindergarten Playdate**, Friday, August 5th was successful, although the playground was a bit damp from recent rain. We had a great turnout, regardless. Our new students left with “Future Geckos” signs for their front yard.
* **Yahoo Night Out** was a wonderful event. It was great to meet so many new parents. Thank you to McAllister’s for donating 3 platters of food.
* **Sponsored Teacher Planning Meals** were provided for our fantastic Willis staff, as they prepared for the school year. Their first day back, breakfast was donated by Morrish and Stewart Orthodontics. Later that week, Boar’s Head donated lunch. On the day before school started, the staff enjoyed omelets, as well as coffee and pastries donated by Wawa.

4. **PTO Fundraisers**

* **Spirit Nights**, our first of the year will be August 25th, from 5-9pm at PDQ, don’t forget to mention Willis. Also, we have Chick-fil-a sponsoring a spirit night on Thursday, September 22nd from 3-9pm. We will continue with various sponsors monthly and a portion of the proceeds will come back to benefit our school
* **Willis Business Partners**, chaired by Courtni Darpino, is in full swing, and has many opportunities and levels available for businesses. We are seeking a volunteer(s) to shadow Courtni for this year, as well as chair in the 2017-2018 school year.
* **Gecko Gala**, chaired by Ashley Henderson,the second largest fundraiser for the year, will be held in the spring. If anyone would be willing to shadow Ashley, this will be her last year as the chair of this committee.
* **Amazon Smile** will give .5% back to the school if purchases are made from our link
* **Box Tops** are collected 4 times through the year, with the first collection on Thursday, September 1st. Top 3 classes will win a Popcorn Party

5. **Upcoming PTO Events**

* **1st Room Parent Meeting** is Wednesday, August 31st @ 2:00pm. Tami Silver is our room Parent coordinator, [tamibeths@aol.com](mailto:tamibeths@aol.com)
* **Walk a thon**, our largest fundraiser, will be held on Friday, November 4th. This is a really fun event for the kids. We will be needing volunteers to make this a successful event, more information to come.
* **Fall Book Fair** will be held September 30th- October 10th. We will be looking for volunteers for set up, as well as helping the kids. Monies raised from the book fair will benefit the library.
* **Donuts with Dad** will be Thursday, October 6th, from 7:30 am- 8:30 am. This is a very busy event. Again, we are in need of volunteers, as well as photographers.

6.  **PTO Projects**

* **Year Book** is being led by Jennifer Bowles and Liz Baas, we are still looking for photographers and volunteers to assist with this committee.
* **Newslette**r is put together 4 times a year by Christine Shaklik. If anyone is willing to shadow Christine and learn how the newsletter works, please let us know. This will be Christine’s last year.
* **Fans** have been installed in the covered area for PE.
* **Projectors** have finally been installed in all classrooms.
* **Recent School Purchases** have been recess equipment for our children, as well as new front door mats
* **Volunteer Work Area** is in the planning stages now.
* **Communications** would like to make sure that you are receiving important announcements, please sign up via email if you haven’t already

**Calendar of Events**

Friday, August 19th Dress Down Day

Monday, August 22nd SAC Meeting 6pm

Thursday, August 25th PDQ Spirit Night 5-8pm

Thursday, September 1st Box Tops Collection

Friday, Sept 16th (2-3pm) PTO Meeting

**Interested in volunteering? Have a question? A suggestion? Interested in being a business partner? Let us know!**  
  
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