

Woodland Home & School
Membership Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2013
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

In Attendance:

Gene Dickey
Heather Gulsby-Steiner
Gabby Winters

Christine Steere
Zanthia Reddish
Sarah Spletzer

Elizabeth Drummond
Lisa Chaya

1. Sign in and Welcome Introductions
2. Old Business: Christine Steere and Sarah Spletzer

No old business to report

3. Recording Secretary's Report: Sarah Spletzer

September Minutes will be posted shortly.

4. President's Report: Christine Steere

Regarding the Halloween parade and classroom parties, Christine reiterated to the group that whatever volunteer names are reported to the office by the deadline, those are the only people who will be allowed to volunteer for the Halloween parties. No one else will be permitted into the school.

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

Gabby and Heather reported regarding the Woodland T-shirts, that they are all out and no problems have been reported.

Heather discussed that Monday night was the District Council meeting and that new officers were elected during the meeting. She also reported that: Dr. Zerbe is here for good as of October 9th; the teacher contract has been settled; and, long-term substitutes will no longer be a part of union, they will go thru a teacher service, instead. However, the school can still request specific substitutes.

There is a meeting for the high school turf and lights on October 28 at Worcester. There are hearings being held now. We need more methacton people than Worcester people represented at these meetings. There are 4 seats available for the new school board, and there are 6 candidates. All are invited to meet the candidates on 10/29 at 7:30 at the high school.

The District Council bylaws will be undergoing review. The District has suggested that every H&S review its bylaws. The effort is to get the schools on similar pages regarding how H&Ss are run, especially regarding the treasurer role. This will facilitate quicker, easier audits. There is also an effort to have all elementary H&Ss working under the same bylaws. Treasurer books will all be closed out by 6/30, there will be a 2-week lag time, and by July 15, everyone must turn books into business office for audit. District Council will hold meetings in June for new officers so all schools H&S boards up are ready in August. Also, the District is moving to all "School Messenger" messaging for communications, no more alert now. There is an ad hoc committee being put together for bylaw reviews. Two District Council officers resigned, so elections were held at 10/14 meeting. Sue Gabriel and Gene Dickey were elected to co-presidency, Shawna Rondeau and (Name needed) Lehan were elected to co-vice-presidency. The next District Council meeting will be held at Worcester on 11/11. From now on, the District Council will have officers, not only presidents.

6. Treasurer's Report: Liz Drummond

Liz reported that:

We have \$4,265 deposited from the KidStuff books, though we have not yet paid for them. Regarding the Take Charge of Education (Target) program, Target says that our school has more money at Target, we just have to call and claim it. Liz has not had any luck with that so far.

The Ice Cream Social resulted in \$1,113.50, and Woodland t-shirts earned us \$455.00. Classroom and teacher accounts are being used. So far, 6 of 14 teachers have requested reimbursement for all/some of their accounts. The overall total is on the plus side. She received a reimbursement request from Mrs. Traore from items she purchased in July. Liz never figured out to do with the request. It was for \$100.00. Mrs. Traore wasn't here in 2012-13. She spent the money in 2013 in anticipation of coming in to start the fall of 2013. However, we changed policy over the summer. She spent it without knowing she had it to spend. We put this reimbursement to a vote, and the majority voted that we will not fund this. Liz noted that it will be important next year, given the outlay for school supplies that we not drop below the minimum balance we are supposed to keep.

We are still waiting on Ice Cream Social numbers from Aramark. Aramark made an error and sold us 1,000 bowls but now we have 500 for next year.

Mini-grants review

Mr. Michaels has requested \$90.00 to purchase 30 pairs of safety goggles to be used in science class, in order to engage the students in more exciting activities. Put to a vote of the Board, the majority voted to approve this mini-grant purchase.

Nurse Thomas has requested \$423.74 to purchase two Canon Powershot L cameras and memory cards, so that the students may take pictures of each other shining in all aspects

of life. Nurse Thomas wants to let the students use the cameras and learn to edit, etc. Following discussion, the Board decided to vote on funding one and letting Nurse Thomas test out the process. Put to a vote of the Board, the majority voted to approve the mini-grant purchase of one camera and memory card.

Mrs. Amici and Mrs. Mackay have requested \$188.00 to purchase Ziggy USB document cameras to aid the students in their work without having to use an overhead projector. Put to a vote of the Board, the majority voted to approve this mini-grant purchase.

Miss Sawyer and Mrs. Traore have requested \$70 each for Starfall memberships, which would allow each teacher access to 6 computers on which to use Starfall for vowel activities. Put to a vote of the Board, the majority voted to approve one set of licenses to be shared between Mrs. Traore and Miss Sawyer for now, and agreed that we would consider approving the second in the short term after investigating more thoroughly how the membership/s work.

Mrs. Johnson has requested \$605.55 for help with her classroom library. Put to a vote of the Board, the majority voted to approve \$100 for Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Sinnett and Miss Hahn have requested \$60.00 to purchase extra recorders for students with limited funds. We will advise Mrs. Sinnett and Miss Hahn to consult with Nurse Thomas re: funds available for families in need.

Mrs. Persons in the Special Ed department has requested \$492.85 to purchase 5, K-4 stability ball chairs. After much discussion, put to a vote of the Board, the majority voted to deny this funding, as the expenditure did not impact a large enough group of students.

