



**Wheatland Elementary Parent Teacher Organization, Inc.
PTO General Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015**

PTO President, Rachel James, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the WES library. Present were Elton Armbrister, Gina Crabtree, John Covey, Wendi Engle, Heidi Gallagher, Shellie Hulsey, Rachel James, Kelsey Lewis, Carolyn Matthews, Janna McConnaughay, Cristy Phillips, Melissa Schumacher, Shelly Stumpe, Traci Swindler, and Theresa Walker.

Welcome: Rachel James

Ms. James welcomed the group. Approval of the minutes of the September 22, 2015, General PTO Meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

Dillons Gift Cards and Scrip Orders: Melissa Schumacher

Remember to register your Dillons Plus Shoppers Card. This program is free for the PTO.

Scrip order forms will go home on Friday. Scrip allows you to buy gift cards to various stores and restaurants for face value. The PTO gets a discount on the cards, and the difference goes to the PTO. Order forms must be returned with payment by Friday, December 4. Gift cards will be delivered on Friday, December 11. You can order online, but payment must be sent to school.

Warrior Dash Results: Janna McConnaughay and Traci Swindler

The Warrior Dash was great, with perfect weather and about \$19,000 raised. The third, fourth, and fifth grades completed their required physical fitness tests. The three classes with the highest percentage of fundraising participation were Milner, Rogers, and Rainey; they received pizza parties. Three students won Chromebooks.

Principal's Report: Elton Armbrister

As a result of a survey about what Kansans want kids to get from school, the Kansas State Department of Education has a new vision for Kansas education known as "Kansas Can." The new KSDE commissioner, Dr. Randy Watson, gave a speech about this vision, available online:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6X3BfY0QEI&index=8&list=PLd_2hYcIboc974b76-HKRDB03dgkKMAT5&noredirect=1.

Each building in U.S.D. 385 sends a nominee for Kansas Master Teacher of the Year to the district. Wheatland's nominee for 2016 is Mrs. Gagnon.

The fifth grade Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl team placed first in the fifth grade division and third overall (fifth and sixth grades combined) out of 53 teams in the Great Plains region.

Treasurer's Report: Shellie Hulsey, Shellie Stumpe

Ms. Hulsey presented the November 17, 2015, Treasurer's Report. She noted that the Warrior Dash was the most successful one to date, with expenses right under budget. The Book Fair is a pass through expense; the library benefits directly from Scholastic. Music videos are also a pass through expense; the music department received \$102 from the vendor for those sales.

The PTO paid \$1,000 for the Jerry Pallotta assembly. Administrative fees are for the Kansas Not-For-Profit Annual Report filing fee and the PTO's tax return preparation by a CPA. The PTO has distributed \$100 to the art department, \$200 to the music department, and funded \$3,542.27 of the STEM allocations (including United Streaming, Scholastic News, Science Spin, Nearpod, Osmos, and Starfall). We will purchase the approved iPads or Chromebooks when the district orders technology in January.

The Kansas Not-For-Profit Annual Report was due November 15. We previously reported having 40 members. This year we changed the number of members to 600 to reflect that all parents, teachers, and staff are automatically PTO members. Last year's tax return was due November 15. In order to make sure the information in the return is accurate, we have requested an extension of time to file that return.

Book Fair Results: Rachel James for Jane Foster

Results of the book fair were in the Weekly Warrior. [The Book Fair brought in \$9,603 in sales. The Wheatland library will receive \$5,300 in books from Scholastic. Families donated \$57 in cash to buy books for White Elementary; between the purchased books and donations, we gave 33 new books to White along with several boxes of gently used books. We collected over \$340 for All For Books (the money to White Elementary and teacher gift certificates). Scholastic matches this and donates books to needy schools through their foundation. We also purchased books for classrooms from teacher wish lists.]

Wheatland Skating Social: Shellie Hulsey for Laura Roddy

The roller skating social went well, with a turnout of about 119 skaters. For young children, parents can walk on the rink with tennis shoes to help them.

Box Tops and Campbell's Labels: Rachel James for Michelle Wallace

Keep bringing in box tops, Campbell's labels, and Tyson A+ labels. The first pizza party with the principal for kids who have brought in 250 box tops or labels is November 18. The Sam's Club promotion is on-going, in which you can earn 100 box tops (or more) for purchasing three (or more) participating box tops items.

Teacher Wish Lists/Holiday Hugs: Gina Crabtree

Parents are neither required nor expected to purchase holiday gifts for teachers. For those who would like to do so, the PTO has organized information from teachers, AMP, and other staff about the types of things they like, along with classroom needs. These can be found at <http://www.teacherlists.com/schools/97381-wheatland-elementary>. You do not need to sign in or mark the "pledge" button.

Family Fun Night: Rachel James

Emily Zeka has agreed to be the Family Fun Night Games Coordinator. Ms. James has gotten bids on face painting, and Ms. Hulsey will reach out to someone for another bid. Ms. Gallagher is working with EMS on having vehicles outside for the kids to see.

New Business

Ms. Hulsey reported on the results of a district-level committee's recent email survey on teacher collaboration time. The district currently has ten in-service days a year. Options to increase collaboration time included early release or late start once a month. Based on the results of the survey, the committee did not recommend implementing either late start or early release calendar changes.

Ms. Stumpe noted that the PTO historically has taken the approach of not having our kids sell things for fundraisers, such as cookie dough and wrapping paper. She asked if this was still the group's approach. The overwhelming response was yes, the group is not interested in such fundraising opportunities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s Carolyn L. Matthews

Carolyn Matthews, Secretary