

WINNEBAGO PTO MEETING MINUTES- FEBRUARY 9TH, 2016

Sherri Ginger, President Lindsay Ludwig, Vice President Bonnie Bloomquist, Treasurer
Teacher Chairperson, Rhonda Waggoner Angela Schoeneweiss, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 6:04.

Secretary's Report: January 2016 minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Kristy Provi and seconded by Rhonda Waggoner.

Treasurer's Report: As of February 9th, 2016, the cash balance is \$50,090.89.

Principal's Reports: Mr. Mandera-At-Risk Student Update: With our Winter STAR testing completed January 29, we have assigned new intervention groups for reading and math. There are 45 students K-2 receiving extra reading and math assistance. We started discussions regarding retentions for the 2016-17 school year Reminder about Text Message Service Instead of placing tons of information into a newsletter, we use a different way to "get the word out". 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? *Enter this number (815) 401-9303 with this message @simon1516 By joining the group on Remind, you're choosing to receive class messages via push notifications, SMS, or email. Don't worry, your phone number will not be shared with the teacher or anyone else in the group. That's it! You will start receiving messages next week. Changes for End of Year Awards Our grading and awards committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since October. We have been discussing refining our report cards to align cross grade levels with common core standards along with identifying "power standards" skills that are emphasized in each grade level. One area discussed would be to award a student's growth and not just the top 10% of a class. Our discussion have involved: a. Acknowledging and celebrating growth with individual students, not comparing to the entire class or grade level. Can focus on any area of growth reading, math, spelling, writing, behavior, social, maybe attendance. b. Classroom only, not an all school "awards" presentation. c. Can have a certificate of growth to give to individual students - as a teacher-student conference. We would welcome parent input on this concept, if anyone is interested working with our committee, please let me know. Preplanning for the 2016-17 School Year We will soon begin the process of pre-planning for the 2016-17 school year. I will be meeting with each grade level (Early Childhood/PreK -Grade 2) K-2 nd grade to plan areas for curriculum improvements and alignment, student assessments, grade level testing (STAR and Reading Levels), and planning class lists for next year's classes. Kindergarten Enrollment 2016-17 kindergarten enrollment started on January 29. Parents can call Simon Elementary and provide their child's information or complete an online pre-enrollment form. We have 20 students pre-enrolled and 22 more counting children who are currently within our early childhood/PreK program who will be in our kindergarten classes next year. 2016-17 Preschool Screenings Winnebago CUSD #323 will conduct preschool screenings for the 2016-17 school year on Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17. These children may be eligible to attend the Winnebago School District Preschool for the 2016-17 school year. Children have to be 3 years old at the time of the screening. We do hold another screening in July for 2016-17 school year. 4th Annual STEM Night – We will have our 4th annual Simon STEM night on Tuesday, February 16. This is led by one of our teachers, Mrs. Waggoner who assisted in organizing and facilitating the planning. Parent-Teacher Conferences Thursday, February 25 4:00-7:30pm Teachers will contact parents that they would like to have conferences with regarding your child's academic performance and/or behavior. A Note From the Nurse

Erin's Law On March 7th & 8th, a representative from Carrie Lynn Children's Center will be at Simon to present a sexual abuse awareness program for all grade levels. This is in compliance with the Illinois state mandated Erin's Law. "Erin's Law" requires that all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches students in grades PreK – 12th grade, age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult. Please call Carrie Lynn Center with any questions at (815) 319-4150.

Mr. Monohan- ***Upcoming Events:***

- Third quarter midterms will go home with students on Friday, February 12.
- There is a 5th Grade Band Concert that will be held this Thursday, February 11, beginning at 6:30pm, in the Winnebago High School Cafetorium.
- The 3rd Grade Choral Concert will be held on Wednesday, February 17, beginning at 6:30pm, in the Winnebago High School Cafetorium.
- Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday evening, February 25, from 4-7:30pm. Due to the limited time available, teachers will be reaching out to parents and requesting conferences at this time.
- There is NO SCHOOL on Friday, February 26.
- Students in grades 3-5 will begin roller skating in PE classes on Monday, February 29 through Friday, March 11.
- The 5th grade Spelling Bee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2. The winner of this spelling bee will represent McNair at the Regional Spelling Bee on Wednesday evening, March 16, beginning at 6pm.

