WMES PTO Meeting Minutes

WMES Media Center – 9/8/25 – 7pm

1. Call To Order
2. Welcome/Introductions
3. Principal – Katie O'Connell (Meg) –
    a. School theme this year "Heroes of Learning Unleash Your Superpower" : teachers and staff bring their strengths, help students discover theirs : working together to be unstoppable
    b. WMES recognized as a School of Excellence – a committee of staff and parents worked together last school year, through parent surveys and the school meeting certain criteria this recognition was awarded. One of the top 25 schools in MN
4. Secretary Report – Ivy – motion to approve June meeting minutes: Lindsay/Kristen 2nd
5. Treasurer Report – Kayla (Meg) – current balance $40,801
    a. 2025-2026 budget has been set – goal to keep about $3000 balance in the bank at the end of the school year – goal to be awarded some more grants this year and to spend about $40,000. Some larger items in the budget include $3000 for the Playworks subscription, over $5000 for teacher grants, and $7500 for the residency program, music this year
    b. Some monies spent in August/September included: stocking the staff lounge for workshops and conferences and the Playworks subscription
6. Public Relations Report – Nicole (Meg)
    a. Try to keep posting on social media to get more views
    b. Brainstorm ideas for future posts, i.e. teacher trivia
    c. Help is welcome for the Public Relations "Department" of PTO
7. Old Business
    a. Teacher Workshop week, Stock the Shelf Recap – 1st day was more breakfast items, many snacks and drinks purchased for the lounge
    b. Field Trip T Shirts Update – PTO purchases for every student every 2 years – this year is only for Kindergarten and new students and new staff – already paid for, high school to make them
    c. School Supply Kits Recap – PTO earns $5/box – 83 sold this year – the office collects information on items - PTO to lead this fundraiser going forward – Meg and Kristen to lead this year
    d. Royal Connections Recap – Book Fair (2/year) – PTO earns Scholastic Dollars – many items purchased for the Treasure Chest – more to come for the Library for new books (current Library budget $3000)
    e. Booster Apparel Recap – sold during Royal Connections – they have many events throughout the year to support students, one can also message them for requests
    f. Teacher Grants - $150/teacher, $250 for new teachers, grade level change, and Specialists – October deadline for requests
    g. Pick Up Numbers – new annually, PTO purchases
8. New Business

a. Educator's Appreciation Dinner (Wednesday, September 17, 5-7pm) – many in the community come together to feed the teachers restaurants and grocery store - volunteers for serving needed : Sign Up Genius sent in last Royal Connections email
b. Desserts and Data (October 6) – before the next PTO meeting – Ms. O'Connell goes through past, present, and future of the school's reading and math statistics – some Specialists are there as well to describe the teaching interventions in use. Open forum.
c. Meat Raffle Volunteers (Nov. 8 and April 11) – Mayer Baseball : no more baseball but organization continues. Meat raffle and pull tabs, give grants to WMES for students to receive books. Will send Sign Up Genius
d. DQ Art Night Volunteers needed to hang and take down artwork this year – Sign Up Genius to come soon – Royals Theme for 1st Art night, all welcome, coloring sheets available also
e. Future Leadership Opportunities – Secretary, Public Relations welcomes any extra support. Melissa to help Meaghan as President this year. Kristen is VP
f. Recruitment ideas/volunteer vs. joining options – no commitment required, the more the merrier – please share PTO info on grade level FB pages

9. Adjourn – Melissa / Kristen 2nd

****Next Meeting October 6th****