

Wamego Middle School PTO
August 22, 2011

In attendance: Amy Schwein, Angela Allenbrand, Cristina Gamino, Kelley Nordberg, Vici Jennings, Chalee Braun, Laurene Pageler, Amanda Jantz, Michelle Simonsson, Karen White, Jen Faulkner, Lori Rice, Kimber Weisbender, Laura Fails, Katie Fritz, Lisa Ward, Jill Hupe

Minutes from the last meeting were read. Minutes will always be posted on the WMS PTO Blog.

Financial Report

We have received \$30 in cash donations to date. Jen Faulkner will set up an account with Bennington State Bank.

Correspondence

Two thank you notes from teachers were passed around. These were for the supply tubs and cinnamon rolls that PTO supplied during the teacher work week.

Old Business

Basket and Breakfast for Teachers. These were a huge success. We received a lot of donated supplies as well as cash which the board spent on more supplies. Lori Rice created a beautiful display complete with pop-up cards with thank you notes and education quotes. All of the supplies (down to the tubs they were in) were picked up by staff. The supplies were set out on Wednesday August 17th. On Thursday morning Amy Schwein set out breakfast items (homemade cinnamon rolls purchased from the school, fresh fruit and juice). Again, the teachers and staff were very excited to have this special treat provided for them by PTO.

Back to School Night. Traditionally Vici Jennings (and whatever staff she can round up) have dipped the ice cream from 2:30-4:00(ish). Vici purchases the cups from Sam's Club. There are plenty of spoons and napkins on hand. We will need 6-8 helpers who should bring an ice cream scoop that is comfortable for them to use. The volunteers will scoop ice cream and place the cups on trays in the freezer. Vici and staff will place them on the tables at the appropriate time.

Volunteers: Laura Fails, Karen White, Amanda Jantz (?), Laurene Pageler, Katie Fritz, Jill Hupe, Kimber Weisbender

New Business

Bylaws. The board met and prepared a set of bylaws based on examples of those used at other schools and a template provided by PTOToday. Laura Fails read through the bylaws and as for discussion. Discussion was held about the election of officers, what it takes/means to be a "member" of PTO, conflict of interest, nonparticipation in political campaigns, and the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) versus a Kansas Not For Profit. Lisa Ward volunteered to help with the process and wording for the Not For Profit section as well as the Kansas Volunteer

Indemnity verbiage that needs to be included. Laura and Lisa will continue to work on the bylaws and they will be resubmitted at the September PTO meeting.

PTO Mail Box. Vici Jennings will set up a mailbox for PTO in the office area.

Fundraisers. Many ideas were discussed. Here is a list of all the ideas mentioned:

Dances? Crissie Gamino asked if PTO could sponsor a dance. Vici explained that WMS dances are only available for 7th & 8th graders. They are organized by STUCO and there are only three per year. The dances are already set up as fundraisers (the first one benefits the Wounded Soldiers Fund). Michelle Simonsson asked if it would be possible for PTO to at least provide drinks and snacks for the students. There was consensus from those present that this was a good idea. Vici discussed the pros and cons of certain beverages and how they should be provided.

Dance Refreshment Committee: Michelle Simonsson (Chair), Jen Faulkner, Karen White, Laurene Pageler, Crissie Gamino, Chalee Braun, Jill Hupe and Lisa Ward. Lisa also volunteered to line up some contributions (of drinks or snacks).

It was also suggested that we hold a "mixer" for the 6th graders at the end of the year to give them an idea of what the dances will be like.

Game Show Night

Have either one or several "game shows" set up as friendly competition for families and staff. Suggestions: Family Feud, Wheel of Fortune, Minute to Win it.

Paint Wamego Red/Downtown Get Down

Lori Rice suggested an event that would draw people downtown to eat and shop. We would ask those downtown businesses to donate a portion of their profit from the night. Lisa Ward said she'd discussed a similar idea with Mrs. O'Dea. Other ideas would be to involve the PTOs at Central and West and have this benefit all three schools as a PK-8 event. The PTOs could have their own booths, each sport team could be represented, t-shirts created for the event could be autographed by athletes.

Water Bottles

Jen Faulkner will contact Kevin Bergstrom about obtaining clear water bottles with the WMS logo on it. These would be made available for purchase.

T-Shirts

Vici Jennings is already working with Kevin Bergstrom on a WMS t-shirt design. These shirts would also be made available for purchase.

Guys Night Out

An evening event geared for fathers and sons.

TechnoGeeks

A gaming system night available for families. Have Wiis, Playstations, Xboxes, etc. available at different stations.

Master Chef/Cake Challenge

Tailgates/Hamburger Feed

Concessions/Soup Supper

There was further discussion on this idea. Vici will check the concessions schedule for spring boys basketball season. PTO volunteers would be responsible for organizing the soup supper as well as running the concession stand for that night. This would be a one night fundraiser/commitment.

Schwan's Truck Sale

Karen White asked if we could organize a "welcome" committee for the 2012 incoming 6th graders to help them on their first morning. Specifically helping students with locker combinations and getting things into and out of lockers. Many students aren't able to attend Back to School Night so they are struggling with all their supplies and have not practiced their locker combinations. Having some designated volunteers to help those students might alleviate some of their anxiety and fear about the first day of school. Vici thought this was a great idea. Karen will work on making this happen next August.

The next meeting will be held Monday, September 26th at the WMS Library. All parents and teachers are welcome to attend!