7. Corresponding Secretary's Report: Gene Dickey

Gene had nothing to report.

8. Principal's Report: Zanthia Reddish

Dr. Reddish reported that:

The latest School Performance Profile scores were published in the newspaper, Woodland earned 87.4, which is low for us overall. What this means is that now this is our baseline, and in next 5 years we need to show 2.52. Numbers in 4th grade last year came up lower and included 12 students who were below proficiency. Third grade was 88% proficient. The state counts the third grade score double. However, last year presented some odd situations, including: it was the first year where we had to switch teachers because the state wanted 2 proctors in each classroom; during PSSA week the 4th grade got hit with a stomach bug and the teachers were out; and the state took away modified assessment for special needs students – now all students take grade level tests.

The key with PSSAs is to make sure that scores for your child reflect what your child can do. The test now will require more in-depth thinking over less content. Teachers are working on changing classroom questioning to force students to think more critically.

The early risers achievement program is continuing. A few classrooms have ipads, soon librarians will be getting 10-15 ipads to be used by all of the buildings. Also, conferences are coming up and RTII is up and running. Administration also underwent emergency training and determined that each classroom should have bottled water and snacks for students in case of emergency. This teaches emergency preparedness to children, especially if they do this on their own. We are having a safety assembly this week to teach kids the new language of intruder emergencies.

We have some concerns over after hour activities and as a result of the concerns, we may be changing some of the procedures involved with groups such as ARA being in the school after hours. We will go to the district with an answer/plan by next month.

9. Teacher's Report:

No report given.

10. Active Committee Reports:

- 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)
- c. Art Goes to School (Open), date TBD usu Spring
- d. Arts Festival (Open), date TBD, usu held in January
- e. Book Swap (Sarah Spletzer), date TBD
- f. Cafeteria Volunteers (Kim Larcinese), ongoing - okay
- g. Civic Committee (Peg Herbison, Lisa McDonald), Veteran's Day Assembly, date 11/11/13 – ***Civic Committee will now include what used to be Hospitality Committee – providing cookies/beverages for the reception following Veteran's Day Assembly***

Peg Herbison is working with Mrs. Sinnott and Miss Hahn to put on a program. It is coming together.

- h. 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)
- i. E-Alerts (Christine Steere), ongoing, going fine
- j. Fall Festival (Heather Gulsby-Steiner, Jen Riddell) date 10/18/13 (rain date 10/25/13)

Heather reported that they will be doing extra apples and pumpkins this year. They will do six boxes of caramel instead of four as last year. They are looking for more volunteers and more people to donate cakes for the cake walk.

- k. Family Game Night (?), date 3/21/14

- l. Father/Son Event (Gabby Winters & Kim Larcinese), date 4/11/14
 - m. Fun Day (Gene Dickey), date 6/9/14 (rain date 6/10/14)
 - i. Game Subcommittee (Open)
 - ii. Homeroom Captain Liason (Open)
 - n. Fundraising – Heather Gulsby-Steiner
 - i. Box Tops, ongoing – first submission 11/1.
 - ii. Fall Fundraiser (Christine Steere), We need to send in dip mix orders by 11/2013 in order to use these items as Christmas/holiday gifts. The turnaround time for delivery is 1-2 weeks.
 - iii. Fall Walk-A-Thon (Christine Steere & Heather Gulsby-Steiner), 10/16/13 (rain date 10/23/13) Everything so far seems to be going pretty well, but not as well as last year.
 - iv. Kidstuff Coupon Books, date 9-10/2013 sold close to 200, will make about \$2500 off it.
 - v. No-Effort Fundraiser, ongoing no report.
 - o. Holiday Craft Night (Lisa Chaya & Gabby Winters), date 12/6/13 Planning is going well, we are just waiting to hear back on how much everyone's crafts will be.
 - p. Ice Cream Social (Liz Drummond), date 9/27/13 We did slightly more this year than last (443 sundaes this year versus 428 last year.
 - q. Library Volunteers (Janet Kumar), ongoing things are going very well.
 - r. Newsletter (Liz Drummond), ongoing Could be in everyone's inbox soon. It's done.
 - s. Outdoor Sign (Julia Novia, Tara Maurer), ongoing, going well
 - t. Post Prom Support (Heather Gulsby-Steiner), date Spring 2014
 - u. School Store/Spiritwear (Kim Miller), ongoing – ***this is newly combined with Spiritwear***
 - v. Science Fair (Peg Herbison & Mrs. Mitchell), date 2/12/14
 - w. Staff Luncheon (Gabby Winters), date 5/9/14
 - x. Student Directory (Kim Larcinese), date 9-10/2013 Kim is working on the online version of the directory.
 - y. Sunshine (Gene Dickey), ongoing
 - z. Variety Show (Suzanne Candello, Gabby Winters, Megan deMontaigne), date 5/2/14
 - aa. Web-Site Technical Assistance (Christine Steere), ongoing
 - bb. Welcome Wagon (Heather Gulsby-Steiner), ongoing
 - cc. Yearbook (Suzanne Candello & Gabby Winters), ongoing Suzanne and Gabby are already working on the yearbook. They have done one eAlert already, asking for photo submissions, and they have already started making pages. They are going to be putting out periodic eAlerts.
 - dd. Other
11. New Business
12. Closing

Next month is an morning meeting, scheduled for November 13, 2013, 9:15 p.m.