

**MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017**

Prior to the regular PTO Meeting, there was New Parent Orientation, which began at 7:00 PM. At the New Parent Orientation, PTO President Lauren Wishnia:

- Introduced Jeffrey Heaney, Woodland Principal, who spoke briefly about his background and philosophy of education.
- Introduced the current PTO Board Members
- Provided an overview of the PTO and membership, the forms of support provided by the PTO to the Woodland community; outlined the forms of communication and sources of information from the PTO and the district through eblasts, teacher websites, the PTO website, the school calendar and Woodland directory; and identified events sponsored by the PTO throughout the school year. Encouraged all to JOIN PTO and find places to volunteer throughout the year. Brief mention of Sign Up Genius.
- Discussed new security procedures and process for morning drop off emphasis on safety and visiting Woodland;
- Discussed various fundraising programs; 1st Day School Supplies and Simply Gourmet.

After a short period of Q & A the New Parent Orientation concluded at 7:30 PM.

**PTO AGENDA ITEMS**

The PTO meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Lauren Wishnia.

**Welcome** (Jeff Heaney)

After a brief introduction by Lauren Wishnia, Mr. Heaney welcomed the group back to Woodland via a slide presentation with lots of images.

- He discussed our nomination and submittal for Blue Ribbon Schools, and our wait to hear the results.
- He introduced office staff
- Mentioned e-blasts and newsletters as the best ways to stay in the know about what's going on at school.
- Touched on Report cards and results distribution for PARCC Tests and NJASK Science Tests.
- He spoke a bit about this year's Sports theme based on the "Kid Athletes" book everyone was asked to read over the summer.

Each grade has been assigned a sport:

K – Gymnastics	3 – Hockey
1 – Basketball	4 – Soccer
2 – Baseball/Softball	5 – Football

- Touched on the "rules"; Take care of yourself; Take care of each other; Take care of our school.
- Discussed how the behavior chart is used to reinforce positive behavior.
- Student council program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be happening.
- Mindfulness and Character Education will continue as well.
- Explained Woodland's new 6 day schedule for specials which enables a more balanced rotation of specials and also the opportunity for Phys. Ed every other day.

- Woodland is partnered with ALT – which means Principals from both schools collaborate with each other to improve and learn great ideas from each other.
- Woodland also has a new “Reimagined Classroom” which was installed over the summer and will enable students to have a space to try out a new style learning environment. 3 Smart TV’s will be added shortly. *The re-imagined classroom is a room with new styles of furniture. This allows for the furniture to be movable which allows for better group work. New technology in the classroom allows for students to connect to education in new ways. Bright colors brings energy to the classroom and student whiteboards allows for students to showcase their work.*
- Reminder that children should come to school dressed appropriately for weather conditions for outdoor recess and always wear sneakers for safe play.
- Emphasized need for parking lot safety during drop off and pick up times of day.
- Touched on Parent Volunteers, FERPA regulations; at school confidentiality is required.
- Social media should always be a positive reflection on the school. Parents may only post photos of their own child.
- When volunteering at school parents should be cognizant of their child’s independence.
- Use the new visitor management system and do not hold the door for others entering the building.
- Follow infectious disease protocols – any injuries should be treated by the school nurse.
- HIB – Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying situations should be referred to a teacher or the Principal – do not self-address.
- Technology at school – 5<sup>th</sup> graders have own Chromebooks, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have Chromebooks in the classroom and K-2 have access to iPads in the classroom. All use “Go Guardian” a monitoring website that keeps track of what they do and where they go on the internet.
- Mr. Heaney discouraged dropping off forgotten items at school – teach kids to be responsible for themselves or have a consequence for it.
- Spirit days on Fridays – Wear Woodland Spirit wear. This week wear favorite sports jersey.

**TEACHER LIAISONS** (Lauren Wishnia /Anita Brower)

Mrs. Rzasa and Mrs. Brower are the Teacher Liaisons to the PTO and will communicate information between the teachers and the PTO and attend PTO meetings. Mrs. Brower thanked the PTO for the Back to School Luncheon and the upcoming Book Fair.

**WTS-SEPAG** \*Warren Township Schools Special Education Parents Advisement Group\* (Leanna Wellerding)

Leanna, President of the Warren Township Schools Special Educations Parents Advisement Group gave an overview of what the group does: Functions in an advisory / support / advocate capacity within the community to ensure participation in school activities for special needs students. Paige Jasaitis is Woodland’s representative in this organization.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD INTRODUCTION** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Lauren introduced the current Executive Board members to the group.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY MEETING**

- Gina Blekicky motioned for the minutes to be approved. Trish Patricco seconded the motion. So moved.

