**Willard PTG Meeting**

**April 11, 2022**

**Attendance**

Liz Colgan, Robin Baughman, Jamie Ring, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Sarah Schulsinger, Kristen Lester, Nicole Saia, Colleen Currier, Danielle McKenna, KC Camp, Janet King, Emily Lines, Lee Halloran, Jeanne Fahey, Susannah Benner, Matt Lucey

**Presidents' Welcome and Recap** - Liz Colgan

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm. We are coming off a few weeks of successful in person events: the spelling bee, the science fair (largest number of participants to date), math night- all well attended and have required increased financial support to accommodate renting tables. PTG is assessing whether we can purchase some tables to be able to use for these events in the future versus renting tables- would be more economical.

We still have bins of prizes available from past spring carnivals so any upcoming events that may require prizes please reach out to a member of PTG board.

**Principal and Teacher Update**- Mr. Lucey

Jane Downes (Special Education) and Mike Germond (Physical Education) have announced their retirement at the end of this year. Both have made tremendous contributions to the Willard community. Replacement searches are underway and Mr. Lucey will be sharing more as hiring process moves forward.

School council has one remaining meeting before the school improvement plan is published. Looking for an alternative program to Open Circle which was is no longer a funded/offered program. Work continues on special education inclusion and providing the highest quality of service to students with learning differences. Also working on literacy screener program and teasing out effects of COVID interruptions to learning. The staff are also assessing books that are available to students- making sure that our materials are current and reflective of diverse stories and topics.

Grade 5 Ted Talk was held at school committee meeting- first time since before COVID that students could participate.

Willard budget is being supported by town/school district budget.

Enrollment for next year is on target. Kindergarten is approaching 60 new students enrolled and it’s still early in the registration season.

This summer the extended school services will be held at Alcott while Willard has an irrigation system installed to alleviate the mud/drainage issues.

**PTG Committee Updates**

**Treasurer's Report -**Colleen Currier

Amazon quarterly donations came in ($150) as did the December auction proceeds. Employer match for appeal also came in- a reminder for those who have companies who offer matching gifts to consider reaching out re: any appeal donations. PTG funding includes assemblies, teacher classroom expenses, and activities like family math night, spelling bee, science fair and deposit for parent social.

**International Festival update** - Jeanne Fahey

20 families have signed up to participate. 17 unique cultures will be represented, 15 tables will be set up. Performances will include singing, Irish step dancing, and a flamenco workshop (which was donated by a local dance studio). Backpack flier will go out this week. Country flags will be placed outside the week leading up to the festival. Quiet space will be made available.

**Parent social update -** Darcy Heintz Perkins and Nicole Saia

Decided to have it at Verrill Farm this year. Plan to do a blast email to remind people to purchase tickets. There’s a caterer and bartender secured and looking into music. Event goes until 9:30pm.

PTG volunteer appreciation event will be held June 9th at Nicole Saia’s house. Will work with Committees to identify all those who helped with events, etc. to be included in this in-person event.

**Spring Event Update-** Sarah Schulsinger

The event will be held May 15th from 2-4pm. Working on event name; DJ is cleared to attend. Trying to identify the ice cream truck vendor; each attendee will get an ice cream ticket and will look into possibility of having tickets available for purchase for siblings, etc.. Confirming school will be open for bathrooms, etc. Will work to ensure a quiet space is available.

**Spring Fling raffle baskets**- Susannah Benner - $1 per raffle ticket and they will be available to purchase online and also at event. The week before the event, will look to have raffle baskets displayed either in lobby or at pickup. Will look for other ways to raise awareness of what’s inside the baskets. Working through logistics like ticket bunching, ticket buckets for raffle baskets, etc.. We have wonderful classroom participation this year with every classroom having signed up for a basket.

**Staff Appreciation update** - Lee Halloran

Spring flowers for all staff will be available this week on Thursday 4/14. A potluck luncheon will be given during Teacher Appreciation Week and a catered luncheon will be given at the end of the school year. Catered lunch for administrative professionals day later in April; bus driver appreciation breakfast with personalized mugs will be held in May. School Nurse Day gift will be given to Patsy Sullivan. Looking to get some feedback from teachers and staff about what is working well, the kinds of things they would like to see to help generate future ideas via a survey monkey questionnaire.

**Assemblies and Enrichment update**– Danielle McKenna

We are continuing to assess whether we can host an all-school assembly. In the meantime, Amy Casher has worked really hard on enrichment programs for the classrooms. Some programs are no longer offered (like the NE Aquarium). Team had previously assessed outdoor programming and trying to leverage some of those programs. Kindergarten has a possible program through Drumlin Farm - the nature detective program. First grade classes will have an author, Brian Lies, who is very popular with this age group visit in May. While he’s here, he will likely also visit second grade. Third grade looking at having a live raptor program but also will offer a program to dissect owl pellets. Fourth grade assembly is typically not funded by PTG. Fifth grade has Concord Museum coming. All-school assemblies will be considered for next year with an indoor and outdoor option. Historically have held 4 all school assemblies, considering moving to 3 and eliminating the spring assembly.

Assemblies and Enrichment group is half of our PTG budget (keeping in mind that other funds are used for additional programming in the school/classroom). But given the large percentage of our spend, really wanting to work with the teachers to ensure that the programming we are supporting is of interest to them and the students. Exciting to see this year evolve the programming and better meet what teachers are asking for.

**Charity and Service** –Janet King

Please share any ideas with [charity@willardptg.org](mailto:charity@willardptg.org) As a reminder, this committee is really meant for any member of the Willard community to reach out with ideas and then the committee can assist with implementation. A good example is the Ukraine supply drive which was suggested and then organized by a parent with the help of the committee getting the necessary approvals and communications out.

Ukraine Supply Drive Update- response was amazing with the volume of supplies we pulled together as a community. Other schools have reached out to get involved after being inspired by what Willard did.

5th grade service day will take place at 3 sites: Council on Aging, Gaining Ground, and White Pond. Students will have a choice on which project they sign up for. Will be held June 2nd- more details to follow

**General Comments/Questions**

5th grade yearbook is in process, deadline is this Friday for fun facts, student pages, baby pictures, etc. to be contributed. Teachers have talked to students to give them a sense of what can be submitted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

**PTG meeting schedule for 2022**

May 9th at 9:30am

June 6th at 7pm