

# WIHI PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 12, 2012  
7:00 p.m. , Media Center

## In Attendance:

Delonaka (Lonnie) Edwards ([delonaka@yahoo.com](mailto:delonaka@yahoo.com))

Christina Howell ([cahowell25@gmail.com](mailto:cahowell25@gmail.com))

Julie Bernas ([jbernas@comcast.net](mailto:jbernas@comcast.net))

Stacey Spencer ([stacey.spencer@sodexo.com](mailto:stacey.spencer@sodexo.com))

Mirada Jenkins ([msmiradaj@gmail.com](mailto:msmiradaj@gmail.com))

Kelley Bezrutch ([kellybez1@gmail.com](mailto:kellybez1@gmail.com))

Dave Dickenson ([dsdickenson@gmail.com](mailto:dsdickenson@gmail.com))

Karen Goven ([karyngoven@yahoo.com](mailto:karyngoven@yahoo.com))

## **Agenda Items**

### **Call to order**

Lonnie Edwards, President

We are still working on our 501(c)3 status. She noted that the PTO has to raise \$400 to continue the tax exempt paper work with the IRS. Right now the PTO is recognized as a nonprofit corporation. Once the papers are filed with the IRS and approved the 501(c)3 status will be retroactive to January 2012 (the date of formation). Even though our tax-exempt status is not complete we are still able to solicit corporate donations while it is pending. Since Lonnie is stepping down as president she will work on this with the new president during the transition to make sure this gets followed up.

### **Treasury report:**

Kelley Bezrutch, Treasurer

As of now there is \$185 in the school's checking account. This is predominantly from money collected at conference time: \$15 to join the PTO, with \$5 of that going towards a directory. Lonnie and Kelley will try to find the receipts of who paid the \$15, and since it was decided that there will be no charge for this year's directory they will contact those people and ask if they would like a refund of \$5 or if they would like to donate that \$\$\$ to the PTO.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Committee Updates**

##### **PTO Directory**

Dave Dickenson, PTO Directory Committee Chair

The directory has been completed and will be sent via e-mail this weekend to those who have submitted permission forms as well as copies to Kelly Cartwright and Bert Okma. Dave will have Kelly put in the newsletter that if people still want to join the directory they can submit forms, and if he gets more forms there may be a new edition sent out in May. Discussed putting the permission form in the orientation packet for next year to get more of a response as well as selling hard copies for a possible fundraiser.

#### **Bylaws**

Lonnie Edwards, President

We are still in need of a Bylaws Committee Chairperson. Lonnie has a sample of bylaws that can be merged/adapted for our school for whoever wants to handle this committee. The State of Michigan needs a letter from Mr. Okma that it is okay for the school to have a PTO Committee, he is aware of it, and it has his support. This needs to be accompanied by a copy of our bylaws.

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## **Miscellaneous**

### **Kroger Cards**

Kelley Bezrutch, Treasurer

Kelley mentioned that for all who have registered their Kroger cards for WIHI that they need to reactivate these accounts as of April 1, 2012. She will have Kelly Cartwright note this in the newsletter and possibly a separate e-mail as well.

## **New Business**

### **Election/volunteers needed**

#### **PTO President**

By unanimous decision/nomination, it was decided that Kelley Bezrutch would take over for Lonnie Edwards as President with much support and help from the group. It was also agreed that since Kelley was taking on this role so late in the school year, that for continuity purposes she will serve as PTO President for the 2012/13 school year as well. Karyn Goven volunteered to take over Treasurer duties from Kelley Bezrutch. Christina Howell will continue as Vice President.

#### **Communications Chair (volunteer position, does not require a nomination)**

At this time Mirada Jenkins has elected to remain as Communications Chair. Julie Bernas has offered to help with this when needed.

### **Open floor**

#### **Beautification Day**

It was discussed that the school was in need of a beautification day with parent volunteers/donations to clean up the school grounds and do some spring planting. Karyn Goven mentioned that we could sign the school up as a team for Ypsilanti Pride Day, which is Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteer help will be needed from 9 a.m. to noon with a free lunch provided to all volunteers in North Bay Park afterwards. We need to solicit help as well as people to bring garden tools and donations of flowers. Kelley Bezrutch will check with Naomi Norman to see what is being provided by the school. Julie Bernas has agreed to print a flyer to be handed out at school, and Kelley Bezrutch/Karyn Goven will provide information to Kelly Cartwright to be put in the newsletter.

#### **Little Caesars Build-On Fundraiser**

Kelley Bezrutch gave the group an update on the Build-On school project in Haiti. She mentioned that the group still needs to raise approximately \$2000, which is where the Little Caesars fundraiser comes in. She noted that if each student sold 3 kits the goal will be met. She is going to make sure that Kelly Cartwright mentions this in the newsletter as well as a separate e-mail to parents to make sure they have received the flyer, as this fundraiser has a deadline of prepayment by this Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Corporate Donations**

Dave Dickenson and Julie Bernas

Both mentioned that they had provided information to Bert Okma regarding corporate donations from Ford (Dave) and Toyota (Julie). They noted that the documentation had been filled out and submitted by WIHI, but they have not heard anything since that time. Dave also mentioned to Kelly Cartwright possibly sending an e-mail to other parents who are Ford Employees for their support but said he is not sure this has been done. Julie will check with the people at Toyota to see if there is an update on this.

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### **Next meeting date**

It was decided that since Naomi Norman of WISD is planning on attending the next PTO meeting, Kelley Bezrutch will get in touch with her to set the date and will send out an e-mail once it has been confirmed.

### **Healthy treats for exam week**

Volunteers are needed for providing healthy snacks during exam days, June 14, 15, 18, and 19. Final ideas need to be approved by Bert Okma. Julie Bernas has agreed to coordinate this and details will be discussed at the next meeting.