

Willis Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 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. Spirit Days/Coordinator
 - a. Carousel's- Carousel's has been doing spirit day coming the last Friday of the month. They give Willis 30% of their sales for the day. Very kind family that is happy to give back.
 - b. Defy- Spirit Night at Defy on 9/21. Good turnout. 20-30 Willis families. No info on numbers yet.
 - c. PDQ- a business partner with Willis that donates meals to the staff. We also try and conduct a spirit night with them. Coming up 10/27.
 - d. Blaze Pizza- Spirit night coming in November
 - e. Coordinator- We don't currently have a Spirit Day coordinator. IF anyone would like to step up and take the position, please contact the PTO board.
2. Business Partners
 - a. Melissa has been working with the business partners
 - b. We have significant community support both from existing business partners and new business partners.
 - c. Banners have been going up on the car line fence.
 - d. Shout outs have been going out on Facebook, on the school marquee and are included in the weekly newsletter.
 - e. We encourage Willis families to support these businesses that are kind enough to support Willis.
 - f. Business Partners can come on board any time. Feel free to contact Willis PTO.
3. Uniforms/Spirit Wear
 - a. Lindsay has coordinated with Manatee Apparel for spirit wear.
 - b. New spirit wear will come out later in the year. Jackets, fleeces, baseball caps, magnets, license plate surrounds, keychains.
 - c. Manatee Apparel will be giving us a check for portion of spirit wear sales. That will come quarterly
 - d. Manatee Apparel will also be a sponsor for Color Run
 - e. If we do Gala, they can also offer things like embroidery, etc. for a basket.
4. Financials
 - a. Not many updates to financials

- b. Operating fees for web hosting came through
 - c. Money coming in for Dress Down Day and deposited
 - d. Business Partner Money for deposits
 - e. Speaker system purchased last year is charged as items come in. Since so many pieces were ordered, the deductions have been made in small increments. County installs the items.
 - f. Financials are posted online and we can be contacted with any questions.
5. Room Parents
- a. Julia Pruitt is the Room Parent Coordinator
 - b. Email went out last week. She was missing some emails.
 - c. She will relay info from PTO to Room Parents so the info can be sent to the rest of the parents.

Principal's Update

1. Mrs. Price has requested used uniforms if anyone has them to donate.
2. Reflex Math/1st in Math
 - a. Last year PTO purchased this program for math fluency. This year we have an opportunity to pilot for free a program called 1st in Math from the designer in Acaletics.
 - b. One of 4 schools to pilot.
 - c. Willis placed 1st in math scores last year.
 - d. 1st in Math is to replace Reflex. 7-10 minutes online each day. Similar to Reflex. Student driven. Conceptual not just drilling skills. There are different challenge options (school challenge, family challenge, team challenge) Families can participate together. Will automatically send out certificates. Single sign on for easy access. Not diagnostic, but it is adaptive. Goals can be set with it. Want this to be fun and exciting for kids.
 - e. Will be web based and kids will be able to access from home.
3. Speaker system upgrade- when speakers were updated in the cafetorium, the speakers on the outside breezeway were updated as well. Music will be able to be played in the mornings.
4. Millage tax is coming up for renewal. If there is a BP that can put a sign up regarding the tax at their business, the county will provide the sign. Samantha Beebe offered to put the sign at her Main Street store depending on how it fits in her window. Millage Tax is what allowed the district to add 30 minutes to the school day and has helped attract talented teachers. Manatee County went up in rankings last year.

October Events

1. Trunk or Treat- this event will be TBD depending on where things are at the end of October. PTO provides the candy and teachers decorate their cars out on the bus/car loops. Kids come dressed in their costumes from around 5-6 pm. Fun, family-friendly event. Mrs. Price will have to see if there is enough teacher support. Event is usually pretty crowded.

2. Halloween Parade- Will still take place this year on 10/29. Kid will parade inside the school. Little treats will be given.
3. PDQ Spirit Event- coming up on October 21st.
4. Picture Day
 - a. Taking place October 7th.
 - b. Will need some volunteers to take money, mark off students, keep everyone organized.
 - c. Any volunteers need to have Manatee County Volunteer application completed
 - d. Melissa, Mindy, Barb, Ri, Julia, Ashley, Nikki
5. Holiday Wreath Fundraiser
 - a. New this year. Will launch in October
 - b. Money will go to staff and student incentive and professional development
 - c. Fresh wreaths (11 different choices) and swags that can be sent to family in the 48 contiguous states.
 - d. Sales are all on online.
6. Book Fair
 - a. Happening at the end of October beginning of November
 - b. Sign Up Genius will be going out for volunteers
 - c. Manatee County volunteer application must be completed

Gecko Color Fun Run presented by Influence Style

1. Samantha Beebe and Influence Style has agreed to be a sponsor for the event.
2. Goal is to raise \$100,000 for playground update
3. Chair person is Ri Bizzarro
 - a. New mom to Willis and FL
 - b. Very excited to get involved and chairing the committee
 - c. Need many volunteers to help with the event
 - d. Meeting last week. Anyone that didn't attend, another meeting will be held next week. If you can't make the meeting, just reach out to Ri.
4. Event Sponsorships are available until October 8th
 - a. Names will be on the back of the shirt for sponsors so we need these before shirts are printed.
5. Every child will get a shirt for the Fun Run.
 - a. Limited Edition shirts will be an incentive.
 - b. Each child will get a white shirt.
 - i. Shirt sizes will be taken by PTO and volunteers
 - ii. Paras and teachers can help.
 - c. Powdered chalk will be thrown during the run
 - d. There will be a lane for kids that don't want to be "chalked"
 - e. Will be during dress down day.
6. There will be an opt out form if parents don't want their kids to participate.

5th Grade Committee Update

1. Deb Hossenlopp and Shannon McCoy will chair the committee
2. First meeting was conducted via zoom
3. Sign Up genius for volunteer events was put up. Some are full and some still have available openings.
4. Yearbook dedication and 5th grade portraits will be started early
5. Shirt Design is being worked on. Supply issue for shirt. Kids will vote on colors for shirt.
6. This is also Shannon's last year as Communications Chair. She has recruited a replacement and will start training her in January to take over.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm