

Whitewater Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2017

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

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

- A. WMS Football and Volleyball have begun
  - 1. New goal posts were installed in time for the first game and leaks in the field irrigation system have been fixed.
  - 2. A new scoreboard will be installed in the gym this year, date TBD.
- B. The middle school is still in the process of hiring a paraprofessional.
- C. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Field Trips have been scheduled:
  - 1. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade will be going to Wahsega November 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 2. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade will be going to Driftwood October 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>
- D. Curriculum Night was rescheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30.  
*NOTE\*\*\*The actual Curriculum Night was held September 18<sup>th</sup>\*\*\**
- E. Mrs. Baldwin talked about the countywide Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports Initiative. WMS is currently rolling out the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the program.
  - 1. The “Cat Cash” rewards program is being introduced. Students will be rewarded for positive behavior with “Cat Cash” which can be used in the school store or to purchase special privileges such as eating lunch outside, etc.
  - 2. Mrs. Baldwin is requesting donations of any new or gently used items for the store.
  - 3. Mrs. Baldwin asked for volunteers to help set up and run the store. Lori Good volunteered to head up this project.
  - 4. Information on the Positive Behavior Intervention System (P.B.I.S.) can be found at [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org)

**III. Minutes from August 11, 2017 meeting were approved- motion: Melissa Wright, 2nd Christine Carpenter**

**IV. Treasurer's Report by Audra Anderson:**

- A. The 2017/18 PTO Budget was presented for approval.
  - 1. It was noted 80% of the student body has paid for the 2017/18 locker and agenda fees.
  - 2. PTO donations were up over last year despite a smaller student body number
  - 3. The PTO's goal this year is to purchase a new electronic sign as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade gift to the school.
- B. The 2017/18 WMS PTO budget was approved – motion: Melissa Wright, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhonda Pennypacker

**V. Chair Reports:**

- A. Cultural Arts – Heidi Danis, Chair: Report by Mercy Forsyth & Heidi Danis.
  - 1. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade program, “Raising a President”, The Story of Rachel Clark/Jimmy Carter by Joanna Maddox has been scheduled for February 8, 2018
  - 2. We are currently searching for a new 6<sup>th</sup> grade program.
- B. Fall Dance & Yearbook Party – Jessica Hood, Chair: Report by Mercy Forsyth
  - 1. The date for the dance is October 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 - 5:00. Tickets are \$5 and include entrance to the dance, a slice of pizza, and a beverage.
  - 2. The Fall Dance is open to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grade WMS students.
  - 3. The PTO will be asking for donations of canned Coke Products & Dasani bottled water. Be on the lookout for a Sign-up Genius closer to the event.
- C. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic, Carrie Hayes, Chair: Report by Carrie Hayes
  - 1. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance has been scheduled for January 26, 2018 6:30 – 8:30
- D. Fundraising – OPEN CHAIR POSITION: Report by Mercy Forsyth
  - 1. 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, Julia Souder & Julia Taylor, Co-Chairs: Report by Julia
  - 1. The next Staff Appreciation lunch will be September 28<sup>th</sup> and the theme is Mexican Fiesta, Be on the lookout for a “Sign-Up Genius” for food donations.
  - 2. Dates for upcoming Staff Appreciation events are as follows:
    - 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. In an effort to make clean-up easier the Hospitality committee has purchased disposal pans with lids. Please stop by the front office to pick one up if you have volunteered to bring a dish. This eliminates trying to make sure volunteers get all of their dishes and serving utensils back.
  - 4. This year a vegetarian item will be added to the menu on each event.
  - 5. Last year all of the staff were given a cookbook of all the recipes from the Staff Appreciation events throughout the year. This was well received and we would love to continue adding to the cookbook. Please forward a copy of any recipe you use to either Julia.

- F. Marquee – Michelle Walker, Chair: Nothing to report.
- G. Office Volunteer Coordinator, Tina Barrett - Chair:
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](mailto:wmsptomail@gmail.com)
- H. Parent Reps, 6th Grade - Lori Good, 7th Grade - Julie Harp, 8th Grade - Laura Ryckley:
1. Parent reps partner with teachers to coordinate parties, organize class Christmas gifts & End of Year gifts, and any other assistance the teachers might need.
  2. Reminder to Parent Reps to please contact the team leads for your grade.
  3. Each Rep has a \$300 budget. In the past it has been used for goodie bags, end of year parties, etc.
- I. Red Ribbon Week, Courtney Slayer – Chair: Report by Mercy Forsyth
1. 2017 Red Ribbon Week is October 23 - 31.
- J. Social Media/Photographer, Sarah Salter - Chair:
1. Sarah Salter volunteered to Chair this committee.
  2. Please forward any photos from WMS PTO sponsored events to [wmsptomail@gmail.com](mailto:wmsptomail@gmail.com) so we can post them on our Facebook page.
- K. Spirit Wear, Carrie Hayes – Chair:
1. New designs have been ordered for Curriculum Night.
- L. Staff Appreciation, Kim Plowman - Chair:
1. We will be celebrating teacher's birthday days on a monthly basis. This month Kim put Hershey Bars in the teachers mail boxes along with a birthday greeting from the PTO.
  2. Kim is working on ideas for Teacher Appreciation Week which is in the Spring.
- M. Staff Gift Wrap Event, Betty Jo Hall - Chair:
1. Staff Gift Wrap has been scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> & December 8<sup>th</sup>. Time is TBD. Please watch for "Sign-Up Genius"
  2. Donations of bows, ribbon, tissues paper, and boxes would be greatly appreciated!
- N. Veteran's Day Program, Rhonda Mangin - Chair: Report by Mercy Forsyth
1. A Veteran's Day Breakfast for all Veterans and their students will be held in the Media Center November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM Please watch for "Sign-Up Genius" for food donations as well as volunteers to help serve.
  2. Immediately following the breakfast there will be a school wide Veteran's Day Program in the gym.
  3. Canceling the November PTO meeting so everyone can instead help with this event was approved, motion: Heidi Danis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Melissa Wright
  4. It was suggested students who have Veterans that are not able to make the event or are no longer with us be allowed to bring in photos of their Veterans so they can be honored as well.
- O. Volunteer Coordinator, Zinnia Adkins - Chair:
1. All the volunteer forms have been added to the Sign-Up Genius website and all requests for volunteers or donations will come from that website/service
  2. There was a discussion during the meeting to possibly streamline the use of technology/programs across elementary, middle school & high school PTO/PTSO. This was brought up due to a change at the elementary level. After discussion it was determined the WMS PTO would continue to use the Sign-Up Genius program at this time.

## VI. Announcements:

- A. Bids for the digital sign are being collected. If you know of a business that would be interested in submitting a bid please forward their information to [wmsptomail@gmail.com](mailto:wmsptomail@gmail.com). We will be getting an estimate from Stewart Signs who designed Sara Harp Minter's (soon to be installed) sign, however we are required to get a minimum of 3 bids.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. We post on our Facebook page frequently. If you are a Facebook user, please follow us [@PTOWMS](https://www.facebook.com/PTOWMS)

## VII. Next PTO Meeting - Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

## VIII. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am, motion: Heidi Danis, 2nd Rhonda Pennypacker