**PTO MEMBERSHIP AND FUND DRIVE** (Lauren Wishnia)

- The suggested donation is \$25 per student and a \$100 donation provides the opportunity to win a Stonehouse Gift Card. The fund drive will close on October 6, 2017.
- Funds raised through the fund drive support arts programs, technology improvements, playground equipment, speakers, and special days among other things.
- The fund drive provides an important way to support the school community.
- PTO membership is mandatory for certain volunteer positions.
- Perk of membership = directory. No membership = NO DIRECTORY.

**SIMPLY GOURMET** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Kim Kardos is Chair.
- Simply Gourmet is a fundraising event to support the Woodland PTO.
- Pizza days, Ice Cream Sales and Water sales are all PTO fundraisers
- Volunteers are needed to serve on Tuesdays

**DIRECTORY** (Lauren Wishnia)

- A directory will be available with distribution anticipated to be in November.
- Information in the directory is gathered from data inputted into InfoSnap.
- A Sports Themed Cover art contest for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders being held now.

**SCHOOL SPRIT AND SPIRIT CLOTHING** (Danielle Rowell)

- Danielle Rowell is chair.
- Friday is School Spirit Day and students are encouraged to wear Woodland wear or maroon colored clothing.
- Small inventory of items currently available to new families in the district. At Back to School Night 9/28 all remaining inventory will be available for sale.
- Side note: Should there be some sort of program to pass along outgrown Woodland spirit wear to younger / smaller students? "Spirit recycling"

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Parents Night Out event is scheduled for February 23, 2018 at The Primavera – featuring the Nerds
- Melissa Pecoraro-Segerson and Danielle Rowell are co-chairs
- Buy tickets now for \$95 per person until 10/1 – after that price is \$125 per ticket.

**CALENDARS** (Lauren Wishnia)

- 1 Per family were distributed via the classrooms last week

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Lauren provided an overview of the opportunities to volunteer throughout the school year, including, Homeroom Parent, serving lunch, and volunteering at special events.
- The PTO is using Signup Genius ([www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)), an online tool, to solicit volunteers or provide sign-up lists for parties.

- Chairs and/or volunteers are still needed for Performing Arts Day, Bingo Night(s), Shadow for Cultural Arts (Rosa Krause) and for Book Fair (Kim Thomasson)

**GLR / HRM / Liaison** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Paige Jasaitis is the Liaison between school and GLR (Grade Level Reps) and HRM (Homeroom Moms)

**PTO SPONSORED AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Tanya McAusland is chair
- The PTO sponsored After School Programs (as distinguished from teacher supervised programs) are Bricks4Kidz and On the Court Basketball.
- These programs are fundraisers to support the activities of the Woodland PTO.

**BOXTOPS / AMAZON SMILE** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Rosa Krause is chair – need shadow
- Frequency for collection is TBD
- Save Boxtops!
- Earmark Amazon Smile as your designated charity on Amazon – Woodland PTO gets a % of spend automatically.

**CULTURAL ARTS** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Rosa Krause is chair
- The PTO funds and coordinates the offering of various programs, assemblies and multicultural events at Woodland.
- October 4<sup>th</sup> – first assembly Stand Up to Bullying
- Exploring possibility of participating in “Signature Project” where for \$1500 an artist creates Woodland specific art in two sessions. More details needed to determine if funding is feasible.

**BOOK FAIR** (Lauren Wishnia)

- Kim Thomasson is chair.
- This year’s theme is Wild West
- Book Fair will take place 9/26-9/28 Tuesday Preview day / Wednesday kids shop / Thursday Parents shop at BTSN
- Scholastic fundraisers benefit classrooms and the library.

**UPCOMING EVENTS** (Danielle Scala)

- Back to School Night is 9/28
- Trunk or Treat is Friday, October 27. Melissa Pecoraro-Segerson is Chair. – Sign up to decorate your car. Donate Candy!

**EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION AND THANK YOU** (Lauren Wishnia)

Appreciation and acknowledgement were given to Kim Kardos for her work on Simply Gourmet over the summer. To Danielle Rowell and Abby Alvez for their work on Spirit Wear, to Patty Malone for her work on Bulletin Boards, and to Rosa Krause, Erika Green and Stephanie Lindy for the Teacher’s Back to School Luncheon.

**Lauren Wishnia announced that the next PTO meeting will be on Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and bi-monthly after that.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.**