



Wheatland Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, Inc.
PTO General Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2015

PTO President, Rachel James, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Wheatland Elementary School library. Present were Elton Armbrister, Robin Bauer, Stephanie Binder, John Cove, Christina Covey, Gina Crabtree, Jennifer Gantz, Julie de la Garza, Shellie Hulsey, Libby Kleeman, Karen Labrum, Kelsey Lewis, Julie Linville, Janna McConnaughay, Rachel James, Carolyn Matthews, Laura Roddy, Stacey Ryan, Melissa Schumacher, Traci Swindler, and Michelle Wallace.

Welcome: Rachel James

Ms. James welcomed everyone. The board introduced themselves: Rachel James, President; Theresa Walker, Vice-President; Shellie Hulsey, Co-Treasurer; and Carolyn Matthews, Secretary. Co-Treasurer Shelly Stumpe was not present.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 28, 2015, PTO General Meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

Principal's Report: Elton Armbrister

Mr. Armbrister thanked the board for their service.

Meet Your Teacher Night was well attended. Enrollment at Wheatland is up, with more than 440 students. Enrollment dropped at the beginning of last year, but picked up by the end of school.

The procedure for picking students up by car after school has changed. When Wheatland opened, all students were dismissed at one time. That was changed to dismiss students from the art room. With the increase in bus fees this year, there are more car riders. Parents may no longer park and walk across to pick up students, because of safety issues and slowing down the car line. Parents need to make sure their kids get in the car on the curbside and do not go in front of or behind cars. Parents should stay in their cars to keep the line moving.

The school district cut about \$650,000 in the budget last year. Committees prioritized cuts and looked at fee increases, then did both. For students who live more than 2.5 miles from school, the state reimburses the district a per mile amount for transportation costs. For students within

2.5 miles of school, the school district is not reimbursed. Even with the increase in transportation fees, the district still loses money on busing.

Mrs. Platzer has secured an author to present an assembly this year, which is partly paid for by PTO funds. Mr. Bohannon has KC Wolf coming for a character assembly. There is one new teacher this year, Sarah Rogers in third grade.

Treasurer's Report: Shellie Hulsey

Ms. Hulsey presented the final 2014-2015 Budget Report. The PTO did well with fundraising, and was able to purchase 34 teacher stipends, 5 water bottle filling stations, a set of soccer goals, 57 Chromebooks, and 2 park benches. \$4,639.17 carried forward to the 2015-2016 year. Independent auditor Susie Johnson audited the PTO books and found the financial statements are materially correct. There was one classification she would have handled differently, but it was not material. A motion was made and seconded to accept the final 2014-2015 Budget Report and the auditor's report. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

Ms. Hulsey presented the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget. The board looked at fundraising activities and previous years' results, then estimated this year's income and expenses. A few notes:

- Although the Spring Carnival/Family Fun Night last year raised more money than budgeted, but this year's proposed budget was set lower, in line with previous years.
- The proposed budget includes \$800 to the art department. This was added because the art department has greater expenses of consumable materials. The music department receives money from the music concert video sales and the library receives money from the Book Fair. The finance reports have been changed to more clearly reflect these amounts.
- The proposed budget includes \$500 for PE/Field Day equipment. The PE department also receives money from the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser.
- The proposed budget includes a paid group subscription to VolunteerSpot and money to replace water filters in the water bottle filling stations.

The proposed budget includes \$17,700 for the allocations committee to review and recommend funding. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget. The motion was approved by voice vote without objection.

Ms. Hulsey presented the Treasurer's Report. There is one correction: the Music Program Videos estimated and actual lines should be \$0.00. The PTO has cleared about \$700 on Spirit Wear, with order forms still coming in.

Ms. Hulsey reminded everyone of the PTO's reimbursement policy. Committee leaders need to use the reimbursement form that is found on the PTO's website. Please hold any reimbursement requests until the end of the event, or until expenses are about \$25, to reduce the number of reimbursement checks written. Reimbursement requests can be sent to Shellie Hulsey c/o Josh Hulsey in Mr. Beckman's class.

