**MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

The PTO meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Dana Marucci.

**PTO PRESIDENT—DANA MARUCCI**

* Thanked everyone for joining.
* Stated that we do not have too much to cover, just some upcoming events and reminders.
* Asked Mr. Heaney to speak about any important information that he wanted to convey.

**PRINCIPAL—MR. HEANEY**

* Expressed excitement and optimism especially with hearing the Governor’s reports from today. Things are continuing to look better.
* Stated that we will have a very busy spring in terms of events that are being planned.
* Stated that the biggest thing is a lot of the funds for the activities we want to do in the next few months will be taken from our account from the district. There is a PO and timely process that needs to be adhered to in order for funds to be allocated for various activities. Mrs. Frank will need to be included as she will be processing all the PO forms.
* Upcoming events that are scheduled are International Day, Young Author’s Day, Read Across America, The Parent/Teacher Basketball Game, Bingo Night and Musicals.
* Stated that the first two weeks after coming back from winter break were very challenging. Many students and staff were out due to Covid. We had as many as 11 or 12 staff out per day and between 20-25 students out per day. Those numbers have gone way down since then but we had coverage with substitutes.
* Stated that the state did pass a law that we have to let parents/guardians know when we do emergency drills. Every month we do two drills. We do a fire drill, a lockdown drill and a bomb threat drill. There is no reason to be alarmed and we do those just in preparation if anything does happen.
* Upcoming activities for the week:

1. Superbowl Spirit Day on Friday. Students are encouraged to wear orange if they want the Bengals to win or blue if they want the Rams to win or if they don’t have a preference, they can wear a football jersey.
2. Valentine’s Day parties on Monday. Students may bring in valentines, but there is no candy allowed. Food will be need to be pre-packaged as distribution is easier and safer.
3. 100th day of school is also on Monday.
4. Book Buddies on Friday, February 25th. Another google permission form will be sent home asking parents if they will allow their child to have hot chocolate and a candy cane.
5. Talent show committee meeting will be this Friday to talk about the logistics for doing the show.
6. Read Across America Day on March 2nd is well underway. Mrs. McGrath is working really hard to put on a great day. If students read a certain number of books for the month, they will get to slime the principal.
7. The basketball game is planned for March 31st. Invites will be sent out for those who are interested in playing in the game but will need volunteers to come and help collect money, help with the bake sale, help with getting a referee and crowd control.
8. Young Author’s Day is April 1st. Please talk to Mrs. Frank before you book an author. Get the quote from the person and give that to her so she can create a PO. We are absorbing a lot of the cost that the PTO lost out on because of not having Simply Gourmet.
9. The 1st and 2nd grade musical will be on April 5th and the 4th and 5th grade musical will be on May 17th.
10. The 5th grade tree planting will be held sometime before spring break but we need someone who can help us get a tree donated.
11. Bingo night is being planned and we can do it either inside or outside.
12. International Day is well underway and if there are things you need to buy you do need to go through the PO process.
13. Field Day is scheduled for June 3rd and Mr. T is working on activities for the day.

* Stated that we cannot do any of these events without your help and encouraged people to volunteer.
* Stated that there is a meeting with the district administration regarding the lunch program for next year. There is also a meeting on Wednesday to discuss masks. The Governor will be removing the mask mandate on March 8th.
* Stated that there is a Return to School committee which is comprised of three staff members from every building to discuss the mask issue.
* Reminded parents that volunteer to please upload their booster to Genesis. The booster or a negative Covid test (the test needs to be done within one week prior to coming to school) is required for people who want to continue to volunteer in the school. If you have trouble uploading, please email me.
* Stated that it has been a tough year for all. Teaching has been incredibly challenging in this climate, but also it has been challenging for the nurses. We have two nurses that share the load. They would love to commit for five days but it’s something that they can’t do. I have made a recommendation for a nurse that is going to be joining us in March for five days a week. She has a lot of experience as a nurse practitioner. She will start in March going through till June at which point Ms. Taggart’s maternity leave would be over. Our current nurses that are sharing the load will be with us from February until about the first week of March.

**TEACHER LIASION—MRS. LEONARD**

* Thanked the PTO and committee for the holiday luncheon. Everyone enjoyed it and it was wonderful. Looking forward to all the events that are coming up and encouraged everyone to ask for help with anything.

**UPCOMING AND RESCHEDULED EVENTS AND REMINDERS—DANA MARUCCI**

* Mom’s Boozy Brunch-March 20th.
* Dad’s Night Out-Late March.
* Book Buddies, Read Across America, Parent/Teacher Basketball Game (SUG will be sent out asking for volunteers to do spirit wear, bake sale, taking money at the door, etc.)
* Bingo Night-April.
* International Day-May 20th. The countries are Portugal, Greece, India, Peru and Mexico. If you have anything that you want to contribute for those countries or if you would like to help on the day, please reach out.
* Field Day—June 3rd.
* Somerset Patriots Game—June 10th.
* Please make sure that if you are planning to volunteer, please upload your vaccination card with your booster or email Mr. Heaney.

**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS—ASHLEY ABINES**

* Bingo Night and Somerset Patriots Game.
* Chimney Rock fundraiser.
* Driven Coffee-lookout for an updated link to purchase coffee.

**FIFTH GRADE EVENT—BROOKE DITTA**

* Stated that we have a contract for Tuesday, June 7th and the rain date is Wednesday, June 8th.

**THANK YOUS—**To Ashley Abines, April Pearce, Paige Jasaitis and everyone who helped with the holiday luncheon. To Anna Mohallim for organizing the Square One Art Fundraiser. To Melissa Frega, Roula Ioannou, Anna Mohallim, Sumitra Nicholson and Shauna Williams for helping to clean out the PTO closet. Special thanks to Mr. Joe for his assistance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

* The minutes from the December 9th PTO meeting were submitted for approval by Sumitra Nicholson, approved by Melissa Frega and seconded by Dana Marucci.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.