

WMS PTG Meeting-Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Meeting began: 6:30pm

Attendance: Board members-Rachel Buck, Caitlin DePalma, Wanda Eddy, Stephanie Scaramuzzo, Sherri Sullivan, Sarah Valerie

Staff/Admin- Terrance Aryton, Kari Baransky, Danielle Rios, Assistant Principal Jessica Showerda, Principal Ray Southland

Members-Melody Avery, Sarah Babineau, Jenn Brazel, Ron Cassin, Laura Corchado, Robin Cusachs, Sonja Jelks, Debbie Martinez, Molly Martinez, Maggie Moro, Kristen Nedinsky, Lynette Valentine, Michelle Zvonkovic

Introductions around the table.

Wanda Eddy read the WMS PTG Mission statement and goals for the 2018-2019 school year.

Principal Southland spoke regarding smooth opening to this school year. He mentioned a new game room to be used for behavior rewards. Ping pong, foosball, basketball, air hockey tables, Play Station games. All obtained through a grant; thanks Mrs. Showerda!

Assistant principal Showerda: 808 student enrollment. 288 6th graders. Brand new ELA curriculum based on 4 modules focusing on a reduction of absenteeism. Conferences/Open House/Pasta Dinner scheduled for October 3rd. Focus on restorative practices to keep kids in class and benefiting from teacher instruction. 3 “Learning Walks” this year. This helps teachers and there will be a “Learning Walk “for parents as well. New policies: Cell phone policy which has taken the distraction out of the classroom; going well for students and staff.

New Business: Mums Sale-Due by Friday, September 14th. Pick-up will be September 21st.

Open House and Pasta Dinner-10/3. PTG will have tables set-up. Looking for donations of raffles, baked goods, and volunteers (sign-up sheets were sent around at meeting). Laura Corchado discussed details of Open House. Discussed difficulty parking. Principal Southland will contact TEMS to request to use their parking lot for the night. Cafeteria staff will cook pasta. Mrs. Rios will reach out to high school programs for volunteers to serve. Mrs. Rios discussed ideas for raffle donations. Donations should be marked “PTG” and brought to office.

Wanda Eddy requested that parents join Remind and WMS PTG Facebook page.

Mr. Aryton and Ms. Baransky (6th grade math teachers) spoke about Power School and ALEKS math program. They discussed “Knowledge checks” and how that affects the development of the ALEKS program. ALEKS form and classroom expectation form were both sent home with students. Discussed “new math” and a sheet titled “Mathematics/Standards for Mathematical Practice” will be placed on Google classroom. Ms. Showerda discussed details and uses of Power School including checking grades and assignments. She informed PTG that you can log in as your child or as a parent. Similar information, but the organization and set-up looks different. All students have until the end of each term to complete all assignments. Click on the “P” to gain more information to access teachers’ comments.

Wanda discussed topics for future PTG meetings including anti-bullying and social media.

Ms. Baransky discussed the “Go Guardian” program which monitors each student’s chromebook. Mr. Southland and Mrs. Showerda discussed this can be used to monitor students for safety on electronics.

A parent asked about Google Classroom. Ms. Baransky explained that it’s a virtual classroom including assignments, questions to answer, and a grading component. A discussion was held regarding a calendar located in Google classroom; staff will look into if this can be turned on for student access.

PTG discussed upcoming Mums fundraiser. Caitlin promoted WMS restaurant fundraiser at Sal’s Apizza on Thursday, September 13th. PTG is planning restaurant fundraisers on a Thursday each month, most likely 2nd week of the month. October 11th is at Zorba’s Restaurant.

Parent concerns: 6th grade clusters were changed on Monday and some students were upset. Mr. Southland stated that 50-60 students were moved around from initial schedule. Several reasons: 1-Special Education compliance issues which must be followed. 2-Restructure to reduce class size. 3-Make class sizes more equal. Mr. Southland reported that parents of students who were moved received notifications. He reported that 2 Accelerated classes were added.

Next PTG meeting: Wednesday, October 10th at 6:30pm. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caitlin K. DePalma