

WINNEBAGO PTO MEETING MINUTES- MONDAY OCTOBER 6TH, 2014

Sherri Ginger, President Cari Gettle, Vice President Bonnie Bloomquist, Treasurer
Teacher Chairpersons, Kathi Engelkes and Pam Shaver Angela Schoeneweiss, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 6:04

Secretary's Report: September 2014 minutes were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Abbey Peterson and second by Tracy Ricks.

Treasurer's Report: As of October 6th, 2014, the cash balance is 30,794.95.

Principal's Report: Mr. Mandera

At-Risk Student Update: Currently meeting with teachers to schedule extra student educational assistance using Response to Intervention help with teachers and paraprofessionals. We are currently right around 32% for Free and Reduced Lunch in the Student Population.

Reminder about Text Message Service

Get important messages via text messaging. By doing the following:

1. Scan the QR Code (next to this article) with your smartphone
2. Enter this number (815) 401-9303 with this message @simon1415
3. Click here for additional directions

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.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled for November 5 from 4:00-7:30pm and November 6 from 1:00-7:30pm. No student attendance on November 7. We are looking for 100% participation for all parents to attend a conference. We look forward to discussing your child's progress.

Fire Prevention Week will be held at Dorothy Simon Elementary Oct. 6-9

In addition to holding a fire drill with the fire department on October 9, classrooms will have the chance to visit with some firefighters and take a closer look at the fire safety using the Fire Prevention trailer.

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.

Hand Washing

During the month of October our school nurses Trish and Beth will be teaching good hand washing skills. Students will be encouraged to spend at least 20 seconds washing their hands. Students will learn about germs and the importance of covering your mouth when coughing.

Erin's Law

In January 2013, 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 January 2015.

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

Halloween Information

Fall is here – Halloween is near.

As you are selecting your child's costume for school, we encourage you to choose nonviolent costumes. We want to have the children enjoy the event, by not encouraging aggressive behaviors. Because we deal with a great number of young children, violent masks often frighten students. Please remember this when planning a child's costume. Also, toy weapons or any look-alike weapons are NOT allowed in Illinois schools, even on Halloween. Also, students are encouraged not to use face paint or hair dyes. It takes too long to apply them at school.

We realize that some families do not participate in Halloween. If you do not want your child to participate in activities, please contact your child's teacher so alternative arrangements can be made.

Halloween Party Schedule

Friday, October 31 1:45 PM PreK/EC/K-2; AM PreK/EC 9:45

Parade Times – TBA

Red Ribbon Activities

Red Ribbon Week activities - Oct 27-31

Simon students and staff are participating in National Red Ribbon Week from October 27th – October 31st. Throughout Red Ribbon Week, Simon will host activities designed to reinforce the drug-free message. The overall theme for the week is: “Love Yourself, Be Drug Free.” The following are the planned themes for the week:

Monday 10/27 – “Give Drugs the Boot!” - Western Theme – Wear your favorite boots.

Tuesday 10/28 – “Team Up Against Drugs!” Jersey Theme – Wear your favorite sports jersey.

Wednesday 10/29 – “Crazy About Being Drug Free!” - Wear crazy hair, clothes or socks.

Thursday 10/30 - “Say BOO to Drugs!” Wear black and orange day.

Friday 10/31 – “Red Rally! Stand United Against Drugs” - Wear red day.

Mr. Monahan: **STAR Enterprise** Classrooms are currently progress monitoring students in Tiers 1, 2 and 3. Results will be shared with parents with first quarter report cards, which will be sent home on Friday, October 24.

Blue Shirt Day

Today was Blue Shirt Day, or World Day of Bullying Prevention, and students and staff came to school dressed in blue shirts in an effort to “Stomp Out Bullying”. In addition, McNair Elementary Students recently joined students at Winnebago Middle School for a national touring assembly called “Box-Out Bullying”. This 45-minute assembly taught students the importance of research-based bullying prevention techniques in an interactive, live theater presentation. We are also happy to share that we have a group of 5th graders who, with the help of Mrs. Draves, our librarian, have started a student-led bullying prevention group called FAB, or Friends Against Bullying. This group shared many great tips with us during morning announcements last week and will be sponsoring a bully prevention poster contest for students in grades 3-5 soon. Mrs. Draves is also sharing some books and resources with all students during their weekly library time in the month of October.

Fire Prevention Week

We kicked off Fire Prevention Week today with a fire drill with the Winn Bur Sew fire department. After the drill, students got to visit with firefighters and learn important prevention and safety techniques.