Erin's Law: The Carrie Lynn Gaines Center will be visiting 3rd-5th grade classrooms on Monday, February 29 and Tuesday, March 1 to present a sexual abuse awareness program with age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and the importance of telling a trusted adult. Erin's Law was mandated by the state of Illinois in 2013 requiring schools to provide this information to students in grades K-12.

February Classroom Activities: Severson Dells will wrap up grade level presentations on Wednesday, February 10. In third grade, students will participate in another session with the Boone Winnebago Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom, will visit Prairie View Assisted Living to sing, and will be making Valentine's to take home, while enjoying a treat this week. In fourth grade, students have become receptacle engineers and are creating structurally sound Valentine holders with designs created with symmetrical hearts and when complete, will be sharing cards with each other while enjoying a treat. Fifth graders have been learning about President's and answering daily trivia questions. In addition, they will be making homemade Valentine's for family members while enjoying a treat.

PBIS Update: In addition to having students who purchased a McNair Pride Patrol hat in November wear them throughout the day on Mondays to remind themselves and their classmates to demonstrate McNair Pride at all times, we've also started Dollar Hat Days. On

the first day of each month, students who do not have a Pride Patrol hat may wear a baseball hat or beanie style cap and pay a dollar to wear the hat in school all day. The money earned from this venture will go towards our PBIS fund.

Our PBIS committee has also lined up illusionist, David Corn, to perform 10-12 illusions during an assembly on the afternoon of February 24. While performing these illusions, he will share messages of anti-bullying, respect, motivation, integrity, and character.

Illinois 5 Essentials Survey: The Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be administered online on behalf of the Illinois School Board of Education by the University of Illinois Chicago. The 2015-2016 Illinois 5Essentials survey window is January 11 – March 11. We encourage you to complete the parent survey, which takes about 10 minutes. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer, but you must click submit survey at the end.

Title One and STAR Enterprise: January data meetings were recently held to review student progress and classroom instruction. Mid-year STAR data showed some increased growth from students across grade levels in both Reading and Math.

Monetary Requests: None at this time.

Fundraiser Reports: Box Tops: Ginnie Cunningham- No update at this time. Keep collecting them.

Painting Night: Lindsay Ludwig- March 11th from 6-9. Cost is \$40 per person. Food and beverages will be provided. The deadline to sign up is March 4th. Check out the PTO website on Facebook for more details.

Basket Raffle: Jenny Rossel and Sherri Ginger- Is coming up in April. We are currently working on getting the license for this event.

Committee Reports: DARE: Kristy Provi- Event went great. We were recognized in the Rockford Register Star and the Gazette. Way to go!

YMCA Night: Tracy Ricks and Abbey Peterson- We had a good turnout being that it was on a Sunday this year.

Yearbook: Jamie Dimke- 126 sold so far. Price goes up to \$20 after March 4th. March 5th cash will be accepted. Check out PTO Facebook for additional information.

Old Business:

Open Officer Positions:

Co-President – 2-year Term

Secretary – 2-year Term

Treasurer – 2-year Term

Teacher Chairs

DARE Chair- In need of a 5th grade parent.

Children's Bazaar- Co-Chair

Fall Fundraiser- Co-Chair

Open House/ Back to School Chairs

Spirit wear Chair

Building Head Parents

New Business: Wish List Items- Turn in February 29th Wish List items.

New Ideas or Suggestions: Need a Wish List committee. Meet March 8th at 5 p.m. to discuss Wish List items.

Check into Skateland for a family fun event.

Conference Meals: Sign up at Genius on Facebook to help with parent/teacher conference meals.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04.

Respectfully submitted, Angela Schoeneweiss