

Winnebago PTO Meeting Minutes –May , 2017

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

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Meeting Called to order at: 6:01pm

**Secretary’s report:** April minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Frank Mandera and seconded by Tracy Ricks.

**Treasurer’s report:** As of May 9, 2017, the cash balance is \$47,917.70

**Principal’s Reports:**

Mr. Mandera-PTO Report – May  
Elementary  
May 9, 2017

Dorothy Simon  
Frank Mandera, Principal

**Projected Class Sizes for 2017-18 as of May 8, 2017 – Preschool- Grade 2**

Grade Level	2017-18 Projected Enrollment	2017-18 # of Teachers	2017-18 Average Class Size
COOP Early Childhood .5 session	7	COOP 0.5	7:1
District Preschool AM & PM Sessions	20	1	10
Kindergarten	80	4	20
First	85	4	21
Second	85	4	21

**A Special Thank You**

The end of the school year is quickly approaching and my time as Simon principal is coming to an end. Over the 13 years of being the principal at Simon,I have been part of the wonderful lives of students and families that trusted the staff and myself to take care of your youngest children. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve in this role within the Winnebago School District. Thank you for the opportunity and continued successes that will always make Winnebago great. There are some special "thank you's" I want to spotlight on...

Thank you to all the volunteers that assisted at Simon Elementary this year. You supplied your time and effort to assist with our children.

Thank you to our wonderful PTO for all that you do. We would not be able to do many of the things we do at school without your support and funding for programs and projects.

Thank you to the parents that helped with classroom celebrations, chaperone field trips, communicate expectations for their child, and assist in the educational process of all our children.

Thank you to all the wonderful staff at Simon Elementary. Your long hours, dedication to the children of Winnebago and professionalism is a model for all educators to follow.

Most of all, thank you to all of the children that we came in contact with this year. We are all very proud of you and we were happy to be part of your lives this year.

I also want say a very special "THANK YOU" for our retiring staff: Mrs. Burkhart, paraprofessional and Mrs. Bartscher, 2nd grade teacher. They touched the lives of many children within the Winnebago School District for many years. Thank you for your time and dedication.

The Simon School office will be closed June 12 until August 5. The office will reopen for the 2017-18 school year on August 8 from 8:00-3:00 Monday-Friday.

### **Info Regarding Mr. Hickerson – New Simon Principal**

Mr. Hickerson resides in Byron with his wife Allison, who is a kindergarten teacher in Stillman, along with their two children; Henry (5) and Harper (2). He received his BA in elementary education from Monmouth College in 2005 and his MA in educational leadership from Aurora University in 2009. Mr. Hickerson taught 5th grade in Stillman for 7 years, served as interim assistant principal at Meridian Jr. High for a portion of the 2011-12 school year, and has served as the assistant principal at Oregon Elementary School, a PK-6 building for the past 5 years. His family are huge St. Louis Cardinals fans. (He gets a lot of flack about that living in Northern Illinois!) When he is not working, he loves spending time with his family. Now that Henry is at the age where he can participate in youth sports programs, he has coached basketball and T-Ball teams. Some of his hobbies include listening to music, woodworking, and being outdoors. A favorite quote is, "I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions."

### **Registration 2017-18 Update**

Student registration packets for the 2017-18 school year were sent home May 1. The sooner the registration packets are completed and returned, the deeper the payment discounts.

Students WILL NOT receive a registration packet if there is a question regarding residency or if you have moved to another location in the district and have not verified your new address in the district or unpaid registration fees.

**We *will not* take parental requests for your child's teacher for next year nor can we honor requests to make sure certain students are not placed in the same classroom with your child. These requests will only be taken as "parental advisement" by the teacher and principal and will not be guaranteed.**

**All (K-5) classroom placements will be finalized by Mr. Hickerson (EC/PREK- grade 2) and Mr. Monahan (grade 3-5). Class lists will be posted on Friday, August 18 at each elementary school. ALL registration material must be on file with the school office by Wednesday, August 16 for your child's name to appear on a class list.**

### **Outstanding Lunch Balances**

It is VERY important to keep your child's lunch accounts up to date. We will not allow students to charge lunches. If you have questions about your account balance, please call Beth Swigart at Simon 335-2318 between 7:15 –3PM.

