

Whitewater Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2017

I. Meeting called to order by Mercy Forsyth at 9:34 am.

II. Principal's Report by Mrs. Connie Baldwin:

- A. Mrs. Baldwin complimented everyone on a wonderful and smooth first week of school.
- B. The current student count is 865 as follows:
 - 1. 6th Grade - 280
 - 2. 7th Grade - 299
 - 3. 8th Grade - 286
- C. Welcome to the 12 new Teachers & Staff:
 - 1. Allison Ivey - 7th Grade English
 - 2. Kay Brumbelow 7th Grade English
 - 3. Kelly Rickman - 6th Grade Math
 - 4. Maryanne Lane - 6th Grade English
 - 5. Elizabeth Haynes - Band
 - 6. Felicia Stevens - Special Education Collab Teacher
 - 7. Jessica Bailey - Bridges Para Pro
 - 8. Drew Miller - ISS Para Pro
 - 9. Steven Hutchison - Computer/Business Ed Teacher
 - 10. Lisa Shaw - Bookkeeper
 - 11. Amanda Smith - Sp Ed Collab Teacher
 - 12. Richard Booth - Custodian
- D. The school is currently working with the Fire & Sheriff's department with regards to the pick up line in the afternoon. The concern is emergency vehicles being able to access to the school during afternoon pick-up if there were an emergency.
- E. Curriculum Night has been scheduled for September 14th @ 6:30PM. More information will be sent closer to the date.

III. Minutes from May 12 meeting were approved- motion: Renee Gable, 2nd Renee DiModica

IV. Introduction of the 2017/18 WMS Board by Mercy Forsyth

- A. Mercy Forsyth - President
- B. Kim Plowman - Vice President
- C. Carrie Hayes - Secretary
- D. Audra Anderson - Treasurer

V. Treasurer's Report by Carrie Hayes:

- A. A Year End Budget Review for the 2016/17 school year was passed out by Carrie Hayes. Total Income for 2016/17 was \$37,528.06 and Total Expense was \$18,263.01.
- B. The board is working on the 2017/18 school year budget. Final numbers for the Meet the Teacher income are needed before the budget can be completed. The 2017/18 Budget will be presented at the September 8th meeting to be voted on.

VI. Chair Reports:

- A. Cultural Arts: Report by Mercy Forsyth - Heidi Danis will be the chair for this committee.

1. Mrs. Baldwin gave a brief description of the three Cultural Arts programs which are as follows:
 - 8th Grade - "Raising a President", The Story of Rachel Clark/Jimmy Carter by Joanna Maddox
 - 7th Grade - Manga African Dance, An African Ensemble
 - 6th Grade - "And Then They Came For Me", A Holocaust Play

The dates for these programs have not yet been scheduled.

- B. Fall Dance & Yearbook Party: Report by Jessica Hood- Jessica Hood will be the chair for this committee. The Fall Dance is open to all 6th, 7th & 8th Graders. The date for the dance is October 26th from 3:15 - 5:00. Tickets are \$5 and include entrance to the dance, a slice of pizza, and a beverage.
- C. 8th Grade Dance: Report by Carrie Hayes - Carrie Hayes will be the chair for this committee.
 1. No date for the dance, however we are trying to schedule the dance in January or February prior to the deadline for the yearbook so pictures of the dance can be included in the yearbook.
- D. Fundraising: Report by Mercy Forsyth - The Fundraising chair is currently open.
 1. Our goal is to purchase a new electronic outdoor sign for the school. The PTO dues collected at the beginning of the year are the main fundraiser for our school and if that fundraiser is successful it eliminates the need for any other fundraisers.
 2. There are several free ways to support the WMS PTO which include: Publix, Amazon Smiles, & Kroger Community Rewards. It was stated that Publix allows you to scan more than one card at checkout so you can support more than one organization at checkout.
- E. Hospitality: Report by Julia Souder - Julia Souder is the Hospitality Chair and is assisted by Julia Taylor.
 1. All events are a joint effort with the PTO and parents who volunteer to donate food and other items. A sign up genius is sent out before each event. If you would like to be added to the signup genius please email Julia wmsteacherappreciation@gmail.com
 2. Dates for the Staff Appreciation events are as follows:
 - 8/8 - Cookies & muffins were dropped off to the faculty & staff
 - 9/28 - Mexican Fiesta
 - 10/26 - Southern/Soul Food
 - 11/10 - Veteran's Day Breakfast
 - 1/25 - "Souper" Bowl
 - 3/29 - Taste of Italy
 - 4/26 - PTO catered by Shane's Rib Shack
 3. A letter was sent out to all parents and partners in education on 8/9 asking for centerpiece decorations for each of the Staff Appreciation events. Additionally the week of 12/11 we pass out a small gift to teachers & staff. If you have any ideas or are willing to donate items please let Julia know.
- F. Marquee: Report by Mercy Forsyth - Michelle Walker is the Marquee Chair.
- G. Office Volunteer Coordinator: Report by Mercy Forsyth - Tina Barrett is the Office Volunteer Coordinator.
 1. All of the slots have been filled for Office Volunteers.
 2. We are always looking for subs, contact Mercy Forsyth if you are interested at wmsptomail@gmail.com
- H. Parent Reps: Report by Mercy Forsyth - Parent reps partner with teachers to coordinate parties, organize class Christmas gifts & End of Year gifts, and any other assistance the teachers might need. Grade Level Parent Reps as follows:
 - 6th Grade - Lori Good
 - 7th Grade - Julie Harp
 - 8th Grade - Laura Ryckeley
- I. Red Ribbon Week: Report by Mercy Forsyth - Courtney Slayer is the Red Ribbon Week Chair.
 1. The 2017 Red Ribbon Week is October 23 - 31.
- J. Social Media/Photographer: Report by Mercy Forsyth - The Social Media/Photographer Chair position is open. Please contact Mercy Forsyth if you are interested in chairing this committee. The chair is

