

MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

The PTO meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Danielle Scala.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Mr. Heaney)

Mr. Heaney:

- Thanked the PTO for its support and contributions to the Woodland community.
- Praised the PTO, Chairs and volunteers for International Day, which infused hands on activities and instruction.
- Stressed the importance of the home-school partnership.
- Provided an overview of the PARCC Test. The open ended and performance based assessment will be conducted March 2-6 for the Third Grade and March 9-13 for Fourth and Fifth Grade. Fourth Grade students will also take the NJASK Science assessment on May 27. The year-end PARCC assessment will be in May, 2015. Third and Fourth grade students will be provided laptops for the testing. Fifth graders will use their chrome books. A PARCC practice test is available online. Mr. Heaney outlined technological and content preparations as well as changes to the normal daily schedule. Parents can help their children by communicating that they should try their hardest and do their best.
- Reviewed various safety procedures for lockdown and fire drills and drop off procedures and advised that an eblast would be sent out to remind parents of proper safety procedures for morning drop-off.
- Outlined other events: Mr. Comba, Principal, and Mr. Achtau, Dean of Students, at Warren Middle School visited with Fifth Grade Students on February 9; Valentine's parties are February 11; school is closed on February 12, 13 and 16; Fourth and Fifth Grade students will be view the Puberty videos; the Kindergarten will have an assembly on penguins from Jenkinson's Aquarium; the Fourth Grade will have an assembly on the Lenape Indians; the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program will be presented to Kindergarten and Third Grade Students on February 23 and 24.
- Noted that Kindergarten Registration for 2015-2016 school year is underway.

TEACHER LIAISON (Christine Rzasa)

Mrs. Rzasa: thanked the PTO for an exceptional International Day; indicated that some teachers would like to attend the February 18 SEPTO event; said that she would remind the Fifth Grade teachers to submit a proposal for Dream It-Fund It; and asked the Woodland community to continue to support the PTO's efforts.

DREAM IT- FUND IT (Danielle Scala)

Danielle Scala provided an overview of the grade level assemblies under Dream It-Fund It: Kindergarten will be having an assembly from Jenkinson's Aquarium on penguins; First and Second Grade had a Bricks4Kidz program; Third Grade had an assembly on gems, rocks and minerals; Fourth Grade is having an assembly on the Lenape Indians; and Fifth Grade has not yet submitted a request.

INTERNATIONAL DAY (Danielle Scala/Judy Shanahan)

Danielle Scala thanked chairs Roula Ioannou and Tracy Leftkowitz and all the volunteers for all of their hard work in putting together an exceptional International Day event on January 30, 2015. The countries of Norway, Poland, Mexico, Jamaica and South Africa were represented. Mr. Heaney praised the combination of instruction and hands on activities.

CULTURAL ARTS (Patti Puglisi)

The African Drum Assembly scheduled for February 2 was cancelled due to the snow day and cannot be rescheduled. The Brain Show may be scheduled in late May. A Rachel's Challenge Assembly will be presented in October 2015 as part of the activities for a Week of Good Choices.

THE FIFTH GRADE EVENT AND YEARBOOK (Danielle Scala/Alice Stout)

The event is coordinated by ALT this year. Alice Stout, Tracy Leftkowitz and Erica Greene are coordinating Woodland's role in the 5th Grade Event. It is scheduled for June 3, 2015 (June 10, 2015 rain date) at Camp Harmony. The funding for the Fifth Grade Event is under review. The Fifth Grade Event and Yearbook are being separated this year. Parents will be asked to supplement the cost of the yearbook. Alice Stout proposed to reduce the amount of funding for the Fifth Grade Event/Yearbook by \$1000. After discussion, on a motion by Alice Stout and seconded by Judy Shanahan, the PTO voted to reduce the 2014-2015 Fifth Grade Event/Yearbook budget item from \$4000 to \$3000 and reallocate \$1000 to Field Day.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY (Danielle Scala)

There will be changes to the Read Across America Day (RAAD) program this year due to restructuring of the event by Mrs. Zaleski and the administration of the PARCC test. Since the PARCC test is scheduled for the first two weeks in March, RAAD will be held later in March. Some of the activities will include a readers' theater, teachers' theater and March Reading Madness to encourage reading with various rewards for targeted accomplishments. As additional details about RAAD become available, they will be communicated.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Danielle Scala)

- SEPTO Nieman Marcus Fundraising Event to benefit special needs is scheduled for February 18, 2015 at the Nieman Marcus at the Short Hills Mall. It is a districtwide event with the hope that it will draw at least 25 people from each school in the district. They are requesting that people RSVP for the event.
- Tai Kwon Do Events: Tanya McAusland provided information on some upcoming Tai Kwon Do events offered by Impact from Warren: (1) a Mom's Self Defense course on March 12 at 7:45 PM; (2) a Family Fun Night on March 27 from 7 PM to 8 PM. These events could potentially lead to fundraising opportunities for the PTO.
- Family Fun Day is scheduled for May 2, 2015 at Camp Riverbend. Details about cost, food and activities will be provided at a later date and a flyer will be sent out.
- Woodland Parent-Teacher Basketball Game is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 PM. It will be K, 1 and 2 teachers and parents against Grades 3, 4 and 5 teachers and parents. The potential to make it a fundraising event is being explored.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2015 MINUTES (Danielle Scala)

On a motion by Judy Shanahan and seconded by Alice Stout, the membership approved the minutes of the January 13, 2015 Woodland PTO Meeting.

2014-2015 BUDGET (Danielle Scala/Carolyn Sena)

There was a brief review of the 2014-2015 budget and various line items within the budget.

OTHER ITEMS

- 2015-2016 Volunteer Opportunities: Opportunities to sign up for various Committee Chair positions and volunteer opportunities will be available through Signup Genius later this spring. As additional details become available, they will be communicated.
- Spirit Wear: Judy Shanahan provided some information on a possible vendor, <http://www.mylocker.net>, to provide Woodland Spirit wear with no minimum order requirements and a potential fundraising opportunity for the PTO.
- Teacher Appreciation Week (TAW): Tanya McAusland requested additional volunteers and ideas for TAW in May. A Signup Genius will be created for volunteers to offer their help.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.