Also, the last day that Simon will serve breakfast will be Friday, May 26.

### **Student Retentions for 2016-17**

At this time, we are currently waiting to hear back from one child's parent regarding the option for grade level retention for the Fall.

### **Field Day – May 26**

Field Days is right around the corner for 1st – 4th grade students and we are excited to implement some new changes this year! We will be hosting 1st – 4th grade field days on Friday, May 26 on the main campus at McNair Elementary School.

We are combining both Simon and McNair field days into one day at McNair in hopes to get more volunteers involved since this will be a one day event for both schools. Our fifth grade students will be on a field trip that day to Wild West Town and Pre – K will enjoy a separate play day on Monday, May 22.

### **Last Days of Attendance**

Simon (PreK/EC) – Wednesday, May 31 will be the last day for children.

Simon (K-2) – Thursday, June 1 8:05-12:40. Lunch will be served.

### **Simon Event Schedule – May/June**

MAY	
Date	Event
5/2	AR Prize Day - Last Prize Day
5/2	Kindergarten Field Trip - Madison Zoo
5/3	Early Dismissal 12:40 (SIP Day)
5/3	PTO Basket Raffle and District Art Show 5-7:30pm
5/5	Last day for book checkout
5/9	PTO Meeting 6pm
5/12	PREK/EC Parent Play Day
5/12	WPL Summer Reading Program in Library
5/12	All library materials returned

5/12	Race Car Presentation Assembly
5/15	School Board Meeting
5/15	Library closed for inventory
5/16	Mobile Food Pantry @ WHS
5/18	2017-18 Kids Club Registration
5/22	PreK/EC Field Day
5/24	Kindergarten Recognition Assembly/Musical 1:30 in Simon Gym
5/24	Mrs. Unger's Dairy Presentations
5/26	Gr. 1-Grade 4 Field Day @ McNair - all day
5/29	Memorial Day - No School
5/30	2nd Grade Brookfield Zoo Field Trip 8:00-5:00pm
5/31	Last Day for PreK/EC classes
5/31	PBIS Snow Cone Celebration
5/31	Mrs. Unger's end of the year celebration/pizza party
5/31	Mrs. Stevens' Sheep Presentations
5/31	Mrs. Stevens' end of the year celebration/pizza party
<b>JUNE</b>	
Date	Event
6/1	Last Day for Student Attendance / Early Dismissal 12:40
6/1	Report Cards Sent Home

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Mr. Monohan-

### **Recent Activities**

- State testing for both PARCC (grades 3-5 in Math and ELA), as well as the Illinois Science Assessment (grade 5) was completed on April 28.
- Our Spring Book Fair was held between April 18 and April 21.
- Third graders had their spring field trip to see Disney Nature's Born in China at AMC 14 on Friday, April 21.
- Registration packets went home with students who are current with registration fees and residency concerns on Monday, May 1.
- Our final Early Release School Improvement afternoon was held on Wednesday, May 3. Staff received training on submitting requisitions via Skyward.
- The district wide art show and PTO Basket Raffle was held on Wednesday, May 3. Thanks to the PTO for assembling the baskets and organizing the basket raffle portion of the evening, as well as to the art teachers for putting together some eye-catching displays.
- We held a Bike Safety Rodeo during PE classes on Tuesday, May 2, with the help of school nurse, Stephanie Friemuth, PE teacher, Tracy Miller, and the Winnebago Police Department. National Bike to School Day is tomorrow, Wednesday, May 10. We're encouraging as many students as possible to ride the bikes to school.
- Ms. Volkert held another McNair Music Movie Night on Thursday, May 4, where students watched Schoolhouse Rock. There were 19 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and 1 parent who attended.
- Thanks also to the PTO and it's members for the enjoyable Staff Appreciation Luncheon held on Friday, May 5.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade music classes and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus have their spring choral concert this evening at WHS beginning at 6:30.

