

Woodland Home & School
Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 11, 2013
9:15 a.m.

In Attendance:

Christine Steere
Gene Dickey
Liz Drummond
Kim Larcinese

Gabby Winters
Heather Gulsby-Steiner
Sarah Spletzer
Mary Thomas

Zanthia Reddish
Shweta Naik Raikar
Linda Ehmer

1. Sign in and Welcome Introductions: Christine acknowledged the new Kindergarten parent joining us today, and mentioned that we always need new volunteers.
2. Old Business: Christine Steere and Sarah Spletzer

Christine and Sarah will use this portion of the meeting to address questions left open from previous meetings. As this is the first meeting of the school year, we have no “old business.” Christine and Sarah will look into making sure all minutes from last year are posted.

3. Recording Secretary’s Report: Sarah Spletzer

No report given.

4. President’s Report: Christine Steere

Christine reported that the Square 1 Art packages are purchased for this year’s fundraiser.

5. Co-Vice Presidents’ Reports: Gabby Winters and Heather Gulsby-Steiner

Gabby mentioned that we have had a good number of sign-ups for HR Captains and that most have their full volunteer clearances while some have clearances pending.

Heather discussed H&S’s purchase of school supplies for this school year, noting that all that are left to purchase are Clorox wipes. She also discussed that at the Meet & Greet District Council meeting, they gave H&S a form which the district would like us to start using to track volunteer hours by committee. Heather will get the paperwork out to each committee.

6. Treasurer’s Report: Liz Drummond

Liz was happy to report that she found a check for Target rewards for \$408.00 and enclosed with this check was a notice that we did not receive or cash last year’s check. We also have checks from Plaza flowers and paper recycling, which total \$41.99. Liz distributed information to the teachers regarding the \$100 allowance and mini-grant

applications. She also notified non-teachers that their money has been moved into the mini-grant fund. The purchase of school supplies so far has totaled around \$4,000, but this amount will still increase. Liz handed out new budget and noted that the teacher accounts went down, we've added in a line item for the school supplies, as well as a line item for 4th grade yearbooks, increased the budget for father-child, reduced the budget for assemblies and increased the amount in the mini-grant account.

7. Corresponding Secretary's Report: Gene Dickey

Gene reported that we received three thank-you cards: The first from Dr. Reddish to H&S thanking the group for help with the new student orientation; the second from Dr. Reddish to H&S thanking the group for purchasing all students' school supplies; and, the third from Linda Bradley to H&S thanking the group for the purchase of school supplies.

8. Principal's Report: Zanthia Reddish

Dr. Reddish reported that we had an awesome opening this school year. They have done the first fire drill and reverse evacuation drill. Woodland still has its No Place for Hate designation, and we are the "adopted school" by BJ's this year. Whether the, pending Board approval the \$500 will be turned over to H&S for distribution. Specials start especially early now. We have Mrs. Yocum back, along with new music and art teachers. Handbells will continue, and we have a new PE teacher and new Speech teacher. Mrs. Amici is back as well as Miss Sawyer. There will be a new MCIU class.

According to Dr. Reddish, all these changes mean school administration will need more help, just to continue with our Woodland traditions. Back to School night this year will have a similar format, but will start a little earlier. Dr. Reddish will have a PowerPoint presentation. Mrs. Perez, who is participating in a principal internship, will present part of the night, as well.

The District now has list of approved volunteers. When events come up, our volunteer list will be available to the Office staff, who will be calling parents who are not able to volunteer.

As always, Dr. Reddish's door is always open. She is trying to stick with Thursdays for information blasts. Paperwork to get the Directory underway will go out this week. Our building focus and district goals will be "dimensions of learning 2," which involves school wide positive behavior support. Mrs. Ehmer will be very active with this program. The program will develop ways to recognize teachers, students and staff. We will focus on the teacher model for evaluation of effectiveness of teachers. We want to continue to be an inclusive practices school – which means looking for every opportunity to include all students in all educational activities.

Fall assessment testing is underway right now, and PSSA testing information/results will be coming home either on Back to School Night or in the mail. We are gearing up to

start RTII after assessments are completed, and after school programs will be starting shortly.

