**PTG Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, 2/13 @ 9:30am | Willard Elementary School**

***Attendance:*** *Robin Baughman, Amy Casher, Matt Lucey, Colleen Currier, Kristen Lester, Kaitlyn Whittier, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Tracy DeTora, Jon Smith, Reem Alzahabi, Susannah Benner*

**Principal and Teacher Update** - Matt Lucey/ Jon Smith

Jon: Busy time of year with activities. As teachers, we feel lucky to have so many social and school events (musical theater, Souper-Bowl, spelling bee, etc.). Assemblies and field trips are all part of supporting the whole child. We have so many events and are lucky to be back to normal which is not the case in other communities.

Matt: Students have been working on valentines for members of the community and the Souper Bowl was a big success. COVID numbers remain low but cases are occurring (on par with other schools). Staff feel very supported by programming and appreciate the different types of activities offered as the variety of events appeal to different students but there’s something for everyone. Fly five curriculum implementation is ongoing; Responsive Classroom program- elementary schools applied for a grant from Concord Education Fund and received a grant for one time staff training. DESA- progress monitoring tool for social and emotional well-being in classroom (Reading, Social Emotional Learning, Math, ESL) is also being utilized.

Teachers are really eager to find success for all students and we all understand heightened emotions these days. Teacher burnout, parent anxiety, and student pressures combined mean we are running at a rate of unsustainability. Looking for opportunities to share resources, support each other, and help to ensure that we are all aligned in creating a positive community here at Willard.

Budget update- Concord has an operating budget each school year plus a capital budget for bigger one-time purchases. Operating budget is managed annually by town Finance Committee (Fin Comm)- which either votes to recommend school budget or not. As of today’s meeting, they are recommending not to approve due to $585K gap (K-8 grades). Majority of funding for school districts are people (not a lot related to supplies). List of programs that will be impacted if budget not approved include critical activities such as: District field trips, Special Education person, tutors for small group instruction, technology specialists. STEAM lab support, K-5 instrumental music strings/band program, professional development, librarians, field trips, transportation. Finance Committee is meeting at 4pm on Wednesday 2/15 at Ripley and on zoom and it would be helpful to have parental support at this meeting and in future meetings where school budgets will be covered. PTG will work to attend and moving forward ensure some parent representation is there.

**Presidents' Update**- Robin Baughman/Kristen Lester

Minutes from January approved. Robin will be meeting with Sam Jaddou about creating Willard PTG social media accounts and we are looking for someone to help manage content. We want to ensure that we do it properly, have regular content, and develop a policy for what we are posting. Anyone with social media savvy who would like to help out, please reach out.

New Director of Sustainability looking for a few volunteers from each school to get involved in her efforts. Please see message below and if interested in joining, please reach out to PTG Presidents Robin Baughman or Kristen Lester.

*I'm reaching out to you to invite Alcott, Thoreau, and Willard PTG members to collaborate on creating engaging Earth Month celebrations at your schools!*

*My/our goal: Share ideas about ways to celebrate Earth.  Then Alcott, Thoreau and Willard can adapt these ideas to what works best for your school.I have met with Thoreau PTG and we have brainstormed some cool ideas but we welcome brainstorming and planning with all of you!*

*Meeting time: Thursday 3/2 at 11 am at Fowler Library in West Concord.*

Valentine’s event for staff will be hosted by staff appreciation committee.

Special election - ballot vote for middle school in person on February 16th for the additional funding needed to keep the middle school project on track.

We are going to be putting feelers out for next year’s board positions and committee chair positions- anyone interested in getting more involved with PTG please let us know!

We are seeking a new Willard Wear vendor and will announce more information as we move this initiative forward.

**Treasurer's Report-** Colleen Currier

Profits: Final profits coming in from amazon smile as the program has been terminated. We received $118 this month. The Annual appeal received a few additional donations this month. Bay State textiles check received, box top check for $70, sold a few more directories, and the Willard Wear profits from the past 2 years are coming in. Have exceeded revenue goal for the year.

Expenses going out: 5th grade expenses, coffee for staff appreciation, teacher reimbursements.

**PTG Committee/Events/Initiatives**

**Charity & Service Updates** - Janet King

The annual Willard Souper Bowl wrapped on Friday with hundreds of cans of soup collected for Open Table-special thanks to Dr. Price for helping to organize!

Willard Students made more than 300 Valentines for Emerson Hospital and Minuteman Arc- thanks to Willard art teacher Kristin Saunders and community volunteer Liz Berk.

We are planning a Spring event, possibly with Buddy Dog rescue, more to come.

Chelsea Chaudhary is starting to plan the 5th Grade Service Day for early June.

If anyone has charity and service ideas suitable for elementary students please let us now. IN addition to collections and drives, we are always looking for new volunteer and service opportunities for the younger kids. [charity@willardptg.org](mailto:charity@willardptg.org)

**Fundraising**- Susannah Benner

WECO- Fundraiser will be held in the month of March and will run for 4 weeks. To participate, you will need to set up a new account via WECO affiliated with this fundraiser. Communications will be sent out to all families later this month with more details.

Minted holiday fundraiser – we had 8 holiday card orders that will benefit Willard.

Raffle baskets will be created for Spring Fling- each classroom donates one basket and event will be held May 21st. Seeking a volunteer to help manage the raffle.

**Staff Appreciation-**

Veggies/sweets and cards for staff on Valentine’s Day and will again host the Soup and Salad bar lunch in March- stay tuned for sign up.

**International Festival -** Jeanne Fahey

Sign up is live, announcement published in Willard weekly on February 9th and backpack flyer will go out on 2/13.

**Assemblies/Grade level enrichment- Amy Casher**

Programs are going great. The Acton Discovery Museum was here to visit 1st graders last month for the first time and it went really well. Bash the Trash for second grade and Plimoth Patuxet for third graders both happening this week. 4th graders will be doing a new program- cultivating curiosity.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.*