



**Wheatland Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, Inc.**  
**General PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2015**

PTO President, Shelly Stumpe, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at the WES library. Present were Elton Armbrister, Amy Feimer, Raven Genereux, Karen Labrum, Kara Larson, Kelsey Lewis, Carolyn Matthews, Janna McConnaughay, Cristy Phillips, Melissa Schumacher, Shelly Stumpe, and Evie Unrein.

**Welcome: Shelly Stumpe**

Ms. Stumpe welcomed the group and read the PTO's mission statement.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014, General PTO Meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

**Treasurer's Report: Shelly Stumpe for Shellie Hulsey**

Ms. Stumpe presented the treasurer's report for Shellie Hulsey. Some highlights: The Warrior Dash grossed nearly \$14,300, Imagine That Toys Day \$664, and Box Tops \$1,778. We are about \$7,000 away from our budgeted income. The Jason's Deli night brought in \$254, which is not yet reflected in the financials.

The PTO has purchased gift cards for teachers to use for classroom supplies (\$5,100), water fountains with water bottle filling stations (\$5,765), and soccer goals (\$1,610). The necessary funds were not available for additional teacher gift cards in January. We are on target to meet the \$24,000 budgeted allocations amount.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

**Principal's Report: Elton Armbrister**

The Senate Ways and Means committee is hearing testimony this Thursday, January 29, on SB 71 concerning local option budgets. *[Note that the hearing was cancelled after this meeting.]* We do not yet know how this would specifically affect Wheatland, but it would result in about \$39 million less to schools state-wide. People can provide comments to Ty Masterson, the

committee chair and senator from Andover. Educate Andover will look at this bill and any others concerning school finance.

Janice Eldridge is retiring at the end of February. She will be missed, and we wish her all the best.

Mr. Armbrister had the chance to hear Dr. Randy Watson, incoming Commissioner of Education, speak at a community forum.

### **Revised Allocations Request: Shelly Stumpe**

The school has revised its allocations request to ask the PTO to provide Chromebooks rather than iPads to third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms. Ms. Genereux has been piloting Chromebooks in her classroom, and reports that they work like laptops, with a full keyboard, access to Google docs, and internet connections. The Chromebooks, particularly with their keyboarding ability, better meet the upper grades' needs in light of the new standards.

The revised request is for 30 Chromebooks and software, a charging cart, and an access point, in place of 35 iPads. The PTO-provided iPads that are currently in the third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms will be moved to the kindergarten, first, and second grade classrooms, giving those classes a ratio of one iPad per three students.

Ms. Stumpe reported that the district currently has a hold on technology purchases while it assesses network issues. The next ordering window is in March. The district will support devices currently in the building, but will not provide additional access points to support new devices. The revised allocations request includes an access point.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the revised allocations request and allow for the purchase of Chromebooks. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

### **Dillons Community Rewards Program: Melissa Schumacher**

The Dillons Community Rewards Program is changing. Instead of receiving 5% from reloaded gift cards, the PTO will get a percentage of total charitable donations based on the percentage of spending by users who have their Dillons Shopper's Cards registered to the Wheatland PTO. The balance on current gift cards will not expire, but Wheatland will not receive any donations for funds added after January 31, 2015. Instructions on how to register your Dillons Shopper's Cards have gone out in the Weekly Warrior.

### **General Mills Box Tops and Campbell's Labels: Kelsey Lewis**

The PTO received a check for \$1,778 in December, including May and October shipments. Ms. Lewis will send off Campbell's Labels at the beginning of February and Box Tops by the beginning of March to meet this year's deadlines.

Michelle Wallace will be taking over the Box Tops and Campbell's Labels collection for the remainder of this year and will continue next year.

### **Family Fun Night**

#### **Raffle and Wrist Bands: Carolyn Matthews**

No wrist bands will be required for kids to play the games at Family Fun Night this year. The board wanted to make the event accessible to all families, and factored this into the budget at the beginning of the school year. Requiring wrist bands might also require the PTO to remit sales tax on those sales.

To comply with current state laws governing charitable raffles, raffle tickets will be available in groups of ten tickets. Each person may get one group of tickets before the event and one group of tickets at Family Fun Night. The suggested donation for each group of tickets is \$10; no donation is required. The legislature is expected to pass laws this session governing how charities can legally have raffles, so next year there will likely be different guidelines.

#### **Baskets: Karen Labrum**

Ms. Labrum reported that the PTO is going through the room parents to organize a basket from each class for the raffle. They have been asked to choose a few possible themes for their baskets. Donations will be due March 12.

We will need flat boxes from the grocery store (deeper than soup can boxes) to cover with wrapping paper and put the items in for the raffle. Shipping boxes that can be cut down also work well.

The silent auction items include a KU team signed basketball, a Bill Snyder signed K-State football, a WSU team signed basketball, and a quilt made from Spirit Wear t-shirts.

### **Educate Andover: Shelly Stumpe for Laura Roddy**

Educate Andover is a nonpartisan group that advocates for public education. At a recent meeting, Sherame Kneisel, the district's business manager, gave a briefing on school finance and

the Legislature. At this point, it is just too early to tell what will happen, but districts are trying to prepare for the worst (significant cuts). Educate Andover encourages parents to follow public education funding issues in the state Legislature. Everyone is welcome at the meetings, which are at 11:30 a.m. at the district office on the third Thursday of the month. We encourage you to “like” the group at [www.facebook.com/educateandover](http://www.facebook.com/educateandover).

### **Amazon Programs: Carolyn Matthews**

The PTO has joined the Amazon Smile program, which donates .5% of eligible purchases to charities when the purchaser goes through the [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) website and selects Wheatland PTO as his or her charity of choice.

The PTO has also joined the Amazon Affiliate program, which generally pays between 4%-10% of eligible purchases when the purchaser goes to Amazon through a specific link. This link and more information will be sent out through the Weekly Warrior, and will be available on the PTO’s website. The link will direct one to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so the PTO will receive the additional .5% on the purchase.

### **Nominations for 2015-2016 PTO Board: Karen Labrum**

We will take nominations at the March meeting for 2015-2016 PTO board officers. Anyone interested can contact Karen Labrum.

### **March Meeting: Shelly Stumpe**

The March general PTO meeting will be March 24, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This will be a working meeting to wrap baskets for Family Fun Night. There will be a short business meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. Kindergarten round up is that night at 6:30 p.m.; anyone who needs to leave for that is welcome to do so.

### **New Business**

It was asked why there was no Holiday Hugs program in December. The coordinator of the program is no longer active in the PTO. The feedback from teachers was that they appreciated being able to give suggestions on things they liked, if parents or students wanted to purchase gifts.

Students from Gardiner Elementary sent thank you notes for the books Wheatland donated to the classrooms during the last book fair. The notes were available to review at the meeting.

The next PTO General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the WES library. Business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Carolyn L. Matthews*

Carolyn Matthews, Secretary