responsible for updating our Facebook page and taking pictures of PTO events. Our Facebook page is @ptowms.

- K. Spirit Wear: Report by Carrie Hayes - Carrie Hayes is the Spirit Wear Chair. Meet the Teacher Spirit Wear sales were very successful. A huge thank you to Renee Gable for coordinating that event. Once we receive the sweatshirts ordered at Meet the Teacher they will be delivered to classrooms. We will be selling spirit wear at Curriculum Night on September 14th. We will have some new designs so be sure and stop by.
- L. Staff Appreciation: Report by Kim Plowman - Kim Plowman is the Staff Appreciation Chair. This year Hospitality and Staff Appreciation will be separate committees. The Staff Appreciation committee will collect a "Favorites List" from each teacher and staff member. They will recognize staff and teacher's birthdays and coordinate Teacher Appreciation Week events.
- M. Staff Gift Wrap Event: Report by Betty Jo Hall - Betty Jo Hall is the Staff Gift Wrap Event Chair. We will need lots of volunteers for this event. Also donations of wrapping paper and ribbon/bows are welcome!
- N. Veteran's Day Program: Report by Mercy Forsyth - Rhonda Mangin is the Veteran's Day Program Chair.
- O. Volunteer Coordinator: Report by Mercy Forsyth - Z Adkins is the Volunteer Coordinator Chair. Z will be collecting the yellow volunteer forms turned in at Meet the Teacher and sending volunteer lists to each chair. If you have not filled out a volunteer form but are interested in volunteering for any of the mentioned committees please email Mercy Forsyth wmsptomail@gmail.com.

VII. Old Business:

- A. May activities were a great success. We appreciate everyone who helped at the 8th Grade Picnic and Yearbook Party. The students look forward to those events every year.
- B. Joe Domaleski and his team at Country Fried Creative did a fabulous job creating a website for our PTO. It was a very successful way to make it easy for parents to pay their PTO dues and school fees using a debit or credit card. They will continue to maintain the site for us.
- C. Kelly Corpening with LPI completed the installation of a new sound system in the gym at the end of May. The sound system was a gift from both the 2015/16 & 2016/17 8th grade classes.

VIII. New Business:

- A. Our Meet the Teacher event was very successful. The website helped keep lines short so parents had more time to spend meeting teachers, visiting with fine arts staff, and purchasing spirit wear. Thank you to the volunteers who helped throughout the day.
- B. The 2017/18 Budget will be presented for a sustaining vote at our September meeting. We are still collecting fees and dues which need to be logged and processed before we know what funds will be available for the year. We are hoping not to need an additional fundraiser but our goal to install a new electronic sign is a lofty one. If you feel so inclined, additional donations which will go straight to that goal, can be accepted by choosing option 3 on our website at www.whitewatermiddlepto.org
- C. Parking: Please remember when you come to the school to volunteer or will be here more than a few minutes, we should park in the larger staff parking lot and keep the very limited visitor spaces open for others.
- D. All committees will utilize the program called "Sign-Up Genius" to help coordinate volunteer efforts and donations throughout the year. Please help out whenever you can.
- E. We post on our Facebook page frequently. If you are a Facebook user, please follow us [@PTOWMS](https://www.facebook.com/PTOWMS)

IX. Open Discussion

- A. Mrs. Baldwin was asked about special breakfast fundraisers. The school is limited to the amount of these types of fundraisers and is required to get special permission from the County. Mrs. Baldwin said she tries to schedule these fundraisers during testing times so students have an opportunity to have breakfast before tests. She also usually reserves these fundraisers to school clubs.

X. Next PTO Meeting - Friday, September 8th at 9:30am

XI. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 am, motion: Renee DiModica, 2nd Renee Gable