

MINUTES



Willett Elementary PTO Minutes

February 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Kirsten Mailhot at 3:20 p.m.

In attendance

See Attendance List.

Kelly from Scholastic Book Fair Division

Mission of the Scholastic Book Club is to inspire the lifelong love of reading in all children by partnering with schools and providing the book fairs. Explained the sales and calculations process and stated that Willett averages about \$5,000 in sales which translates back to about 180 independent reading minutes in school which is pretty fantastic! During a book fair the profit is 50% of sales earned by scholastic dollars which means it can be spent in the catalog. In addition, Scholastic now offers a reading rewards program which gives the kids the opportunity to build their own home libraries. Willett has 3 book fairs planned this year. Had one in October, one in the next few days and one in May. Because of that there are additional bonuses which are retroactive starting with the initial book fair. Bonuses range from 5%-10% of sales for each fair and were calculated to total approx. \$2,000 additional bonuses in Scholastic dollars at the end of the May book fair. Julie who runs the book fairs at Willett is looking to create a Book Club Fair committee. Scholastic has lots of tools that can help the committee including the "Every Kid Goes Home with A Book" which Julie did during the past book fair and was a success! Julie expressed that Scholastic has lots to offer and it really is too much for one person to do alone. We could be utilizing so much more of what Scholastic has to offer. There are Workshops offered through Scholastic available to everyone throughout the year. March 4th at 11 a.m. at the Unlikely Book Store in Plainville. Anyone who wants to be involved in the school's book fair are welcome to join the workshop. There are also Webinars available on the site and Willett will receive extra Scholastic Dollars for participation. A more thorough meeting can be planned once a committee is formed. A teacher expressed that the important part is getting the book fairs scheduled and not to get overwhelmed with all of the resources available. Bottom line is kids love and get excited with just seeing the books!

Laura from Girl Scouts

Girls Scouts offer after school programs. When we think of Girl Scouts we automatically think of cookies but little do we know that almost every female astronaut was a girl scout. Almost every woman in the Senate or Congress was a girl scout. Girl Scouts look at the overall health of the female such as emotional and physical and find a program that will help girls. Hands-on learning along with what they are learning at schools raises their test scores, boosts their confidence and gives them a better peer to peer relationship. Options discussed for after school programs: Stem Related, "Be Your Own Superhero" which works with experiments, how to be fit, etc. and do a "take action" project which involves doing something for the community. Example of that is the "buddy bench" used during recess. Each program ends with a "take action" project. Girl Scouts provides all of the staffing and do accept volunteers that must go through a background check as well as training. The fee for the 6 week programs are \$25.00 which is a flat one-time fee. Financial aid is available. Other programs are: "Be A Friend First Program" which works with anti-bullying and self confidence. "Girl Scout Ways" which learns the promise, being a fellow sister. Other programs such as "Financial" where they learn how to write checks and balance a checkbook, etc. All Programs are K-4 and vary depending on programs and number of girls in class. All Programs are adaptable. Consensus was the Stem Related, "Be Your Own Superhero", would be the best fit at Willett. Laura will share the information with Mr. Cateon to begin the process.

Approval of Secretary Report

The minutes distributed via email from the January 2016 meeting were approved.

Officer's Reports

- a. Just wrapped up Celtics ticket sales with good turn-out. Game is in March.
- b. Looking into a trampoline park fundraiser which would be about 25% profit back to the PTO. More information to come.
- c. Hong Kong Treasure fundraiser on 2/15/16 for takeout / dine in. Information will be emailed out.
- d. Spirit Wear is being re-done. A logo is being redone and is in the works. Prices and information is being gathered. Lots of different options for types of spirit wear. The goal is to update the spirit wear and re-evaluate the pricing so that more students purchase the spirit wear rather than focus on profit margin. Teachers looking for Willett Way stickers so discussed merging the order with the teachers. Lots to figure out

with coloring limitations and accent colors, etc. Hope to have the logo ready and more to discuss at next PTO meeting.

Principal's Report given by Brenda Swintak

- a. Recess monitors are being hired for all Attleboro Elementary Schools. Willett has hired 2 thus far. They will be trained after February vacation. Staff will be with them for a while after training. The Teachers will be using that extra time to collaborate with support staff and classroom teachers for all instruction to be unified. Extra 20 minutes is exciting!
- b. PARC testing will occur during the month of May on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesday is the break day for students and also is helpful to other schools that have limitations on the Intranet infrastructure. Testing will be no longer than 1.5 hours per day.
- c. 2/12/2016 is early release day for Professional Development.
- d. Feinstein Foundation Update: \$1000 dollars for the Feinstein Newsletter and from the can donations that Mr. Feinstein matched for an additional \$1000.
- e. Short presentation on Positive Behavior Intervention Systems being used at Willett. There's a team of teachers and staff that have agreed to learn more and go to training to infuse what they learn at Willett School. The implementation is a 3 year process. An "Audience Expectations" video has been made by the team and shown to students regarding what behavior is expected in certain areas of school and behavior during presentations etc. Talk to your children about the video. Eventually videos will be made for each area of "shared space" in the school. Mr. Cateon arrived and added that the rationale for the first video was due to having guests at Willett and the students were not clear as to how that behavior differs from an AR rally.

New Business:

- a. Planning a Bingo Night for 2nd and 3rd graders and the meeting is tonight, 2/4/16 at 7 p.m. at the Attleboro Public Library. All is welcome.
- b. Technology: Read-A-Thon is happening and going till the 21st. Money is due on the 26th.
- c. Garden: Seed sale happening in April as a fundraiser. Looking into some compost bins being built and hope to work with cafeteria to begin the compost programs. Need more help on committee. Mr. Cateon mentioned there has been talk about possibly utilizing an inmate program to utilize free labor for building compost bins. Mr. Cateon expressed that all work would be done off school hours for obvious reasons however nothing has been scheduled. Garden committee is also looking into sitting stones for the kids. Also, possibly doing an after school tea party for students and families. Kirsten mentioned possibly incorporating the garden into the spring fair.
- d. Labels for Education due on 2/12/16.
- e. Spirit Days – PTO will be adding teachers to room parent emails so everyone is on the same page as to communication with spirit days. PTO will take all half days as Spirit Day fundraiser events. Student Council will plan alternate Spirit Days such as Dr. Seuss character day in March.
- f. Mr. Cateon talked about Senior Tax Abatement process which applicants have to have 66 hours of community service. Interviewing process is happening at Willett and 2 great candidates have been selected to help out with kindergarten classes to begin with. All volunteers get Cori checked.
- g. 2/24/2016 is Kindergarten Information Night with a snow date of 2/25/2016.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Willett Library

Motion to adjourn was made at 4:25 p.m.