

PTO Meeting Notes—November 4, 2014

Meeting began at 6:45 and was attended by 15 people

Dr. Corey Lund addressed the group.

Dr. Lund said he's been making rounds throughout the district visiting all the schools and groups and collecting data. The district has asked him to make suggestions this spring of things that he feels will keep the district moving forward.

He asked the meeting attendees to discuss in small groups what we think our kids need from the district and topics raised included:

- Keeping class sizes controlled
- Wallace's move to the current middle school (for 2017/18 school year)
- Concerns about feeling like our school/PTO has been on hold since the moving delay
- Requests to improve communication between the school and parents
- How can we help our children become better organized/teach them study skills needed for middle and high school (and college)
- What can be done to bring more focus on developing writing skills

Dr. Lund then addressed the move plans. He said next year, the district will engage the parents and students to develop the school layout and other plans for development. There will be a meeting for Wallace parents in February. He also there is opportunity to use the north end of Wallace for the community after the move across the street. They're looking into options since the school has a functioning cafeteria, gym, and media center. This would put the future administrative offices into the other side of the building.

#### President's Report

For future meetings, please submit PTO newsletter ideas by the Monday before the PTO meeting.

The PTO is still in need of volunteers to act as:

- PTO Vice President
- Theme Day Chair
- Purple Party Chair and Steering Committee member

#### Principal's Report

Mrs. Pearson didn't have anything to report this month.

#### Secretary's Report

Rene Barker(???) made a motion to approve October's meeting notes and was seconded by Stacy (???)

### Treasurer's Report

Nadia (???) added an annual author visit to the PTO budget. Our Purple Party budget was reduced by \$500 to \$1500 and we moved \$500 from the fifth grade celebration (which was historically under budget) to a Fall/Winter event for Wallace families.

Kelly McAllister motioned to approve the budget and was seconded by Lori Hoffmann. The budget was adopted.

### Old Business

We voted to approve RAZZ Kids for K-2.

### New Business

Jackie Johnson reviewed our proposed PTO bylaws. A committee met and compared existing Wallace bylaws to those of Lawson and Beaver Creek and made some adjustments, including:

- The PTO will now allow more than one household member to vote in PTO matters.
- The PTO will attempt to keep PTO titles to a two-year term to enable parents to pass knowledge on to other parents before their kids leave the school (this is what Lawson and Beaver Creek do).
- Agenda preparation was added to the president's list of responsibilities.
- The vice president will now be responsible for our biennial report.
- The secretary will be responsible for keeping meeting minutes for three years, in addition to a copy of the current bylaws and any PTO-related communication.
- The treasurer will be responsible for certifying and filing taxes.
- A budget committee will be added that will be chaired by the treasurer. It will review and dispute teacher grants.
- Each PTO committee will maintain a binder of information that can be handed down to provide information to future committee members.
- The PTO now has authority to vote with the typical number of meeting attendees.
- The bylaws now state that we need to keep copies of the bylaws on file.

Kristy Hoelscher motioned to approve the bylaws and was seconded by Nadia (???). Bylaws were approved.

### Committee Reports

The book fair is from November 10-18 and will offer a buy 3, get the 4<sup>th</sup> free option.

Lori Hoffmann reviewed options for our Fall/Winter event for Wallace families. We are looking at a skating party on January 20 from 6-8 at Skate North. The party could operate as a PTO fundraiser at \$6 a child, or not for \$5 a child. If we booked two parties, we'd get a third party for free.

The next PTO worknight will be early next year, time and date TBD. With little participation, the group discussed ideas for getting more parents involved, including:

- Polling parents to see when they'd be able to participate
- Potentially having volunteer time during the school day
- Providing packets of work that could be taken home from PTO meetings for parents to work on and returned to school later

Kelly McAllister talked about Hospitality Committee events, including catering dinner from In the Bag for teachers during conferences on the 13<sup>th</sup> and doing a snack potluck on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We are also holding our annual Cookie Walk for teachers on December 9<sup>th</sup> and still need donations so we have enough cookies for each teacher to take home two dozen.

Lori Hoffman said the new family welcome kits were ready to go for conferences.

Jen Christy (not in attendance) has been working with Bling Factory on getting some new Wallace Wear items.

Jackie spoke on behalf of the committee for theme day (currently no chair). Wallace has received a grant that will cover the cost of theme day. We were looking at February 5, but that may interfere with Iowa Assessments testing.

Lori Waterbeck noted that parents can shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and donate proceeds to the Wallace PTO.

Lori Hoffman said the Teacher Likes list is being updated and asked that it be included in the PTO newsletter.

At 8:11 Stacy (???) motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Nadia (???)