

WIHi PTO Meeting 9/14/18

Attendees: Kelley Bezrutch, Kim Vnuk-Kronick, Tami Schumacher, Meg Wallace, Alexabelle Talbott, William Garcia, Dan Giddings, Stacy Sucarski, Nadia Husin, Halimah Al-Qadi, Bharya Tummala, Karen Moriey, Deborah Fox, Sue Barker, Susan Hutton, Susan Schmitt-Creech, Wendy Roberts, Celeste Green, Jackie Silhaner, Janet Tang, Paula Drummond, Carrie Harnish, Shazia Ansari, Tameez Ansari, Joy Lange, Genia Service, Mira Cooper, Jen Barba, Sunil Nair, Caitlin Olmstead-Phillips, Angie Smith, Karen Zaruba, Carol Knight-Drain

Introductions

Principal's Update: Dan Giddings

- 1) Dan was math teacher, now IB coordinator. Please come to him with any IB questions because that is his job. He welcomes questions.
- 2) Enrollment—lots of no shows. Accepted 180 Freshmen, thought 150 would attend, then 20-30 just did not show up. Still accepting kids. Will try to improve the process next year. Now Freshman class increased up to 135. Also have open spots for 10th grade 120-130 now.
Question: Was there attrition after Labor Day from kids who had been testing it out? Answer: Not so much as in previous years.
- 3) Religious holidays-- trying to do better. 9/23 day off for this reason. Not a perfect solution. If need to miss other days, they will be excused. Homework will be lighter this week.
- 4) Standard Based grading—lots of classes are adopting this method. Homework not counted in grade. All based on how skills improved over the course of the semester. 9/22 will be date for progress reports. Some classes no big projects yet so might not really have a grade, but should have comments from teachers. Goal of SBG: Assess what matters; make sure students actually understand the material. If there is no grade, powerschool may show "1" or "0" for homework to indicate whether or not it was turned in. Parent comment: Problems with automatic emails from powerschool. Kelly Cartwright is aware of the problem. Parent Question: What is the motivator for a student? Answer: Generic message is that you learn if you do the homework. If student involved in extracurriculars and misses homework assignment, no big impact. May help balance assignments.
- 5) Class sizes pretty well set now. Junior classes are larger ~31. 3 sections/100 students All grades should be 32 or less. However some junior classes have 34. Other grades won't have this problem so will have more sections. Question: When do Mock schedules change to official schedule? Answer: once all registration processes are taken care of.

Overview of PTO: Kelley Bezrutch

Details of PTO: All invited. 2nd Monday of every month 7-8:30, goal is to support students and staff. PTO provides Dinner and lunches for conference nights and holiday platters for WIHi/WiMA staff at holidays. Collect donations for holidays. Those are PTO projects. Otherwise just support projects and get volunteers for other school activities. For instance StuGo will ask for help with donations and

chaperones. Small budget no fundraising except—EZ free money and Scrip. Money used for projects such as renovated courtyard. Big project big success.

Goal for Volunteers: Hoping everyone will volunteer for one thing and participate in one fundraiser. If everyone did this, it would be great. PTO donations \$25, voluntary contribution. This money used as seed money. All school picnic—food, drinks. Ask teachers what they need (Science scale last year \$1200). Impact of group is huge. Would really like more people to sign up for grocery money.

Question: Is fundraising coordinated WiHi/WiMa? No. Separate organizations. Some activities like Beautification Day are joint projects. Try to bring events together, but still separate. A WiHi/WiMa liaison would be good! Good to get WiMa kids fired up about potentially coming to WiHi.

Agenda approved

Treasurers Report:

~\$1700 in account.

Overview: PTO handles money for student groups so they do not have to go through WISD (that process is slow)

Question: Did we ever get 501C3 status for PTO ? No. Never came through because of cost (\$800) and benefit not clear. (School has tax exempt number which we can use when we buy supplies). Caitlin Olmstead-Phillips will commit to raising the money to put that through because in her experience, it is great for fundraising. 5013C status really helped Scarlett Middle School.

Question: What happened to Brick Campaign? Brick campaign fizzled. Did not sell enough to create a space. Need someone to spearhead the brick program. Only got 2 orders last year. Would be in the front of the school. Don't want too many blank filler bricks. \$55/brick engraved is the cost. Cost to us was. Angela Smith will take over promotion of this project.

