

WINNEBAGO PTO MEETING MINUTES-October 10TH, 2015

Sherri Ginger, President Lindsay Ludwig, Vice President Bonnie Bloomquist, Treasurer

Teacher Chairperson, Rhonda Waggoner...Angela Schoeneweiss, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 6:05

Secretary's Report: September 2015 minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Tracy Ricks and seconded by Rhonda Waggoner.

Treasurer's Report: As of October 13th, 2015, the cash balance is 68,263.80.

Principal's Reports: Mr. Mandera- At-Risk Student Update: Currently meeting with teachers to schedule extra student educational assistance using Response to Intervention (RTI) help with teachers and paraprofessionals. We are currently right around 30% for Free and Reduced Lunch in the Student Population.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled for November 4 from 4:00-7:30pm and November 5 from 1:00-7:30pm. No student attendance on November 6. We are looking for 100% participation for all parents to attend a conference. Many teachers are trying out student-led conferences this year in Kindergarten and 2nd grade.

Fire Prevention Week will be held at Dorothy Simon Elementary Oct. 5-9

In addition to holding a fire drill with the fire department on October 8, classrooms will have the chance to visit with some firefighters.

Changes in Pickup

This year, we have had many last minute changes for a child's pickup from school, riding the bus, going to kids club, etc. The end of the day in any classroom can be a particular stressful time for your child and teacher.

If you have any change in plans regarding how your child will get home at the end of the day, please call before 2:00pm so the main office has plenty of time to get the message to your child. Thank you.

Parent Information for Simon PBIS

Schools are successful when they help children grow academically, socially, and emotionally. For this to happen it is imperative that we have a safe environment that is supportive and conducive for growth. By setting forth clear social and behavioral expectations and directly teaching students about those expectations, it is our goal is to create a positive atmosphere for optimal learning.

Our Simon Superhero behavior is based on PBIS—Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. Our staff kicked off this program in August 2015 and introduced the Simon Superhero Expectations to all kindergarten classes while the classroom teachers reviewed the expectations with 1st and 2nd grade students during the week of August 31.

Our Simon Superhero System has 4 components:

- [A matrix of behavioral expectations](#)
- Lesson Plans to teach students optimal behavioral expectations in all school environments
- A celebration/reinforcement system

- Behavioral Infraction Notice

Simon Superheroes have three school-wide behavioral expectations:

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

Teaching Appropriate Behavior

Students are taught school-wide expectations and have opportunities to practice them. Staff members teach what behaviors are expected in the hallways, cafeteria, bathroom, and playground. This is done through a series of classroom activities done by the classroom teacher and classroom videos.

Acknowledgment/ Reinforcement System

Another component of the Simon Superhero system is the use of consistent positive rewards to celebrate students' success. The classroom teacher will choose different behavior expectations that they want to target that are specific to the needs of the classroom students. The classroom teacher will determine the award to celebrate for following the school-wide expectation

Other rewards include:

- Celebrations for students who do not receive more than 3 behavioral referrals during a given time period
- Awarding the Simon Super Shield for outstanding behavior
- Sticker rewards
- Extra recess time
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Behavioral "Pink Slips" and "Red Cards"

While our PBIS approach emphasizes appropriate behaviors, some students may still violate school expectations.

In these situations students will receive a "pink slip". This "pink slip" documents the inappropriate behavior. Pink slips can be given out by any staff member if they see or deal with a student who does not follow the appropriate expectations. Pink slips are considered to be minor infractions that can be dealt with by the staff and/or classroom teacher. However, if a student continues to repeat a behavior - 3 or more occurrences - this would be considered a major infraction with principal/administration follow up with parents via written notification and formal consequences for behavioral infraction.

A "red card" would be for a major infraction. These major infractions could include the following: physical aggression/fighting, major disruption, disrespect, and inappropriate language (swearing or threat of harm). In the instance that a student receives a "Red Card" for a major infraction, the student will consequently receive a formal disciplinary referral that will be sent home to parents/guardians. Consequences will be listed on the referral form sent home. In case of a threat of safety to the student or other students, parents/guardians will be called into school immediately to discuss immediate consequences for the child's actions.

Our goal is to teach children alternate behaviors to ensure a school environment that is safe, fun, free from distraction, and helps all children reach their maximum learning potential.

We are looking forward to a fantastic school year! Thank you for your support.

