

Winnebago PTO Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2016

Lindsay Ludwig - Co-President, Jamie Demke – Co-President, Treasurer – Nichole Whitehead,
Secretary – Michelle Dykstra, Teacher Chairperson – Rhonda Waggoner

Meeting Called to order at 6:01

Secretary's report: May 2016 minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Tracy Ricks and seconded by Rhonda Waggoner

Treasurer's report: As of September 13, 2016, the cash balance is \$20,933.91

Principal's Reports:

Mr. Mandera-

We have had a very good start to the school year. Preschool students are getting used to the routines of school and other students have adjusted to their classrooms and teachers. We have many exciting things happening at Simon this year.

Targeted Intervention/Title I

Each month, I will give an update on intervention that are happening with students at Simon Elementary. Students identified for targeted interventions include academics and behaviors.

STAR Early Literacy/Reading/Math Student Assessments

These assessments will start K-2 in a couple of weeks (mid-September). Parents will receive their child's information with their first report card in November. Students who have been identified as “at-risk” from screening from last year or were receiving academic support last year are in the process of being reevaluated to see what level a child is in reading and/or math.

Foundations Curriculum K-2

This is the 2nd year of implementation of Foundations. As a recognized leader in multisensory, structured language programs, Foundations makes learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for life-long literacy. Students in grades K-2 receive a systematic program in critical foundational skills, emphasizing:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics/ word study
- High frequency word study
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension strategies
- Handwriting
- Spelling

The instruction aligns with states' rigorous college- and career-ready standards, including the Common Core State Standards.

Although Foundations includes comprehension strategies, it must be combined with a core/literature-based language arts program for an integrated and comprehensive approach to reading and spelling.

Eureka Math PreK-2

This is the 1st year of implementation for Eureka Math. The teachers have done some preliminary mapping of the modules and how it would be covered during the course of the school year. Teachers have

done a good job at reviewing the materials, resources, and lessons. However, this approach is a different than how many of us have learned math in school or in college educational math methods courses.

It's not enough for students to know the process for solving a problem; they need to understand why that process works. Teaching mathematics as a "story," *Eureka Math* builds students' knowledge logically and thoroughly to help them achieve deep understanding. While this approach is unfamiliar to those of us who grew up memorizing mathematical facts and formulas, it has been tested and proven to be the most successful method in the world. Eureka Math is common core aligned, which will assist in the development of skills and concepts as students transition between 2nd grade and PARCC testing in 3rd grade.

Flexible Seating In the Classrooms

We have a number of classroom teacher taking a nontraditional approach for their classroom environments in an effort to improve student learning and lesson classroom disruptions. There are less desks in the classroom and more opportunities for students to work in different areas of the classroom. There are also some methods of seating that includes yoga balls, wobble chairs, and seating on the floor.

Proficiency Scales

Last month, I shared our new system of rating/scoring assessments using proficiency scales. During our open house on September 8, I held a short session for parents to gain more information about these scales. Further presentations will occur at parent-teacher conferences in October.

Remind – Text Messaging

[Remind](#) is a free text messaging service that will be used to send daily and/or weekly announcements to you to be informed about what is going on at Simon Elementary. How do you sign up to receive these text messages? Text the message @g242k to the number 81010. If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @g242k to (815) 401-9303.

Simon Elementary Current Enrollment Status as of 9/12/2016

	Sections	# students	Class Avg
COOP Early Childhood	2.5	19	8
District At-Risk PreK	2	15	8
K-3 Instructional Program	1	6	6
Kindergarten	4	90	23
First Grade	4	79	20
Second Grade	4	100	25

Total Students = 309

Early Childhood Screening – October 5

Winnebago CUSD #323 will conduct preschool screenings on Wednesday, October 5 from 8am – 12:00pm. These children may be eligible to attend the Winnebago School District Preschool for the 2016-17 school year.

Fire/Storm Drills

Simon had their first fire drill on Friday, September 9. We will be practicing a storm drill this this week also – September 20. We will also do a fire drill with the fire department present in October.

PTO Cookout & Open House

A special thank you to Mrs. Angela Schoeneweiss (PTO) for getting all the preparations for our 9th annual Back to School Cook Out & Open House on Thursday, September 8.

Also, thank you to all the teachers and staff volunteers that assisted that evening.

Playground Update

Almost all of the equipment is installed. We have two pieces that should be installed in the next couple of weeks. I would like to plan a dedication ceremony in October for the PTO and Mrs. Ginny Meyer, who donated the land.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

For grades PreK-5, students may bring treats to school to celebrate their birthday. Please note, treats should be commercially prepared and not "homemade" with the list of ingredients displayed so the teacher can monitor if there is a risk of an allergic reaction. Parents should not feel obligated to bring a treat; it is completely optional. In order to create the least amount of confusion, please send something that is easy to eat. Gum is not an appropriate treat. If you choose to send a treat, please contact the teacher beforehand in order to determine an appropriate time for the treat to be distributed and to avoid multiple treats on the same day. We may also ask our school nurse to review the ingredients of a birthday treat if there is a child in the classroom with a severe food allergy.