The Allocations Committee will meet on September 8, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wheatland library. The committee will review the school's requests for funding and any parent requests. Parents need to come prepared to present their proposals, with supporting information so that the committee can review and make recommendations at the meeting. If interested in serving on the Allocations Committee, contact Shellie Hulsey.

VolunteerSpot: Carolyn Matthews and Shellie Hulsey

The PTO has paid for a group VolunteerSpot account, which allows for standing links to volunteer opportunities. These links will be in the Weekly Warrior every week. The hope is to increase parent participation by making it easier to sign up. Committee leaders have received information on how to use the account, and will need to organize their sign-ups there.

There is a Wheatland Supply Needs group on VolunteerSpot where parents can see what supplies individual teachers need. Many parents would help with these needs, even for classrooms in which they do not have a child. Teachers will let Ms. Hulsey know what they need and she will add it to the list.

Box Tops and Campbell's Labels: Michelle Wallace

Volunteers are needed to help count box tops two times a year. Students who collect 250 box tops will get a pizza party with the principal.

Dillon's Card Program: Melissa Schumacher

There is a link in the Weekly Warrior to register your Dillons Shopper's Card to Wheatland. We currently have 65 families registered and have received about \$1,000 in each of the last two quarters. Anyone can register their cards to Wheatland.

Warrior Dash: Janna McConnaughay and Tracy Swindler

The Warrior Dash is the PTO's largest fundraiser. This allows us to not have fundraising sales, such as selling wrapping paper or cookie dough. Warrior Dash is October 9, 2015.

Mrs. Jones asked that the PTO again help with physical fitness tests during the Warrior Dash. This allows her to cut the 5-6 weeks of classroom time it would take to administer the tests. Many volunteers are needed. Look for information in the Weekly Warrior, and sign-ups will be on VolunteerSpot.

Thanks to a corporate sponsor, there will be a grand prize drawing for Chromebooks; every child who raises money is entered. There will also be a classroom competition in which the classrooms with the greatest percentage of students participating in fundraising (not necessarily total amount raised) will get a pizza party or other prize.

The prizes for various fundraising levels will be t-shirts, water bottles (different design than last year), and a prize to tie in with the PTO's allocations (once determined).

There was discussion about setting up a Go Fund Me or other account for online donations.

Spirit Wear and Warrior Spirit Trophy: Karen Labrum

Spirit Wear sales at Meet Your Teacher Night went well, and order forms went home last week. You can order long sleeve t-shirts and hoodies. The Warrior Spirit Trophy goes to the class each week with the largest percentage of students wearing spirit wear (Wheatland shirts or the school colors of royal blue and/or yellow).

Andover Days Parade: Rachel James

The Greater Andover Days Parade is Saturday, October 3. In the past, Wheatland has participated in the parade with Martin and Cottonwood schools. A parent at Martin is planning this year's entry, with the kids decorating bikes or scooters to make it easier to complete the two mile parade. Kelsey Lewis volunteered to coordinate Wheatland's participation.

Book Fair: Rachel James for Jane Foster

The book fair is October 12-14. Volunteers are needed, and sign-ups will be posted on VolunteerSpot.

Head Room Parent Report: Rachel James for Shannon Norton

Ms. Norton is pulling together and updating the packet for room parents.

Marker Recycling and Amazon Programs: Carolyn Matthews

The PTO is again participating in the Crayola Colorcycle program, in which we collect any brand of used markers, highlighters, sharpies, and dry erase markers and send them off to be converted to energy. Collection containers are outside the office and the east doors.

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 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. The link will direct one to smile.amazon.com so the PTO will receive the additional .5% on the purchase. You must use the specific link each time (you can bookmark it and it is available on the PTO's website): <http://smile.amazon.com/?tag=whpt0e-20>. We have received about \$150 from the program this year, and it could be much more if everyone remembered to use the link.

New Business

It was discussed whether there are any plans to put in a cross walk in front of the school on 21st Street. There are no such plans.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next PTO General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the WES library.

Respectfully submitted,

/s Carolyn L. Matthews

Carolyn Matthews, Secretary