As far as birthday recognitions at school, parents should be reminded that there will be no food treats. With parental permission, a birthday student can be on the TV in the lobby on their birthday.

9. Teacher's Report:

Mary Thomas: Nurse Thomas discussed the blue forms that came home, all about getting more kids immunized. She shared that the nurses did not have a chance to review this form, and they now realize that there is nowhere to check off that a parent doesn't want their child immunized. The immunizations being offered would be given onsite, by Gerhardt Family Practice with Montgomery County Health Department. The school has received very little response, and it is okay that parents did not send it back to school.

There is a District-wide wellness push, in conjunction with a federal agency. It is a very formalized program, associated with a Clinton initiative. Nurse Thomas needs to have an action plan by the end of September. She pointed to the fact that we already have Family Gym Night, and that a number of teachers do a "Jump Start Minute" – a minutes-worth of activity before or during class, which might expand across the school, or even the District. Nurse Thomas is also supposed to establish a "wellness council" for Woodland.

This segues into Nurse Thomas's mini-grant request: she is asking for two cameras and two memory cards, because she wants the kids to be able to take pictures of each other. Photographers and photo editors will get credit for posted pictures. Her focus will be on getting the TV up and running this year, but she would like the word put out that she wants to start an afterschool program of making healthy snacks and growing healthy food. She has a cooking cart and suspects that there could be a lot of interest. Christine suggested reaching out to the YMCA, which ran a similar program this summer.

Nurse Thomas has a new set of teeth and a brush in her office. Parents should know that this tool is available in the office.

Linda Ehmer: Mrs. Ehmer reported not getting anything specific from teachers. The new music teacher, who is doing the Vet's assembly, emailed about wanting to plan the assembly for around 2:00, and would like to know who to contact? We advised Mrs. Ehmer that Peg Herbison and Lisa McDonald are running that event for H&S. The new music teacher is concerned and could use the support of H&S to pull the event together. This teacher is also trying to get planning for the Cherrydale Farms and Dutch Apple trips.

Science Explorers starts Mon 9/23. In October, the charity Mrs. Ehmer will be working with is the Woman's Bridge Resource Center, in Montgomery county. This group helps women with resume writing, etc. She would like to direct toiletries donations to this

organization. Boxes will be set up in the lobby and information will be coming home soon.

10. Active Committee Reports: we will be using the blue sheet with all the committees to facilitate people signing up for and to head up committees. We may also use the big paper at Back to School night, for sign up for certain committees.

- a. 4th Grade PP&P (Sarah Spletzer), date 1/24/14 (snow date 1/31/14)
- b. 4th Grade Social (Sarah Spletzer), date 5/29/14 (rain date 5/30/14)
Steve Steiner will be working on the DVD.
- c. Art Goes to School (Open), date TBD usu Spring
- d. Arts Festival (Open), date TBD, usu held in January, can't be in January, Dr. R will talk to Casey D'Onofrio
- e. Book Swap (Sarah Spletzer), date TBD
- f. Building Beautification (Open), ongoing REMOVE
- g. Cafeteria Volunteers (?), ongoing

Kim has 10 cleared volunteers so far, but really needs more. Cafeteria volunteerism is set up on volunteer spot. Christine will send out an ealert, but clearances may be an issue.

We will likely put up a large sign-up sheet for this at Back to School Night.

