**MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 2021**

The PTO meeting was called to order at 9:16 AM by Dana Marucci.

**MR. HEANEY**

* Upcoming events: The Halloween parties and parades will be on Friday 10/29 and it’s nice that everything has fallen on the same day.
* The volunteer order from Gov. Murphy is in effect and volunteers coming into the building will either have to be vaccinated or show proof of a negative covid test. That negative covid test has to be within a week of the volunteer coming in. If a person took a test today and it was negative, it would not be ok to use it next Friday as it has to be within one week. Asked the PTO if they could send out a reminder to all parents who plan to volunteer that they upload their vaccine card on Genesis or plan to get a test. The good thing about this is we are only doing this for high-risk events like parties and serving lunch because kids do take their masks off to eat. There are also areas where quarantining is more common because of close contact. If you are coming to a PTO meeting or volunteering for International Day it does not apply because it’s a one stand-alone event.
* Asked the PTO to send Mrs. Frank a list of the people that they know are coming to volunteer for an event.
* The Halloween parade will be at 2:45pm and we are hoping for good weather. If it does rain, we can’t have people coming into the building. There will still be a parade and I will take a lot of pictures. Unfortunately, we just don’t have the capacity to bring everyone into the building and it’s very risky. Broadcasting it takes a lot of work and it was decided across the district not to do it this year.
* Trunk or Treat will take place that evening. From 6pm-6:15pm will be the sensory free time and then will open to everyone else and will end at 8pm. Since this is an outdoor event, I will not be policing people as far as masks and social distancing. It is not a drop off event and parents need to be responsible on what types of candy their kids eat if they have food allergies. It’s a really fun event and it’s great that it’s back this year.
* Parents have asked if their kids can bring in goodie bags for Halloween and the answer to that is no because it’s too much for the nurses to handle due to food allergies.
* Bingo Night was great! It’s an easy fundraiser and not a lot of overhead and we always have a great turnout. There is a possibility of doing a bingo night outside in the spring.
* We had two assemblies during the Week of Respect and thank you to the PTO for funding them. There were two virtual assemblies; 3-5 watched My Face which is about the book Wonder which is great book and has a great message about acceptance. K-2 watched things about mindfulness and how to deal with things when they don’t go their way.
* Growth mindset is in full effect and we do lessons once a month. Our next one is tomorrow which will be about fixed vs. growth and what the difference is. We will also be talking about the Power of Yet.
* Bill Kimmick our Curriculum Director will be doing a presentation on the iReady reports at the board meeting on Monday.
* Start Strong results will be shown on Monday night as well. The kids were assessed on what they knew from last year and because last year was a challenging year, it gives the teachers a baseline on what topics kids are doing well on and topics that need to be worked on.
* There will also be a presentation on the referendum which includes two big things for Woodland. 1. Air conditioning the gym (which will allow us to have more usage of the space). 2. The vestibule (currently, anyone can walk into the building and not have to go directly to the office. The plan is to have 3 doors with swipes, one going towards the nurse’s office, one going down the main hallway and one inside the office. This will create a holding place and you will not be able to walk in and go anywhere you want.) Asked everyone to please vote which will be on either Dec. 2nd or 3rd.
* Parent/teacher conferences are coming up and hopefully you were able to schedule them on Genesis. There was a bit of a glitch but it has been fixed and you should now be able to schedule them.
* Parent/teacher volleyball is coming up on the calendar but need to get more guidance on that from Dr. Mingle. There will be a meeting next Wednesday to discuss logistics and whether it’s possible to have the game. So as of now we have to hold off on it or even maybe bump it to another month.
* We have lost money as a PTO because of the lunches. But despite the loss, we will do everything that we have normally done. We have a good amount in our budget and that shouldn’t limit us in what we want to do. You can start booking things for International Day but submit the paperwork for the budget to Mrs. Frank. We have to start thinking about what makes sense for us to cover vs. what the PTO should cover. Also want to let the community know that even though the PTO has lost money we will still be able to have events like we have had in the past.
* Young Author’s Day—The chair should get in touch with Mrs. McGrath to plan the authors.
* Mrs. Taggart’s last day is tomorrow as she will be going on maternity leave. Mrs. Paradiso and Mrs. Isedeh will be sharing the load. One will be at Woodland 3 days a week and the other, 2 days a week.

**PTO AGENDA ITEMS—DANA MARUCCI**

* Announced that Paige Jasaitis has resigned as Grade Level Representative Head and Officer. Welcomed and thanked both April Pearce as a new officer and Denise DeCorso as the new GLR Head.
* Asked the GLRs/HRMs to send a reminder email to parents about joining the PTO. There are about 90 families that have not joined.
* Mentioned that class parents are required to volunteer on at 2 least two committees per year as per the HRM guidelines. Reminder everyone to complete the necessary forms on Genesis to be allowed entry into the building.
* Touched on Family Fun Day and why Woodland did not participate due to low participation and it did not make sense due to the cost and the numbers being too low. Asked anyone to reach out to her if there were further questions.
* Reminded everyone about Truck or Treat on 10/29 and mentioned that parents need to police their own children.

**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS—ASHLEY ABINES**

* Launched the Driven Coffee fundraiser which will start at the end of Oct. and will end after the holidays. Woodland receives 30 percent of sales which is really good.
* Trunk or Treat food trucks will be a money maker for us this year. We have 3 different trucks with a variety of food options. We will get 10 percent back on some of the trucks and one truck is doing a donation.
* Panera Bread fundraiser will be on 11/2.
* Chimney Rock frozen pizza fundraiser sometime in Nov.
* The mum’s sale was very successful. Thank you to everyone that purchased and we will be doing a Poinsettia sale with Malangas for the holidays.
* Lynch Creek fundraiser for centerpieces and wreaths.
* Art fundraiser-your child’s artwork will be uploaded onto a website and you will be able to order mugs, posters, pillowcases, etc. with your child’s artwork on it.
* Potential fundraisers—cornhole tournament, Untied Brewery outing, A & R workshop event, Mom’s Night out and Dad’s Night out, Fun Run.

**THANK YOUS—**To Sumitra Nicholson, Melissa Frega and all the parents who attended and helped with the book fair. Ashley Abines, Anna Mohallim, Denise DeCorso, Melissa Frega and Brook Ditta for their help with the mum’s fundraiser. Ashley Abines and Denise DeCorso for organizing Bingo Night and all the individuals who volunteered to help out during the event. A special thanks to Mr. Heaney, Ms. Pranzo and Mrs. Leonard for being the MCs of the night. HUGE thank you to Paige Jasaitis for all she has done for Woodland.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

* The minutes from the September 9, 2021 PTO meeting were submitted for approval by Sumitra Nicholson, approved by Ashley Abines and seconded by Melissa Frega.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.