Simon Staff Contact List

Office

- Frank Mandera, Principal
- Jill Crull, Administrative Assistant/Secretary
- Beth Swigart - Attendance/Lunch Accounts

Preschool

- Kathryn Epst (COOP Early Childhood)
- Kaila Roberson (COOP Early Childhood - PM Only)
- Chris Reinke (District At-Risk Preschool)

Kindergarten

- Abigail Gleason
- Wendy Mathieu
- Dawn Palmer
- Stephanie Cordonnier

First Grade

- Michele Stevens
- Sara Edler
- Julie Murray
- Alicia Unger

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Second Grade

- Kayla Hedlund
- Melissa Canales
- Rhonda Waggoner
- Anita Bartscher

Educational Support Personnel

- Joe Flynn - PE
- Renee Bolhous - Special Education
- Zach Hill - Special Education Teacher
- Heather Brule - Speech
- Michele Campanella - Special Education
- Jerry Davis - Custodian
- Jean DiGuseppi - Cook
- Beth Derango - Nurse
- Maria Colòn- Social Work
- Ashley Spickler - Elementary Counselor
- Erin Miller - Speech
- Jessie Zambrovitz - Speech
- Trish Lightfoot - Nurse
- Beth Melancen - Art
- Lynette Rummel- RTI/PBIS
- Terri Brown - Reading Specialist
- Lori Peters - Psychologist
- Cindy Volkert - Music

The district will be participating in a food drive. The building with the most items collected will receive \$1/can up to \$1000 from Crossroads Church!

Mr. Monohan-

Back to School Night/Open House

We had 83% of our students and their families attend Open House and our Back to School picnic on Thursday, September 1. A big thank you to Angela Schoeneweiss for organizing and the 29 McNair teachers and paraprofessionals who helped serve food that evening.

Fire/Storm Drills

McNair held our first fire drill of the year on Friday, September 9, where we evacuated the building in just a minute and a half (a new record). Our next one will be in October with the Winn-Bur-Sew fire department in recognition of Fire Prevention Week.

Class Enrollment

We enrolled 17 new students register this summer. This year, we have 293 students enrolled in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. (Grade 3: 97, Grade 4: 106, and Grade 5: 85)

New Staff at McNair

This year, McNair has welcomed several new staff members to our building. Please join me in welcoming the following new staff to McNair: Kaylin Smith, 5th grade teacher, Alyssa Whalen, 4th grade teacher, Chelsie Wandell, 4th grade teacher, Chris Draves, moved from being our librarian to 4th grade teacher, Denise Eilers, librarian, Maria Colon, elementary social worker, Ashley Spickler, elementary counselor, Katie Dill, district educational diagnostician, Jennifer Lake, Laura West, Rachel Ray, and Sarah Roscoe, classroom paraprofessionals, and Tammy and Cindell Walthers, cooks.

Picture Day

McNair's Picture Day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14.

Student of the Week

Our first Student of the Week announcements will take place on Friday, September 30.

Band

5th graders have been learning about the band program and there will be a parent meeting for any interested students and their parents to learn more about 5th grade band on Wednesday, September 21, at 6:30pm, in the HS gym.

Spelling Bee

The Regional Spelling Bee registration deadline is October 14. This year the registration fee is \$145.00, which PTO has sponsored in the past. Our 5th grade spelling bee will be held in late February with our winner advancing to the regional bee to be held sometime in late March.

McNair End of the Year Awards

McNair and the middle school are in the process of beginning discussions regarding making some changes to our end of the year awards ceremonies. We'll keep you posted on results of these discussions.

DARE

If PTO and the Winnebago Lions Club chooses to fund the 5th grade DARE program again, we will be looking at beginning the DARE program in late February with the graduation ceremony set for mid-May.

Targeted Intervention Update

Initial STAR Testing is completed in Reading and Math and the benefits to STAR Enterprise are many. We can more easily screen and progress monitor students, plan for instruction, measure performance and determine growth and effectiveness. The math component tests general math achievement within 54 skill sets, while reading assesses 36 reading skills. The results will be shared with parents during parent teacher conferences in early October. Mrs. Julie Reesor, our interventionist, is meeting with grade levels this week to discuss the results, intervention groups based on these results, and interventions that will be used to provide additional support.

Monetary Requests: None at this time

Fundraiser Reports:

Box Tops: Amy Salamon- No report

Fall fundraiser: Jamie Dimke- Will be ending Sept. 20th

Spirit Wear: Sherri Ginger-We voted on logo and clothing options at the Sept meeting. Order forms will be sent home soon.

Pies: Ginnie Cunningham- Orders need to be in October 25 to receive pies by Thanksgiving.

Committee Reports:

1) Audit Committee: Lindsay Ludwig, Jamie Dimke, and Sherri Ginger- As required by the Winnebago PTO Bylaws, an audit of all financial documentation was performed on August 15th, 2016.

2) Back to School Night/Open House: Angela Schoeneweiss – The event was well attended and a big thank you was extended to Angela for doing a great job.

3) Birthday Books/School Directory/School Kits

The suggestion was offered for an online directory with option for download and print.

School Kits has an open chair position. Suggestions were made to have the kits delivered at the beginning of the school year as opposed to the end of the year.

4)Yearbook: Jamie Dimke – Open Co-Chair

5) Teacher Luncheon: Open Co-Chair

6) Roller Skating: Angela Schoeneweiss

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business:

1) Storage Unit-Candice Smith has offered the use of a second home on their property to be used by the PTO as storage.

2) Class party money

3) Several Committee Chair Positions Open

- a. Yearbook Co-Chairs -
- b. Fall Fundraiser Co-Chairs -
- c. Pie Fundraiser-Ginnie Cunningham
- d. Children's Bazaar Co-Chair –
- e. Chocolate Fundraiser Co-Chairs –
- f. Family Fun Night/Roller Skating –
- g. Art Show/Basket Raffle -
- h. Head Building Parents Simon/McNair –
- i. Staff Appreciation Luncheons & Survival Kits –
- j. Take Home Folders -
- k. Dare Chair (5th grade parent) –

Budget Proposal 2016-2017: Reviewed, no questions at this time.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:28

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Dykstra