- h. Civic Committee (Peg Herbison, Lisa McDonald), Veteran's Day Assembly, date 11/11/13
Christine will check their clearances
- i. Community Service (Tommy Avelar, Liz Drummond, Nurse Thomas), ongoing
Wishing Well, Family Gym Nights (Family Gym Nights are scheduled for 12/13/13, 1/17/14, 2/21/14, 3/14/14, Spring Fever Raffle
- j. E-Alerts (Christine), ongoing
- k. Fall Festival (Heather Gulsby-Steiner and Jen Riddell – working on clearances) date 10/18/13 (rain date 10/25/13) Put up a large sign-up sheet for this
- l. Family Game Night (?), date 3/21/14 It was Erin and Roxanne last year, Christine put out an email on this, we'll give them right of first refusal.
- m. Father/Son Event (Gabby Winters and Kim Larcinesse), date 4/11/14 we need a chair for this event; Skyzone might be an option.
- n. Fun Day (Gene Dickey), date 6/9/14 (rain date 6/10/14) \$500 BJ money should go to Fun Day
 - i. Game Subcommittee (Open)
 - ii. Homeroom Captain Liason (Open)
- o. Fundraising
 - i. Box Tops (Heather), ongoing will be getting this started soon, probably fall-themed
 - ii. Fall Fundraiser (Heather), 11/2013 Stone house mixes, 2-3 week turnaround to get these back by holidays. All the mixes are \$5-\$6, we get 40-50% back from this.

- iii. Fall Walk-A-Thon (Christine and Heather), 10/16/13 (rain date 10/23/13) need to get these forms out within the next week. We had a better response last year with actual letters and envelopes. We may use same form letter, but just put it in an envelope.
- iv. Gift Cards Cash Back (?), ongoing REMOVE
- v. Kidstuff Coupon Books (Heather), date 9-10/2013 same number of kids, more families, only gave her 200 books, 3rd and down went out last week, 4th grade (Mitchell) out today, probably rest of 4th this week.
- vi. No-Effort Fundraiser (?), ongoing Kim is looking into monthly dining out, nothing set up for September. Bob Evans does this. (Target, Giant, Plaza Flowers is no effort fundraising)
- p. Holiday Craft Night (Lisa Chaya & Gabby Winters), date 12/6/13
- q. Hospitality (?), date 11/11/13 (Veteran's Day Assembly)
- r. Ice Cream Social (Liz Drummond), date 9/27/13 already presold over 130 sundaes. Contribution from Wegmans for toppings, etc.
- s. Library Volunteers (Janet Kumar), ongoing
Library open 4 days per week, not on Friday
- t. Lost & Found (?), ongoing REMOVE
- u. Newsletter (Liz Drummond), ongoing
School puts one out, gives H&S the opportunity to put information out on the last page. Liz put together an awesome newsletter specific to H&S. Starting in October, she will be putting out a H&S portion
- v. Nominating (?), Spring 2014 REMOVE
- w. Outdoor Sign (Julia Novia, Tara Maurer), ongoing
- x. Post Prom Support (Heather), date Spring 2014
Scheduled for 25th of April, theme is movies, Dana Reddington is in charge of this year. Maybe we do the boys' bathroom as Psycho. Heather has joined this committee at the high school, so will act as a liason.
- y. Random Acts of Kindness (?), ongoing REMOVE
- z. School Board Rep (?), ongoing REMOVE
- aa. School Store (?), ongoing Christine received an email from Kim Miller, she is interested in doing Spiritwear. Christine will follow up with her on that. District is trying to work on bulk buying with preferred vendors for discounts. Try to do spiritwear in the Fall
- bb. Science Fair (Peg Herbison with Mrs. Mitchell), date 2/12/14
- cc. Spiritwear (?), ongoing combine this with School Store, maybe we can put together this Fall
- dd. Staff Luncheon (Gabby Winters), date 5/9/14
- ee. Student Directory (Kim Larcinese), date 9-10/2013 pilot project, offering free downloadable PDF version, will come as a secure email attachment from district email account, super-secure, password protected. Also found "directory spot" app for phone, on volunteer spot, would have to charge same as we do for print directory. Turnaround time is about 24 hours.
- ff. Sunshine (Gene Dickey), ongoing
- gg. Variety Show (Suzanne, Gabby, Megan deMontaigne), date 5/2/14
- hh. Web-Site Technical Assistance (Christine Steere), ongoing

- ii. Welcome Wagon (Heather), ongoing
 - jj. Yearbook (Suzanne Candello, Gabby Winters), ongoing This will be through LifeTouch and full-color this year. Send a note to all club leaders, tell us when you want us to come take your picture.
 - kk. Other
- 11. New Business
 - 12. Closing

Next month is an evening meeting, scheduled for October 16, 2013, 7:00 p.m.