

## Winnebago PTO Meeting Minutes –October, 2017

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

Meeting Called to order at: 3:31

**Secretary's report:** September minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Gennie Cunningham and seconded by Jenny Rossol

**Treasurer's report:** As of , the cash balance is \$54,702.62

### Principal's Reports:

#### Mr. Hickerson-

##### Targeted Intervention/Title I

Intervention services have begun for students who may need them, as identified by baseline data from assessment including STAR and reading levels. Interventions are in reading and in math and are targeted to individual needs as determined by assessment results and teacher observation of student skills.

##### Literacy Night/Cookout

A big thank you to everyone who helped out to make the night happen. We had 350 registered guests in attendance. Those who completed the survey following the evening could enter to receive a copy of one of the books that was read during the evening. Names for the books have been drawn, and those students have received their copies.

##### Remind – Text Messaging

Just a quick reminder about the Remind service. To receive texts about events and important messages from the school, 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

COOP Early Childhood

8

District At-Risk PreK

18

K-3 Instructional Program

5

Kindergarten

85

First Grade

83

Second Grade

82

Total Students = 281

##### Early Childhood Screening – October 25

Winnebago CUSD #323 will conduct preschool screenings on Wednesday, October 25th from 8am – 12:00pm. These children may be eligible to attend the Winnebago School District Preschool for the 2017-2018 school year. Our next screening date will be January 31st.

#### Emergency Safety Drills

Simon had their first tornado drill on Friday, September 29th. We will be conducting bus evacuation drills next week on October 24th.

#### Early Release

During our September 27th early release, teachers at Simon met to coordinate curriculum across the building. Grade level teams also met to review curriculum, assessments, and assessment data.

#### Week of 10/23

One of the big items on the docket is parent-teacher conferences, which will take place on the 25th and 26th. The other big item is a SIP day on the 27th. Note that there is an early dismissal on the 25th, and no school on the 26th or 27th.

#### Field Trips

PreK will be taking a trip to Severson Dells on October 30th.

#### Health Requirements

As outlined in Illinois School Code, any students whose parents/guardians have failed to submit appropriate immunization records by October 15th will be withheld from attending until this is completed. Our nurses have reached out to anyone to whom this pertains to provide multiple notices.

#### Fire Prevention Week

Students were able to learn about fire safety through presentations the week of October 8th. The “smoke house,” on loan from the Pecatonica Fire District, is in front of the school this week. Students will have an opportunity to go through it and learn more about fire safety from members of the Win-Bur-Sew fire protection district.

#### Health/Life Safety Visit (HLS)

We had our annual life safety visit on Thursday, October 5th by the Regional Office. We have received our findings report. Of the five items found, only one issue is not an immediate fix.

#### 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 and district social workers, students as young as preschoolers will receive age - appropriate sex abuse education. This will include both classroom and grade - level presentations. These commonly address “safe/unsafe touch.” These presentations will occur in late winter/early spring 2018, and more info will be distributed as they draw nearer.

#### 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.

### **Mr. Monohan-**

#### Enrollment

We’re still sitting at 309 students in grades 3-5, having transferred two students out and two students in since the September meeting.

#### Life Safety

Life Safety visit by the Regional Office of Education was completed on October 5. We had four areas identified as needing improvement. Three have been easy to correct, one will be a bit longer to correct but will be done by the November 1 deadline.

#### Field Trips

Fifth grade students recently took a field trip to the Challenger Center in Woodstock, IL, through Aurora University. This trip is very hands on and students participate in tasks throughout the day connected to what astronauts would experience.

#### PBIS Update

Our PBIS committee recently held a Parents Night-Out Fundraiser for our building's PBIS program. For \$15.00 per child, with discounts for additional children, as well as a maximum fee, we provided dinner, games, and movies for McNair students (and their Simon siblings) from 6-10pm on Friday, September 29 so parents could enjoy an evening out. After taking out operational expenses (pizza, juice, popcorn), we made \$525.00 for the PBIS program. We hope to do another Parents Night-Out closer to the holidays, so parents may head out shopping and/or to dinner.

#### Early Dismissal

There will be another early dismissal on Wednesday, October 25, with students being dismissed at 1pm. Teachers will spend the afternoon continuing to review 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.

#### Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards

Conferences will be held on Wednesday evening, October 25, from 4-7:30 and on Thursday, October 26, from 1-7:30. Students are dismissed at 1pm on Wednesday and are not in attendance on Thursday, October 26. In addition, students are not in attendance on Friday, October 27, due to a full School Improvement Day. Teachers will be focusing on new ELA instruction, as well as Eureka Math and some Google Drive training. First quarter report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, November 3.

#### Holiday Activities

Teachers are finalizing holiday activities for each grade level, but some examples of activities scheduled for the end of this month are all day STEAM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), Scarecrow Day, which will also incorporate some STEAM activities, as well as fall themed learning stations that revolve around math, science, social studies, and language arts.

#### Red Ribbon Week

We'll hold Red Ribbon Week this year from Monday, October 30-Friday, November 3.

#### Safety Drills

We have a bus evacuation drill scheduled for Monday, October 30 and we'll be practicing hard and soft lockdown, as well as active shooter drills during the month of November. In addition, we'll also have a Shelter in Place (Tornado) drill in November, as well.

#### After School Programs

This Wednesday wraps up the final after school drama club program and in early November, McNair will be offering an after school Spanish program for 3rd-5th graders on Tuesdays and an after school Chess program for 3rd-5th graders on Thursdays. These programs are run through After School Enrichment Programs and will continue through mid-December.

#### Picture Retake Day

McNair's Picture Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, November 7.

### DARE

As mentioned last month, 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 and I'm still waiting to hear on a final decision.

As a reminder, 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, not just 5th grade. With this other program, there would not be the need for workbooks, t-shirts, graduation, certificates and refreshments. As soon as I hear something from our DARE officer, I'll be sure to share that information.

### Targeted Intervention Update

Interventions have been focusing on strengthening reading skills, including informational text and the use of graphic organizers to organize their thoughts. They've also been focusing on mastery of math facts and working towards closing learning gaps between math skills and Eureka Math. Their progress is being monitored through frequent progress monitoring with STAR and Aimsweb testing. Fall STAR test results will be sent home at Parent Teacher Conferences.

### **Monetary Requests:**

- A monetary request was brought by Mr Hickerson in the amount of \$220 for the 1st grade Dino Lady presentation.
- A monetary request was submitted on behalf of the 4th grade in the amount of \$195 to have a Native American outreach instead of the Field trip usually taken by the class.

### **Fundraiser Reports:**

Fall Fundraiser-Jamie Dimke: A total of \$36,000 was raised this year, with 40% of that total going to the PTO. The pick up date is November 2nd. A signup will be sent out for help on that day unloading and distributing items. Online ordering is open till the end of December. The magic show will be held on Nov 13th at 9:15 for Simon and 1:15 at McNair.

Spirit Wear-Sherri Ginger: Order forms will be sent home soon.

Box Tops-Bonnie Bloomquist: Nov 1st collection

### **Committee Reports:**

Simon Literacy Night-Angela Schoeneweiss&Jamie Dimke: This year Literacy night was combined with the back to school cook out, but was not well attended. Leftover food was donated to the Rockford Rescue Mission. The possibility of not offering food next year was discussed.

Children's Bazaar-Inga: The event will be held on Dec 2nd at McNair school this year. Sign-up is available now and volunteers are still needed.

Conference Luncheon-Bonnie Bloomquist: Conferences are taking place on Oct 25-26th at both Simon and McNair. Sign-up is available and volunteers are needed for food.

Discovery Center Night-Jenny Rossol: Friday Nov 3rd from 6-8pm. \$530 for 2hr for the first 200 guests. There is an additional fee of \$1.50 per guest after 200. Dessert will be served.

**Old Business:**

All four PTO board chairs will be vacant for 2018/2019 school year. If you are interested in serving, contact a current board member for more information.

**New Business:**

We are looking for a new fundraiser to offer at the end of the school year. Ginnie Cunningham suggested "Swim-a-Lap". Students would gather donations and 'per lap' sponsors to raise funds for PTO.

Skateland night is being planned for Feb 3rd.

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:17

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Dykstra