FAQ for Simon Elementary's Party Structure

On September 29, a group of Simon teachers, parents, PTO, and myself met to outline the party structure for Simon Elementary for the 2015-16 school year. What was developed was a FAQ that was listed in Simon's School Newsletter in October

Q: Who decided to change the traditional practice of holiday parties?

A: This decision is a building based decision, not the PTO. We have piloted a different “party” structure in PreK last year with great success. This was shared at PTO meetings in October 2014 about the difference in parties in PreK and final decision by the staff in May 2015.

Q: Why is there a change with parties since it is such a tradition?

A: This is an item that has not been taken lightly. It has been discussed for the past 5 years with the staff about how to handle these events. The staff at Simon Elementary has found it increasingly difficult to maintain safety of students and maintain a structured learning environment. Times have changed, family demographics are different, and the ability to maintain safety is much more important.

Q: Will there still be parties held at Simon Elementary?

A: There will be the same amount of classroom parties as there has been (Fall- October, Winter- December, Late winter/early spring-February).

Q: Will there be costumes at the Halloween party?

A: We will not have a Halloween theme party with costumes. Instead classroom teachers will organize fun activities that will focus on a fall-harvest theme. This could involve pumpkins, apples, turning of leaves, etc. Iconic symbols of Halloween will not be focused on for activities.

Q: Who will organize these classroom parties?

A: The teachers have agreed to organize the classroom parties, activities, and materials/snacks. The PTO will assist with this process, but they no longer will lead it. The PTO has agreed to provide funding for appropriate allergy-free snack and/or materials that will follow the plans the classroom teacher/grade level decides. The times and days for parties will be determined by teachers/grade levels.

Nurse Information

Vision and Hearing Screening

During the next couple of months, the school nurses will be conducting state mandated vision and hearing screenings. Exceptions will be made for those students already under a doctor's care who wear glasses. "Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor. Your child is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months." (Section 27-8.1 of the School Code). If your child fails the screening process, you will receive written and phone notification and follow up with a physician will be recommended.

Erin's Law

In January 2013, Former Governor Pat Quinn signed into law a new mandate that child sex - abuse education be taught in Illinois schools. With the assistance of The Carrie Lynn Center for Children, students as young as preschoolers will receive age - appropriate sex abuse education. This will include both classroom and grade - level presentations in late winter/early Spring 2016.

If you have any questions please call the school office 815.335.2318 and ask to speak with the nurse.

Red Ribbon Activities

Red ribbon week activities – October 27-31

Simon students and staff are participating in National Red Ribbon Week from October 26th – October 31st. Throughout Red Ribbon Week, Simon will host activities designed to reinforce the drug-free message.

Monday 10/26 – “Real Heroes Are Drug Free” – Wear Simon superhero clothing or any other superhero.

Tuesday 10/27 – “I’m a Jean-ius” Jersey Theme – Wear your favorite blue jeans.
Wednesday 10/28 – “Turn Your Back on Drugs” - Wear clothes backwards.
Thursday 10/29 - “Simon Is Drug Free!” - Wear red.
Friday 10/30 – “Be on a Drug Free Bago Team” - Wear district colors of black and orange.

October Calendar

Mr. Monohan: **Back to School Night/Open House**

Mrs. Fisher, our cook, is donating back to the PTO the time she was paid for cooking hot dogs and therefore I have a check for PTO.

Band

5th grade students have officially started the beginning band program and they have class 3 days per week, as well as give up one recess a week for additional lessons. Their first concert isn't until February. ***Please remember that since 5th graders in band go over to the high school for band by 2:15pm any phone messages that need to be given to students must be phoned in before 2pm in order to ensure your child gets the message.***

Fire Prevention Week

Our most recent fire drill was held on October 7 with the Winn-Bur-Sew fire department in recognition of Fire Prevention Week, where they also provided students with take home materials. McNair also held a Fire Safety Week coloring contest and the winners are displayed in the front hallway.

PBIS/McNair PRIDE

Culver's and the Winnebago School District PBIS Program is hosting a Share Night this evening to support the district's PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) Program from 5-7. Each month we are focusing on a specific school related area to improve upon. This month's focus is the hallways.

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated during the week of October 26-30. There will be theme days scheduled for each day of the week ranging from crazy socks, neon clothing/sunglasses, wear red, and wear black and orange. This year, students will receive bracelets, instead of the

traditional ribbons, to wear each day of the week. There will be prizes for students caught wearing their red bracelet, daily announcements will be shared about Red Ribbon week and school wide, we'll enjoy 15 minutes of silent reading to encourage students to read rather than experiment with drugs. Students will also receive a bookmark with a Red Ribbon week message.