Question: Can we have a budget? Could last year's expenses serve as a budget? Showing this would help tell the story of our expenses. Expense >\$500 needs a vote. This is a good idea, now that the school is full (4 grades).

Fall Beautification day 2000 bulbs. Every courtyard cleaned. Cafeteria scrubbed. Great start to year

Overall goals of school:

- 1) Ability to support students in need. Cedar point trip to make sure all can go. Micro grant process yearbooks for seniors. Would like to spend money on improving environment.
- 2) Wishlist on webpage—families welcome to contribute items from this list
- 3) 10 benches to put in front
- 4) Small sets of whiteboards in each class
- 5) IB posters that are available on line—Learner profile to decorate
- 6) Screen or monitor main office
- 7) Books for language arts classes
- 8) Long Term: Bigger Community Space, Cafeteria improvement

Parent request: more details of these requests would be helpful.

Question: How does the school use Social Media to communicate? Facebook page, several twitter accounts (Forensics team, teachers, school twitter for Tweeting out snow days). PTO does not use Facebook, though. Depends on how this group of people best communicate. Freshmen have their own Facebook page. Email seems to be the form of communication that we can count on most people using/having access to. Families who have moved from other countries may be more in the habit of using other social media to get information. Each class has a class dean. You should be receiving many emails from them.

Teacher Representative Report: William Garcia

Seniors: please be starting common app and working on college apps. Mr. Garcia says.... do not send anything without him seeing it first! They spend every Friday working on college essays. He likes to read all of them before they go out.

Juniors: PSAT coming up quickly—linked to National Merit Program—colleges use it as basis of awarding scholarships. \$20 fee to take. Sign up online or bring money to Ms. Hervey, WiHi Testing coordinator. Sophomore can also take for practice (but it will cost them \$20 and in March all Fresh and Soph will get to take it for free).

Standards based grading: If grades look low at beginning of semester that is ok, because showing progress is the goal. Lower graders will be removed and replaced. Don't panic unless teacher contacts you—if teacher contacts you, you should pay attention.

Biggest social problem at WiHi is academic bullying, the nerdiest type of bullying. It is prevalent. WiHi is trying to stop it. This is one reason WiHi is shifting to standard based grading. WiHi wants students doing extracurricular things. If you hear your students complaining of academic bullying, please tell Mr. Garcia. He will approach it as a learning moment. He wants to know if you hear of it. The message should be: grades are your own business; keep them to yourself. We don't have class rank. We do not give class rank to colleges. Teachers would welcome input. Getting into college is stressful. All colleges offer a good education to those who want it.

Parent comments about academic bullying: Could a product team lead up something like this? Feeling Board? Movie viewing such as "Waiting for Superman" or "Race to nowhere?" Conversation should include parents because some attitudes like these come from parents. The school is working more on balance this year. PTO will return with action plan. International Dinner: one parent feels that only privileged kids get to choose their roles.

This Wednesday is College night 6:30-8:00. Reps from UM and other colleges. They will tell you what they are looking for and what they like to see on applications.

Literature and history classes need books. Trying to get enough copies of every book to check out for students in need. Add to wish list with specifics.

Student Government Representative Report: Alexabelle Talbott

As Girl Scout Project she will turn the entrance into an antibullying wall with an Inspirational video and information on how to get help.

Stugo: International Dinner—short on food donations. If want to bring food, great. Expecting 400 people. Can sign up for talent. Cultural bazaar. Any food. Ticket Price \$10/person. 50% off ticket if bring enough food to feed 20 people. Largest event of school. Please Label Food.

Prom: No venue yet. Some themes suggested. Masquerade, Under the Sea, Winter Wonderland, Sci-Fi, Garden Floral.

Fall Get Together Oct 17 7-10pm Dance, Video Games, basketball.

Senior Class Fundraiser: Paint parking spot. Raise money. Beautification \$45. You can paint over your own spot. There will be a list of what not allowed.

Unity bracelets anti-bullying.

Shoppers scrip. Scrip now can be on phone. Gas card. Have to sign up.