### **Upcoming Dates and Information**

- Winnebago Public Library will visit McNair on Wednesday, May 10, to talk to students in grades 3-5 about their summer reading program.
- Alex Kirchner from WREX TV will present Project Tornado to our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students on Wednesday, May 10.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Band Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, at 6:30pm at WHS.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade DARE Graduation Ceremony and presentation of Presidential Academic Achievement and Excellence Awards is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, at 6:30pm at WHS.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip (Wandell, Dilbeck) will visit the Chana School Museum on Wednesday, May 17
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip (Whalen, Draves) will visit the Chana School Museum on Thursday, May 18

- McNair will be celebrating positive behavior for those students who have earned a McNair Pride PBIS Boarding Pass on Friday, May 19, with a trip to the Lindo Theater in Freeport to see the premiere of Diary of a Wimpy Kid-The Long Haul.
- Human Growth and Development Films will be viewed by 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on Monday, May 22.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will present their spring band concert to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students on Thursday, May 25, at WHS.
- Field Day for students in grades 1-4 will be held on Friday, May 26. This is the first time we've combined the two schools into one for Field Day. We are still looking for volunteers to help on this day. Second grade students will also have a chance on this day to visit third grade classrooms and meet the teachers.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade will have their final elementary field trip to Wild West Town on Friday, May 26.
- McNair's End of the Year Accelerated Reader Celebration will be held on Tuesday afternoon, May 30, with a rain date of Wednesday, May 31.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will visit WMS on the morning of Wednesday, May 31, to meet the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and check out the building.
- Student's last day of attendance will be on Thursday, June 1, with dismissal at 1pm. Report cards and recent STAR test scores are sent home with students on this day.

### **Other Items to Note**

- Miss Smith, one of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, approached me a few weeks ago about holding an end of the year 5<sup>th</sup> grade picnic to celebrate the end of elementary school and the beginning of middle school, which is something we've never done before. She is working with the rest of her team to plan and execute a picnic lunch for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to be held the same day they visit the middle school. After the picnic, the students and 5<sup>th</sup> grade team will participate in some games and activities.
- McNair would like to hold our Open House and Back to School picnic differently this fall. The staff was recently surveyed and the majority of staff would like to experiment with having our Back to School Picnic and Open House on Tuesday evening, August 22 (times TBD) with Ice Cream Sundaes/Cookies instead of the traditional hot dog meal. This would allow all parents to see McNair, classrooms, and teachers prior to the first day of school.

### **Targeted Intervention Update**

- Mrs. Reesor, our interventionist, continues to support teachers in the area of Renaissance Flow and she recently met with interventionist's from Simon and WMS to discuss students who may need Tier 2 and/or Tier 3 support to start the year out this fall.
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- Students in grades 3-5 are currently STAR testing in Reading and Math and will have that completed by Friday, May 12. These reports will be sent home with students on Thursday, June 1.

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**Monetary Requests:** None at this time.

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**Fundraiser Reports:**

Art show/Basket Raffle: The event was a great success and well attended! The change from one basket per class to one basket per grade level seemed to be well received that night and was well approved of by the PTO.

Fall Fundraiser: Jamie Dimke – Chair We are planning to use Club’s Choice again, date TBD.

**Committee Reports:**

2017/2018 Back to school open house: The idea of moving the open house to the night before the first day of school was discussed as it seems many parents and children are anxious on the first day to see their new classroom. The idea was well received by the PTO.

**Old Business:**

Officer Election

President Co-Chair: Lindsay Ludwig will be serving a third year as no other nominees were presented.

Teacher Chair: Rhonda Waggoner will be serving another year as no other nominees were presented.

**New Business:**

At the April PTO meeting the wish list committee had approved for the purchase of 3 new I-pads for Simon School at \$1600. Mr Mander was able to find and purchase them for \$800 and asked if the PTO would approve of him spending the rest of the \$1600 to purchase 3 additional I-pads. The PTO agreed to allow him to purchase 3 additional I-pads.

Ideas were discussed about how to gain more parent and teacher involvement in the PTO. Ideas discussed included challenging each teacher to have 2 parents present at each meeting or challenging each parent to come to at least 1 meeting per year.

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:40pm

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Dykstra

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