McNair Classroom Parties

As previously communicated, classroom parties are being structured differently this year where teachers and grade level teams will themselves plan their own activities on "special event" days that might focus on a seasonal theme or special activity. We are excited to announce that plans are coming together for many new activities and traditions from pumpkin seed spitting and decorating cookies in 3rd grade to making applesauce and creating scarecrows for Prairie View Assisted Living in 4th grade to studying Native American foods and a field trip to Burpee Museum of Natural History in 5th grade. Again, we are excited to include local resources such as the Boone/Winnebago County Farm Bureau, Prairie View Assisted Living, and Burpee Museum of Natural History to assist in celebrating the fall season.

Title One and STAR Enterprise

Grade levels have recently completed October data meetings with Julie Reesor, math and reading interventionist, Lori Peters, school psychologist, and myself. Frequent progress monitoring of student achievement will take place with the utilization of Star testing in Math and Aimsweb testing in Reading. Grade level teams will meet again in early November and teachers will also be sharing initial test results with parents during conferences held on November 4 and 5.

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesday, October 20...4th grade (Babbitt) Field Trip to Anderson Gardens/Shogun Restaurant

Wednesday, October 21...4th grade (Rapp) Field Trip to Anderson Gardens/Shogun Restaurant

Thursday, October 22...4th grade (Dilbeck) Field Trip to Anderson Gardens/Shogun Restaurant

Friday, October 30...First Quarter Report Cards are sent home

Tuesday, November 3...5th grade (All) Field Trip to Burpee Museum of Natural History

Wednesday, November 4... Elementary (K-5) Parent Teacher Conferences, 4-7:30pm

Thursday, November 5...Parent Teacher Conferences (K-12), 1-7:30pm (No students in attendance)

Friday, November 6...School Improvement Day (No students in attendance)

Thursday, November 12...3rd grade (All) Field Trip to Hononegah Performing Arts Center to see Mary Poppins

Committee Report:

DARE

Fifth grade students will begin the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program on Monday, October 19. This ten-week program will run through mid-January with a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, January 20, at 6:30pm in the Winnebago High School Cafetorium. Thanks again to the Winnebago PTO and the Winnebago Lions Club for funding the program for the fourth year in row.

2015-2016 Budget: Parties added to the budget. A motion was made to approve the budget by Kristi Provi and seconded by Tracey Ricks.

Monetary Requests: Request for Sit Spots for 1st grade at \$179.95. A motion to approve Sunny Williams and seconded by Carrie Lemke.

Request for Guided Reading Program for 1st grade at \$400.00. A motion to approve Carrie Lemke and Sunny Williams.

Fundraiser Reports: Fall Fundraiser: Jamie Dimke-great turnout. We get 40% of our sales just over \$15,000. Delivery date is Oct. 27th. Pickup is between 3-6 at Simon.

Spirit Wear: Sherri Ginger- Orders due on Oct. 23rd. Samples are at Simon and McNair. Orders are delivered Nov. 9th.

Box Tops: Ginnie Cunningham- Miss Johnson's class collected 2,000 Box Tops for the pizza party. November 2 is the last day to turn in box tops.

School Mall: Sherri Ginger- Last fundraiser for school mall.

World's Finest Chocolate: Lindsay Ludwig- Nov. 2nd kick off. There will be an assembly and permission slips to explain the fundraiser.

Committee Reports: Dare:Mr. Monohan- Dare for 5th grade students. Oct. 19th kick off and finish up Jan. 2nd.

Children's Bazaar: Inga Danko- In need of a person to help craft.

Coke Rewards and Prairie Farms: Sherri Ginger- Need people to help submit them.

Yearbook: Jamie Dimke and Abby Gleason- Switch companies to Jostens. Information to come for parents and teachers. Doing online orders this year.

Conference Luncheon: Angela Bucey- Using Sign Up Genius.

Old Business: Open Chair Positions:

Children's Bazaar Co-Chair

Art Show and Basket Raffle Co-Chair

Chairs for Staff Luncheons

Classroom Party Help: Gave money amount.

New Business: Dare: Mr. Monohan- Order new curriculum.

Need to build games for events.

New Ideas/ Suggestions: Lindsay Ludwig and Sherri Ginger- For adults only fundraising: bowling, painting party, and wine tasting. Looking for new ideas.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36.

Respectfully submitted, Angela Schoeneweiss