**Willard PTG Meeting**

**November 14, 2022**

**Attendance**

Jamie Ring, Amy Casher, Jon Smith, Bryn Hilts, Kristen Lester, Liz Colgan, Matt Lucey, Tracy DeTora, Susannah Benner, Erinn Prebil, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Meagan MacNutt, Erin Prebil, Kaitlyn Whittier, Liz McNeely, Jeanne Fahey, Lee Halloran

**Presidents' Welcome and VP Update** –Kristen Lester/Kaitlyn Whittier

Parent Social was amazing- wonderful turnout with over 140 people. Raised over $10,000 in the auction which is almost double what we have done in the past.

Many updates from PTG but will have committee chairs report out.

One question for the group- we have an overflow of stuffed animals from past carnivals. Suggestion is to donate them to Emerson for children who are in the ER and all agreed.

**Principal and Teacher Update**- Matt Lucey / Jon Smith

Jon Smith: Appreciation for in person conferences and chance for parents to see the space their children are learning in. Math Olympiad for 4th and 5th graders had a particularly strong year related to interest- we ended up double booking to accommodate the students. Math Olympiad is a nationwide organization that Willard is a member of to enable students to have greater exposure to Math learning.

Thank you also for the many treats coming in for Teachers and Staff- staff loves these!

Matt Lucey: Wonderful to have conferences back in person.

Choral groups will be returning to all the elementary schools for 4th and 5th grades. Having expanded offerings give students a chance to broaden their exposure to students across the district and prepare for middle school interactions.

Dr. Laurie Hunter has been sending out weekly newsletters with a focus on learning. Director of Student Services job listing will be posted in December/January.

Emergency Preparedness Update-

Bus Evacuations, Fire Drills we are already doing. Two new activities will be brought back but in different format. Emergency event gathering space has been identified as White Pond. There will be a drill where all students walk to White Pond but will be referenced as preparing for a school event such as a flood or power outage for students. Shelter in Place drill will also be held (a medical emergency example such as a student fainting in the hallway and requiring help so other students cannot pass through that area). In the event of a real life incident, incident command center would be responsible for notification to families/press, etc.

5 year strategic plan process is going on. Goals are set at a CPS K-5 level and then individual schools develop tactics for implementation. We develop broader plan and then drill down to granular needs of our community here at Willard. One new approach we are utilizing is called a futures approach- “5 years from now, I’m thrilled that all students XX.”

MCAS dates are being set now. 3rd and 4th grade will have ELA and Math and 5th grade will have ELA, Math, and Science and Engineering.

Composting is starting today via Black Earth. Parent volunteers will be assisting in the cafeteria during lunch now through 11/21. Two classrooms (3rd and 5th) worked together on skits to educate the classrooms about this new effort.

**Treasurer’s Report-**Colleen Currier

Busy month will all great things. Book fair, appeal, parent social, auction going on. We filed PTG taxes for 2021 last week.

**Charity and Service**- Janet King

5th grade fall food drive is underway now through November 18th and will fill 150 bags. Each grade has an assigned item to bring in.

Coat drive is underway until January and box is in the Willard lobby.

Halloween candy collection was successful with over 400 pounds of candy provided.

**Fundraising/Auction Recap-** Susannah Benner

Community really responded to Susannah’s efforts to engage new companies/groups for the auction. Many more bidders than past years and people were very interested in the items especially the items donated by teachers (experiences for students).

Minted holiday card campaign will be kicking off again. Will no longer use TinyPrints as they were not responsive.

**Annual Appeal Update** –Yumi Suarez

Has raised almost $29000 so far (89% of our 2022-23 goal). Have exceeded last year’s total. Yumi will continue to email last year’s donors to remind them of giving if they haven’t yet and is removing anyone who no longer has kids at Willard from our distribution list. Mr. Lucey will send an email out as well on Giving Day.

**Staff Appreciation**- Lee Halloran

Events have included: welcome back breakfast, custodian team thank you, fall donut event, sweet and salty snack break. Will do a holiday kick off lunch and holiday gifts are planned (reusable tote bag with simple Willard/heart print). Goal is to do more smaller events to keep spirits high throughout the year versus fewer, larger events.

**5th Grade Celebration**- Robin Baughman

Committee met to go over events and assigned a planner for each one. 5th grade service project is the food drive. Need to book Thoreau Club for June outing and will meet again in December.

**Discussion**

Questions about cafeteria vendor and whether menu may expand. Suggestion was made to bring in cafeteria head to a PTG meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40.

The next PTG meeting is December 12th @ 9:30am