**PTG Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, 1/9 @ 9:30am | Willard**

***Attendance:*** *Robin Baughman, Meagan MacNutt, Erinn Prebil, Liz Colgan, Amy Casher, Kaitlyn Whittier, Bryn Hilts, Diana Abata, Liz McKneely, Janet King, Jeanne Fahey, Colleen Currier, Matt Lucey, Jon Smith*

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

* *Teachers getting back into routine of school after break. Good energy from kids. Nice to have parents in the building for various things (i.e., composting). Approaching half way day and 100th day. Willard had an all-school assembly right before break. Assemblies committee decided to split school in half and buddy classrooms got to sit together which was well received. Mr. Piper led students in 5 different songs. Students loved it and made the last week before break very special. Assembly tapped into the celebration of light around the world/Winter Solstice.*
* *Despite uptick in Covid in county, Willard has not experienced this luckily. Some increase in flu over past few months; mask wearing normalized.*
* *Getting ready for ALICE Drill on 1/18. Evacuation of the building focused on if we needed to leave the building, how do we do that and where do we go (not active shooter drill). Shelter in Place clarification/example…someone becomes ill as a way to attend to a person’s needs/protect their privacy during situation.*
* *Wednesday afternoons(half days) have various professional development opportunities for staff i.e., CPR training, de-escalation training, progress monitoring (Dibbles, Wilson, Landmark School program etc.), grade level coordination/training as well as cross-building training.*
* *CPS have proposed an operating budget recommendation for ~5% increase. Middle School Building Project is a capital expenditure…different and separate from operating budget.*
* *Focusing on MTSS (Multi-Tiered System Support) and working with DEIB on the impact of explicit language. Each classroom will have a lesson on the impact of harmful words through this program.*
* *School Strategic Planning Committee- In December feedback gathered from families and was shared at larger committee meeting to create new goals.*

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

* *A motion was made to accept prior PTG meeting minutes from Sept-December. Motion was seconded and was unanimously passed.*
* *Spring events-Event chairs have been emailed with a link to their event’s past listing on the website. Need updated information for this year’s events.* 
  + *Family Game Night-**Thank you to Debbie Gilmore for organizing and planning this years FGN. Event will take place on Thursday from 6:30-8PM. Students and families welcome to attend. Prizes for all kids. Need a few volunteers to help during the event with handing out prizes.*
  + *Other upcoming event dates:*

*Willard Spelling Bee | Friday, March 10 | Grades 3-5 | time varies by grade*

*Willard International Festival | Sunday, March 26 | 3-5PM*

*4 committee members currently. Would love to get more families involved. Planning stages; similar to past events*

*Family Math Night | Friday, March 31 | 6-8PM*

*Willard Science Fair | Saturday, April 29 | 1-3PM*

*Willard Spring Fling & Raffle | Sunday, May 21 | 2-4PM*

* + *Quiet space will be provided for the last four events. Due to the nature of Family Game Night, it was not felt that a quiet space would be provided.*
* *School Building Committee Coffee @ Willard, 1/17 @ 9:30am. Families can come learn about the proposed middle school and ask questions of the Building Committee. January 19 is the Special Town Meeting to vote on the project. Childcare available; must register in advance. February 16 is the ballot vote. Mail in ballots available.*
* *OTF Fundraiser this Spring? Will look into this opportunity and felt it would be worthwhile.*

***Treasurer's Report-****Colleen Currier*

* *Revenues: We reached and surpassed Annual Appeal goal. Picture day check just over $1500, School Supplies ($310).*
* *Expenses: Bash the Trash, Flyers for C&S, Teacher reimbursements, Deposit for 5th Grade Pool Parties.*

***PTG Committee/Events/Initiatives***

* *Annual Appeal: Yumi Suarez*
  + *The Annual Appeal has hit its goal, raising $34,423 (give or take a few dollars)!*
  + *The average gift went up from $195 last year to $241 this year, which is what drove the increase in the appeal total over last year.*
  + *The participation rate was 41%, which is the same as last year but below the pre-covid 50% rate. I will think about how we can increase participation next year but if others have ideas, please share!*
  + *Thank you notes with tax receipts to December donors will go out in the next week and I will work on a stewardship piece for all donors to be shared later this year.*
* *Charity & Service Updates-Janet King*

*Toy Drive partnered with CCHS Football incredibly successful. Willard families were incredibly generous! Coat drive collected 192 coats total across schools. $635 generated for Willard in 2022 from Baystate textiles, 78K pounds kept out of landfills from CPS alone. Halfway day: January 23 (Monday). Whole school dress of as half of one thing, half another and bring in .50 to donate to Open Table. In February there will be Valentine’s for Seniors & Souper Bowl.*

* *PTG Funds/ New Initiatives*

*Discussion on ways we can support Willard and its students and families using excess funds. Will follow up on these with Mr. Lucey and follow bylaws process for new program funding.*

*Ideas included:*

* *after-school Book Club funding*
* *Support for Social Emotional Learning pilots (Fly 5, Responsive Classrooms). Schools would be requesting funding for this from the district first;*
* *Professional development for Recess Staff to receive training on intentional recess practices that help students develop and receive support during this important time*

*Meeting adjourned at 10:40AM.*