

**MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2018**

Prior to the regular PTO Meeting, there was New Parent Orientation, which began at 7:05 PM. At the New Parent Orientation, PTO President Lauren Wishnia:

- Introduced Jeffrey Heaney, Woodland Principal, who spoke about Blue Ribbon schools and introduced both Mrs. Leonard as our PTO Liaison and Ms. Pranzo as our new guidance counselor.
- 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 e-blasts, teacher websites, the PTO website, PTO's new Facebook page with reminders and weekly lost and found updates, 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 & Simply Gourmet.
- Discussed security procedures and process for morning drop off emphasis on safety and visiting Woodland;

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 7:30 by Lauren Wishnia.

MR. HEANEY – Mr. Heaney welcomed all parents back to Woodland.

- Talked briefly about our Blue Ribbon status
- Told some of the improvements that took place over the summer; Air Conditioning added to the K-2 wing of the building, new lunch tables with individual seats, and adaptable furniture installed in one of the 5th grade classrooms.
- Discussed the topic of the upcoming referendum vote in January – and noted that a YES vote for this is very important, as it will enable the township to receive State monies to fund critical maintenance items and will have NO tax impact to the municipality. If it doesn't pass, we still have to find the money to pay for the maintenance, but won't get the State funds.
- Noted new staff additions to Woodland: Alexa Barber, resource teacher, Jennifer Cullinan – 4th Grade, Kristyn Wescott, 4th grade paraprofessional, Kurt Reck – Phys. Ed. Teacher shared with ALT, and Hayley Scuderi – 5th Grade teacher, Sara Von Bartheld, social worker as well as introducing Alexandra Pranzo, our new Guidance counselor who spoke for a few moments to the group.
- Reminded parents to opt in to school communication to receive E-blasts with important information about what's going on at Woodland.
- This year's theme is Superheroes, Kids will understand that there are many in our community and school...not just the ones with capes. Focus on Kindness, Inclusion and Respect. Behavior charts will be used in K-2 to reinforce positive behavior. There will be a Superhero of the month – 1 per homeroom class based on character traits. 3 rules at Woodland: Take care of yourself, Take care of each other, and Take care of our school. Give respect and take responsibility.

- Upcoming items at Woodland: After school clubs will be starting, Student Leadership, led by Mr. Kilroy, Mindfulness & character education, a brief explanation of our 6 day schedule, PARCC and ASK scores will be distributed next Thursday 9/20.
- Reminder that kids should dress for the weather as outdoor play is part of recess. Wear Sneakers.
- Encouraged parents to volunteer and get involved. Reviewed pickup and drop off rules.
- Reminded people to not discipline other people's children. Let the teachers handle these issues.
- Advised that there are drills at school for fire, active shooter/lockdown.
- Explained visitor management policy updates, scanning your driver's license and no "piggybacking" at the entry door.
- Reminded about FERPA – Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, Reminded not to post other kids on social media.
- Reminded about infectious disease concerns and only having the Nurse treat injured child.
- Reviewed HIB – Harass, Intimidate, Bully – allow teachers to address concerns – report only for parents.
- Technology at Woodland - 5th graders receive Chromebooks for use, 3rd & 4th grade use Chromebooks in the classroom, K-2nd grade use tablets in classrooms. Warren uses "Go Guardian" software for online safety with internet use.
- When parents are dropping off items at school must be buzzed in using visitor safety protocol.
- This week – Spirit day Friday will be Superhero theme. Next week is the Week of Respect with Anti-Bullying assembly.
- Milk and Juice service begins on 9/17.

At the end of his remarks, Mr. Heaney shared a video presentation he prepared with a compilation of pictures, inspiring quotes and phrases to show what Woodland School is all about.

TEACHER LIAISONS - Lauren introduced Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Rzasa as our PTO liaisons for this year. Mrs. Leonard thanked the PTO for the back to school staff luncheon. Staff is looking forward to Back to School Night, and they are always available for any questions or help needed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD INTRODUCTION – Lauren went around the room and introduced the members of the PTO Board.

SEPAG Special Education Parent Advisory Group – Paige Jasaitis explained that she is the representative for Woodland and the Warren School District. SEPAG provides services and support in the township for families who need it. Families should reach out to Paige or their case manager to help determine and utilize available services.

PTO MEMBERSHIP & FUND DRIVE – PTO membership is encouraged for all families. Rate \$30 per child. This includes Printed Directory. Payments can be made by cash, check or PayPal (fees associated). PTO organizes and pays for various special days at school throughout the year, sponsors the Dream it Fund it program, pays for student folders etc. Please join by October 5th.

SIMPLY GOURMET – Kim Kardos briefly explained the Simply Gourmet lunch program, including Pizza Day with ice cream on Mondays. Milk and Juice & water will begin on 9/17. This is an important fund raising program for Woodland. Volunteers are needed for lunch service.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS – Dana Marucci reviewed some of the new fundraising initiatives for this year – Filmraiser & sale of a Woodland PTO cookbook, as well as tried and true programs like Amazon Smile and Boxtops for Education.

SPIRITWEAR – Tricia Patricco indicated that the new logo designs have been well received and a sale is currently underway ending 9/28 where families can order items.

SCHOOL CALENDAR/EVENTS – Lauren called attention the printed and online school calendars which include all important dates to make note of.

CHAIRS & COMMITTEES NEEDED – Volunteers are still needed to Chair and help with Trunk or Treat, to Chair Field Day, 5th grade parent is needed as a helper for the 5th grade event to work with the Chairperson from ALT.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS – Tanya McAusland is the current Chair for After School Programs, but a shadow is needed who will take on this role for the next school year. Fall offerings include On the Court Basketball – 16 kids currently signed up. Chess Club run by Kings & Queens will start in October. Wednesdays, a Taekwondo program will be offered by Impact Martial Arts. Bricks 4 Kids Lego program will return in Spring as well as some new programs too.

CULTURAL ARTS UPDATE – There are typically 2-3 events per year. First one is the Anti-Bullying assembly next week.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR – The Book fair will take place September 25-27th. This year's theme is Enchanted Forest. Tuesday will be student preview day, Wednesday will be student shopping day, and Thursday the sale will be open during Back to School night. Clean up on Friday. Volunteers are needed. Please use the Sign Up Genius to volunteer.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT – Annual Back to School night is set for Thursday September 27th from 6:30-8:00pm

JANUARY 2019 REFERENDUM – Lauren explained the upcoming January 22, 2019 Referendum which will be up for vote. The Board of Education website has detailed information available. Dr. Mingle wants to be sure everyone understands that a YES vote is needed here – and that it be clear there are no municipal tax implications to the vote. A YES vote enables the Township to receive State funds toward the required maintenance at 4 out of 5 district schools. Very important that this referendum pass.

THANK YOUS – Thank yous were extended to Kim Kardos for organizing Simply Gourmet program and all its volunteers. To Danielle Rowell for organizing Homeroom Moms for the year as well as for the awesome bulletin boards throughout the school. To Tricia Patricco for her work with the new Spiritwear shirts, and to Stephanie Lindy and Paige Jasaitis for their coordination of the Back to School Staff Luncheon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes from the June 6, 2018 PTO Meeting were submitted for approval by, Danielle Rowell seconded by Kim Kardos, voted and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.