

Willis Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2021 2:30pm at Willis Elementary

Starting Time: 2:32 pm

Board Members Present: Allison Boccaccio, Lindsay Markun, Mindy Buckley and Melissa Summerlee

Minutes Submitted by Melissa Summerlee

Agenda: See attached

PTO Update

1. Fall Decorating- A big thank you to Tara and Monika, who have been busy creating cute fall bulletin boards around the school. They have done an amazing job. PTO purchased additional fall decorations that have been put up as well.
2. Spirit Event Coordinator
 - a. Spirit Events are currently booked until January, but if anyone is interested in becoming the Spirit Event Coordinator to plan out the remainder of the year, please contact the PTO.
 - b. Still waiting on final numbers from our Spirit Event at Defy but it was a success with many Willis families attending.
 - c. Upcoming Spirit Events include Oct 21 at PDQ and Nov 10 at Blaze Pizza.
3. Financials- PTO purchases include
 - a. Tables for Runner's Club
 - b. Fall Decorations for school
 - c. Candy/trinkets for Trunk or Treat
 - d. Juice for Honor Roll Breakfast
 - e. Color Run Supplies
 - f. PTO is also working on getting additional fans (including installation) for the PE area.
4. Manatee Apparel/Spirit Items
 - a. New Willis Magnets are now available (separate from Gecko Award magnets)
 - b. New fall/winter items for cooler weather will be going up for sale soon.
 - c. White Willis bows are also now available for purchase
 - d. Manatee Apparel is also working on our Color Run shirts
5. Upcoming Events
 - a. October
 - i. Oct 21- PDQ Spirit Night
 - ii. Oct 22- Honor Roll Breakfast for 4th & 5th Grade
 - iii. Oct 29- Halloween Parade 9 – 9:30 am Parents will be allowed to attend. Event will take place around the bus loop, which will allow parents to space out.

- iv. Oct 29- Trunk or Treat 5:30 – 7 pm Staff will decorate cars to pass out candy and trinkets purchased by the PTO. PTO is working on finding a food truck(s) but availability has been limited.
- b. November
 - i. Nov 1-5 Book Fair One volunteer slot recently opened. Anyone interested in the open slot should sign up through the SignUp Genius link that went out.
 - ii. Nov 10- Blaze Pizza Spirit Night
 - iii. Nov 16- Class Picture Day/Retakes
 - iv. Nov 19- Gecko Color Fun Run presented by Influence Style
- c. Other events (like Donuts with Dad) are currently canceled or on hold until we are able to make decisions based on the Covid restrictions in place at that time.

Principal's Update

1. Gecko Awards- Ceremony for Gecko Awards will be a little different. Only recipients will attend and ceremony will be filmed with a link sent to parents. VPK-2nd in one ceremony and 3rd -5th in the other.
2. Volunteers-
 - a. Parents will be allowed to start volunteering in classrooms again with limited numbers. Teachers will send out information regarding the volunteer opportunities for their class.
 - b. Parents are required to complete the Manatee County Volunteer application if they have not completed it already.
 - c. Mrs. Price requests that when parents volunteer or come to PTO meetings, please do not request early departure for your student.

Gecko Color Fun Run presented by Influence Style

1. Sponsors for the Color Fun Run include
 - a. Influence Style
 - b. Toll Brothers
 - c. Umbare
 - d. Michelle's Brown Bag Cafe
 - e. Casto Development
 - f. Barre3
 - g. SmartPro Electric
2. Goal is to raise \$100,000 for new playground and shade covering
3. Fundraising site is currently being finalized. Many sites were researched and DoJiggy will continue to be the site for online donations. They combined to give us the greatest flexibility in design and cost. They have removed the ranked fundraising leaderboard from last year.
4. Shirt design is being finalized now that the deadline for sponsorship opportunities has passed. Manatee Apparel is working on the design.

5. Prize Incentive levels have just been finalized and will be sent out to parents/students at the end of October. Prizes include American Ninja Obstacle course and Willis movie night.
6. Ri will be holding meetings for Fun Run volunteers every 2 weeks and will reach out to all when the next meeting is scheduled.

5th Grade Committee Update

1. Shirt Design has been finalized. Cotton shirts instead of dri-fit this year. Shirt sizes have been collected.
2. Volunteers have signed up to coordinate the additional activities, like yearbook dedications.
3. 5th grade committee is waiting to plan additional activities until more is known on the type of Covid restrictions that will be in place.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm