

## Winnebago PTO Meeting Minutes – September, 2017

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

Meeting Called to order at: 3:41

**Secretary's report:** May minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Angela Schoeneweiss and seconded by Rhonda Waggoner.

**Treasurer's report:** As of Sept 18, 2017 the cash balance is \$21,580.13

### Principal's Reports:

#### Mr. Hickerson-

The school year is off to a good start. It has been exciting to see students return to school eager to learn and to be here each day. There are a number of things that have been happening in these first few weeks.

- Back to School Night

The first Back to School night held before student attendance occurred on August 22nd. This will be something that we look to continue next year, as it provided students and their families the opportunity to come into the school, drop off supplies, say hello to teachers, and check out the environment prior to the first day. It appears that this helped ease some anxieties for students and for some parents.

- STAR Early Literacy/Reading/Math Student Assessments

Many students have taken these assessments within the last two weeks. We have a few students who were absent needing to complete make-ups. Parents will receive their child's information with their first report card coming December 1st. 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 at in reading and/or math.

- Targeted Intervention/Title I

I will share each month examples of interventions that students are receiving. Students identified for targeted interventions include academics and behaviors. Students receiving interventions have qualified through assessment data, classroom observations from the teacher, and other forms of data available.

- Curriculum

Fundations Curriculum K-2

This is the 3rd 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. The curriculum aligns with states' rigorous college- and career-ready standards. 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

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

We are entering the 2nd year of using Eureka for our math curriculum. As you may have experienced last year, this approach is a different than how many of us have learned math in our own school experiences.

It's not enough for students to know the process for solving a problem; they need to understand why that process works. Eureka Math is designed to build students' knowledge logically and thoroughly to help them achieve deep understanding. While the process of Eureka Math may be somewhat unfamiliar to us, its alignment to Common Core will help students as they leave Simon and head into 3rd grade, when students will take the Common Core-aligned PARCC test.

Teachers have noted that students seem to be more comfortable with the structure of the curriculum after experiencing it for one year.

- Literacy Night/Cookout

With the Back to School night, the traditional cookout and welcome back that occurred roughly the 3rd week of school was not held. The cookout will be held in conjunction with our Literacy Night taking place on October 2nd from 5:00-7:00; the cookout will be during the first half of this time block. The committee is meeting again Tuesday the 19th to hammer out additional details. Committee co-chairs are Mrs. Canales and Mrs. Brown.

- Flexible Seating In the Classrooms

Several teachers have looked to expand upon flexible seating options within their classrooms. Over the past year, there have been a number of people who have looked to incorporate flexible seating. This will be something that we continue to pursue as we are able.

- Proficiency Scales

A reminder that proficiency scales are posted online on the school website. The language has not changed from that in place last year. It is important to note that a "3" is the goal for students, and a "4" goes above and beyond the expectation.

- Remind – Text Messaging

Mr. Mander used Remind as a source of communication between school and home last year. I will be continuing to use the program as a way to get information about the school out to our parents. If you are interested in signing up for the service, which delivers messages either through an app or via text, text @dorothy to 81010. If you have troubles with this, text @dorothy to 815-401-9303.

- Simon Elementary Current Enrollment Status as of 9/15/17

Total Students = 285

- Early Childhood Screening – September 27

Winnebago CUSD #323 will conduct preschool screenings on Wednesday, September 27 from 8am – 12:00pm. These children may be eligible to attend the Winnebago School District Preschool for the 2017-2018 school year.

- Fire/Storm Drills

Simon had their first fire drill on Wednesday, September 13. We will be holding a shelter-in-place drill next week on September 26. We will conduct a fire drill with the fire department present in October.

- A reminder about 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 2017-2018

##### Office

Ben Hickerson, Principal

Jill Crull, Administrative Assistant/Secretary

Beth Swigart - Attendance/Lunch Accounts

##### Preschool

Kathryn Epst (COOP Early Childhood)

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

##### Second Grade

Kayla Hedlund

Melissa Canales

Rhonda Waggoner

Danielle Buttel

##### Educational Support Personnel

Joe Flynn - PE

Renee Bolhous - Special Education

Jessica Harker - Self-contained Special Education

Heather Brûlé - Speech

Michele Campanella - Special Education

Jerry Davis - Custodian

Tyler Brown - Custodian

Jean DiGuisseppi - Cook

Beth Derango - Nurse

Maria Colòn- Social Work

Ashley Spickler - Elementary Counselor  
Erin Miller - Speech  
Jessie Zambrovitz - Speech  
Amanda Wishop - Nurse  
Jennifer Blomgren - Art  
Lynette Rummel- RTI/PBIS  
Terri Brown - Reading Specialist  
Lori Peters - Psychologist  
Cindy Volkert - Music

#### Mr. Monohan-

We had 92% of our students and their families attend Open House/Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 22. A big thank you to the PTO officers and volunteers for organizing and serving the ice cream and cookies that evening, as well as McNair's cook, Donna Fisher who donated her time to bake the cookies that afternoon. This was our first time holding this event before the school year began and it looks like we'll plan to do it again next year as it was very well received by students, parents, and staff.