PBIS/McNair PRIDE

High Fives are being handed out as we speak and our PBIS kick-off will be held the afternoon of Friday, September 19. Students will once again have the opportunity to order t-shirts and we’re trying something new this year and asking students to come up with our PBIS PRIDE slogan. Slogan ideas were due on Friday and the top 3 (as determined by the PBIS committee) will be voted on by the student body to select this year’s slogan.

Student of the Week

Our first Student of the Week announcement took place on Friday, October 3. These will continue each Friday (or last day of the week) through the end of May. Students are recognized each week for outstanding achievement in the classroom, improvement in work habits, extra effort demonstrated, or exhibiting McNair PRIDE.

THE NED SHOW

On Monday, October 20, McNair Elementary School will be welcoming back the NED Show with his message of Never Give Up, Encourage Others, and Do Your Best to help end our anti-bullying campaign and kick-off Red Ribbon Week which begins that day as well. The NED Show is a character education program that shares these 3 messages with students through storytelling, magic, humor, and yo-yo tricks. This assembly is free of charge to our school in lieu of us running a 5 day NED item sale where yo-yo's and related accessories are available to students to purchase. We are looking for 3-5 volunteers to help out a day or two between October 21 and October 27.

HALLOWEEN

On Friday, October 31, we'll have our Halloween Parade to Prairie View Assisted Living (if the weather cooperates) beginning at 1:30pm with classroom parties slated to begin at 2:10pm. More information will come home soon.

UPCOMING DATES

No School on Friday, October 10 for a School Improvement Day or Monday, October 13, for Columbus Day.

First quarter report cards will be sent home on Friday, October 24.

Also, Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday, November 5 from 4-7:30 (students are in attendance all day) and Thursday, November 6 from 1-7:30 (students are not in attendance). Also, there is No School on Friday, November 7, for a School Improvement Day.

Monetary Requests: A motion was approved by Heather Rundall and seconded by Kristi Provi. Mr. Monahan- requesting \$250.00 from Assembly Budget to help offset the cost of our recent Box-Out Bullying assembly. The total cost of the program was \$2000.00 and the touring company gave us a \$1000.00 grant. The middle school and McNair split the remaining cost of the program (\$1000.00), so each school was responsible for \$500.00. The remaining \$250.00 for McNair is covered through PBIS funds.

Requesting \$130.00 for registration fees for the Regional Spelling Bee for grades 5-8 to be held in March 2015. The registration deadline is October 15.

The 2014-2015 PTO Budget passed.

Fundraiser Reports: Market Day- Gail Starkey and Kristi Provi-made \$236.03 a little below last year. Working on pie flyers to go out on October 31st. November order guide goes out for paper orders on October 20th and online orders October 25th. Pick-up will be October 29th.

Spirit Wear: Heather Rundall-presented Spirit Wear. A vote was taken and all designs were approved.

Box Tops: Ginnie Cunningham-box tops were a success.

Fall Fundraiser:-Diane Capriola- 100% collection for last year's fundraiser. \$3,400.00 has been pre-paid for this year's fundraiser.

Committee Reports: Back to School/Open House: Gail Starkey and Kristi Provi- served 500 people at Simon's Open House. We did not received any complaints on apples being served. A big thank you to everyone who helped in making it a success.

Birthday Book Program/School Mall: Bonnie Bloomquist- students bring back booklets completed the next day get 2 free prizes and put in for a drawing to win a robot with remote. Teachers who get 6 students to fill out booklets get a free tote and 12 students get a free t-shirt and tote. Each booklet filled out, PTO gets \$2.25. PTO was able to purchase birthday books for Simon and McNair through the School Mall.

DARE: Mr. Monahan- cost of officer Tim McGinness \$848.00. We are looking for additional help with the extra costs. 4th graders get extra time with Tim McGinness to talk to them about DARE and character education.

Student Directories: Deanne Gustafson was not in attendance. No report was given.

Children's Holiday Bazaar: Inga Danko- needing help on October 25th at 10 a.m. Contact PTO for details.

Old Business: Open Chair Positions- Yearbook does not have a Chairperson at this time. If one is not found for this, it could be eliminated.

Prairie Farms: Sherri Ginger- parents are submitting caps on the Prairie Farms website under the Winnebago PTO.

Coke Rewards: Abbey Peterson and Alicia Glaser- a working progress.

New Business: 2014-2015 Budget Proposal passed-Bonnie Bloomquist.

New Ideas/Suggestions: Scott is looking into the Harlem Wizard's basketball team to play against teachers and is also looking into logo cups. Heather Rundall suggested selling butter braids.

PTO Meeting Dates/Locations: Next meeting is November 10th at 6 p.m. in the McNair library. Future dates are on the Winnebago Schools website. Like Winnebago PTO on Facebook for announcements and upcoming events.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Angela Schoeneweiss