



William Winsor PTO Meeting Minutes Sept. 14, 2016

7:00 pm:

Welcome/Introduction of Board Members (*Tory Trainor*)

Call to order and introduction of new PTO Board members

PTO Event Discussion (*Principal Brian Ackerman*)

Review of changes required to events to align ourselves with both state law, district policy and practice of other elementary schools in Smithfield. Moving forward, we will no longer specify the gender of chaperones for our "choice" events. End of last school year it was brought to the school and PTO's attention that we needed to make a change to our Boys and Girls "Choice" events. We are the last school in town to make this change. We can as a school decide whether we want to continue to hold the Boys or Girls choice events, but if we do, we will re-name them as "Boys Choice with Adult Chaperone" and "Girls Choice with Adult Chaperone."

Additionally, the PTO survey received more than 100 responses, which we will be using to help shape and plan events for this school year, based on the interest of our families.

Discussion: with new change, any parent can attend the Boys or Girls Choice events. Attendees discussed whether we should separate by gender for any of our events. Decision to vote on whether to continue this year with designation of Boys and Girls events, noting that in order to comply with state law, the events need to be commensurate with one another. Dues-paying members were given the opportunity to vote on whether to continue to hold gender-based or gender-neutral events.

Decision: based upon the majority of votes, the PTO will plan both a Boys Choice and Girls Choice event for this school year. It was noted that while we will plan these events, if a female student chose to attend the "Boys" event (or a boy chose to attend the "Girls" event), no one would bar them from participating.

Principal's Report (*Principal Brian Ackerman*)

Reminder that any parent can reach out to Principal Ackerman at any time with any questions or issues that require clarification. He appreciates hearing directly from parents with any questions. We have many school activities and programs planned for this year and he appreciates the participation of so many parents.

Treasurer's Report (*Jenna Howard*)

Survey Results: more than 100 responses and some great information to help guide and inform us as we move through the school year. If any committees would like to also utilize a survey to gauge interest, Jenna is available to provide assistance.

Budget: Review of budget; change to events that were not raising enough money to be considered "fundraisers," so budgeted amount was reduced. *Budget was approved as presented.*

Vice President's Report (*Andrea Shepard*)

More than 68 families have sent in their membership forms and dues (not including those that signed up at tonight's meeting. Thanks to those who signed up as committee chairs; several chairs still remain open, including the Boys and Girls Choice events, Family event, Holiday Shop, Parents Night Out, Pennies for Patients, Groundskeeping. Any parent interested in chairing or serving on a committee should reach out to Andrea.

Committee Reports

Trunk or Treat: date is set for Friday, October 28; location TBD as St Philip's and the Smithfield Senior Center are not available. The committee is reaching out to other property owners to identify a new location.

Walk-a-thon: set for Friday, October 3 during school hours; in its 3rd year and hoping to raise \$5,000. With zero expenses, the event is a great way to raise money and get the students together to help out.

5th Grade Committee: Dame Farm Hayride: Thursday, October 6, 6-8pm. The committee is busy planning a variety of events and activities, including: Winsor's Got Talent, Holiday gifts for homeless/elderly; DARE officer; Yawgoo Tubing; May Field Trip; End-of-Year Party; Yearbook. More information will be available as the committee moves forward with planning efforts.

Secretary's Report (Mary Kate Harrington)

Secretary's responsibilities relate to communications and recording of meeting minutes. Moving forward, all Late Breaking News (LBN) bulletins, Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Winsor website. Additionally, Meeting Agenda and Minutes will be emailed to members. We will increase our outreach via email, social media (Facebook and Instagram) to ensure families are informed throughout the school year

Winsor Garden: Mary Kate reported on efforts to create a school garden and connect it to school curriculum. A preliminary meeting is planned with Principal Ackerman and 5th grade teachers. Any parents who may be interested in or have experience with grant writing and/or gardening to volunteer should contact Principal Ackerman or Mary Kate. Additionally, we will need support in reaching out to local farms/orchards, landscaping and building supply companies for sponsorship of this effort.

Teacher Liaison Report (Kerri Lanzieri)

Open House is tomorrow and teachers are looking forward to connecting with parents and showcasing some of the work and activities from the first weeks of the school year.

Raffle

8:00 pm:

Adjourn

In attendance:

PTO Board Members: Tory Trainor, President; Andrea Shepard, Vice President; Principal Brian Ackerman; Jenna Howard, Treasurer; Mary Kate Harrington, Secretary

Alicia Bennett	Kat Keenan	Joe Ninivaggi
Deb Bettencourt	Jess Lakeway	Suzanne Ninivaggi
Alicia Cafferty	Katie Lally	Shannon Roumelis
Michael Cardin	Kerri Lanzieri	Andrea Ruotolo
Monica Carroccio	Maria Laurenzo	Carolyn Sanders
Maura Cavanagh	Shauna Lewis	Rory Senerchia
Bethany Cavedon	Cristina Lilly	Laura-Field Swallow
Jill Ceprano	Diane Malloy	Teresa Sweet
Erin DeMaggio	Jessica Marcaccio	Nancy Toubia
Kim Domenico	Steven Marcaccio, Jr	Jen Tsonos
Lisa Floor	Maria Marrocco	Stephanie Vingi
Maryellen Connolly-Fochler	Melissa McDonough (can't read handwriting)	
Jennifer Prewitt-Freilino	Jennifer McKell	
Polly Prewitt-Freilino	Kristi Morin	
Wendy Grace		