- Fire Drill

McNair held our first fire drill of the year on Friday, September 1, where we evacuated the building in just under two minutes. Our next one will be in October with the Winn-Bur- Sew fire department in recognition of Fire Prevention Week.

#### Class Enrollment

We enrolled 18 new students this summer. This year, we have 309 students enrolled in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. (Grade 3: 99, Grade 4: 99, and Grade 5: 111)

- Picture Day

McNair's Picture Day is scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, September 19.

#### Student of the Week

Our first Student of the Week announcements will take place on Friday, September 29.

- Band

5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade band on Wednesday, September 20, at 6:30pm, in the HS gym.

#### Early Dismissal

There will be an early dismissal on Wednesday, September 27, with students being dismissed at 1pm. Teachers will spend the afternoon reviewing state PARCC scores from Spring 2017, as well as continue progress discussions in the areas of our new English/Language Arts curriculum, Ready Gen, as well as our second year of Eureka Math implementation.

- Spelling Bee

The Regional Spelling Bee registration deadline is October 16. This year, the early bird registration fee is \$151.00, which PTO has sponsored in the past. After October 16, the registration fee is \$226.00. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade spelling bee will be held in February with our winner advancing to the regional bee to be held on March 14.

- DARE

Our DARE officer is looking to retire and if so, we'll have a difficult time finding a replacement who's been trained to teach the new DARE program. If we're not able to have the DARE program, I'd like to see if PTO and the Lions Club would be willing to fund another character education program that teaches the same messages that the DARE program does and to students in grades 3-5. With this other program, there would not be the need for workbooks, t-shirts, graduation, certificates and refreshments. I hope to have more information about DARE by November, at the latest.

### 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 results will be shared with parents during parent teacher conferences in late October. Mrs. Julie Reesor, our interventionist, met 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 taken at this time.

### Fundraiser Reports:

Fall Fundraiser-Jamie Dimke: Children are selling Sept 5-19 with orders and money due at that time. Pick up will be Nov 2nd at the Simon gym from 3-6pm.

Spirit Wear-Sherri Ginger: The PTO voted on designs, order forms will be sent home at a later date.

Box Tops-Amonda Bauer: November 1st will be the first box top collection date. A pizza party will be awarded to the top class!

### Committee Reports:

Simon Literacy Night-Angela Schoeneweiss & Jamie Demke: Oct 2nd, 5-7pm. Hotdogs, chips and cookies will be served.

Audit Committee: The PTO audit committee met on August 3rd to review the previous school year with a successful outcome.

### New Business:

YMCA Night or Discovery Center: The YMCA night is only available for a Sunday night, has a high cost and was not well attended last year. The idea of switching to a Discovery Center Night was suggested. The cost is \$500 for 2.5hr. Jenny Rossol has agreed to chair this event.

Take Home Folders: The PTO was asked for input on take home folders and if the teachers wanted to continue having a special folder for that purpose or the suggestion was offered that parents be asked to provide a folder. The teachers agreed that it was appreciated to have a designated folder that was different from other folders students used for the purpose of a take home folder. The PTO has agreed to continue to purchase take home folders.

Carnival Night-Michelle Dykstra & Angela Schoeneweiss: The idea of a Carnival night was suggested to the PTO for discussion. This event would involve area businesses and churches for donations and volunteers. The carnival would be held in the McNair gym and take place of the Family Fun Night that was poorly attended. Email Michelle medykstra51107@gmail.com or Angela arschoe@gmail.com with suggestions or to help with this event!

Open Board Chairs: All four PTO board chairs will be vacant next school year. This includes President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact the PTO Board.

Additional Fundraiser Ideas: We will not have a pie fundraiser this year as no one has volunteered to chair it. The idea of a walk-a-thon type of event was suggested. We will still have the chocolate fundraiser later in the school year.

Budget Proposal 2017-2018- The new budget was presented to the PTO for review. A vote for approval will be held at the Oct PTO meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:38

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Dykstra