**Willard PTG Meeting**

**May 9, 2022**

**Attendance**

Liz Colgan, Jon Smith, Robin Baughman, Jamie Ring, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Sarah Schulsinger, Colleen Currier, Janet King, Jeanne Fahey, Tracy DeTora, Amy Casher, Susannah Benner, Emily Lines, Kristen Lester, Heather Outerbridge

**Presidents' Welcome and Recap** - Liz Colgan

Meeting called to order at 9:32am. Breakfast potluck is being planned for CPS administration in combination with district wide PTG’s to be held at Ripley. Volunteerism is down everywhere but would be good to try and engage some new families in PTG activities moving forward. PTG volunteer appreciation party is being planned for June 9th. Mr. Sweeney and the Concord Minutemen have been coming to Willard for many years for an educational event; recently Mr. Sweeney emailed to ask if we might be able to provide a donation for these efforts. This would need to be incorporated into the annual budget- group supports a contribution. Motion to approve donation in the amount of $250 is unanimously passed. Yumi Suarez will be organizing the popsicle party for incoming kindergarten families.

**Principal and Teacher Update**- Jon Smith

Once again, thank you for all PTG does. The staff had a wonderful pot luck luncheon on Thursday- appreciated being able to gather in the teacher’s lounge for a meal and connection with each other. With so many activities starting up again, it’s great to be together and experience some firsts for the younger students who have missed school assemblies, etc.. Really appreciative of the time spent together as a school community. Immigration day coming up for 4th graders- will be a hybrid of indoor and outdoor. Question for Jon related to teacher burnout and attrition which we all are hearing about in the news, etc. Jon described that this issue is really a personal one and teachers are at different stages of life which plays a role in how the past few years have felt for them individually. Bike day was a success- great to see so many kids biking to school!

**PTG Committee Updates**

**International Festival recap** - Jeanne Fahey

By all indications, this year’s event was a success. Approximately 200 kids participated - passports handed out for kids to get stamps at the different countries/cultures. Performances went well- Ukrainian poetry, Irish step dancing, violin performance of a Chinese song, flamenco performance. Food station was a hit- demonstrations and tastings.

Question is raised about when we should hold event next year- traditionally we held it in November. Discussion around fall/late winter versus spring time. Team will consider a calendar meeting to discuss all of the events planned for next year and spacing them out and returning to a more standardized schedule.

**Parent social recap/volunteer party -** Darcy Heintz Perkins

Parent social held Friday night, sold 95 tickets in advance and with some walk ins, 110 tickets total were sold. Quite a crowd- speakers for music, beverages and food were well received. Venue was a big hit - we can discuss this for future parent social events.

Volunteer party in June at Nicole Saia’s house. Please think about folks who have helped out this year that should be included.

**Spring Event Update-** Sarah Schulsinger

All set with event for this Sunday 2-4pm. Ice cream truck and DJ are booked. Fliers have gone out, signage will be made for school, craft will be set up. Decorations are available from PTG (Lawn letters, paper lanterns, clipboards, pens). Will have tickets for ice cream truck and raffle basket tickets will be available for purchase.

**Spring Fling raffle baskets**- Susannah Benner

Sign up genius went out to room parents for volunteers for raffle and will send to the board. Raffle baskets will be previewed this week at school and at school dismissal. Still collecting the raffle baskets but they look great. Tickets are already being purchased online. People will need to interact with the ticket- put their names on the ticket.

**Charity and Service** –Janet King

Please share any ideas with charity@willardptg.org

Final event for the year is the 5th grade service day. Kelly Crowley has really helped to organize- thank you! June 2nd 9:30-12:30; google form will go out this week for kids to select project to participate in and can choose from the following:
Gaining Ground

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Concord Council on Aging/Harvey Wheeler- 2 projects (decorating bulletin boards or flower box plantings)

Buses will transfer students to the activities (or group will walk to rail trail)

**5th Grade Committee**- Robin Baughman

Yearbook in process- going well and on target for publication date. T-shirts have gone out to teachers and will be distributed to students. Thoreau club outing/pool party is all set. Moving on ceremony is in process with teachers working on activities- traditional clap out is back and parents can attend the ceremony. 5th grade parent social is going to be held as well. 5th grade budget is pretty large- discussion around requesting a donation for the yearbook given the cost of printing. Susannah shared that this was actually voted on in March 2019 by PTG board and passed a $25 fee but then everything was shut down due to COVID and was never implemented. Will work to implement this ask in 2023 but given tight timing and fact that communications have already gone out, this year, may try to ask for underwriting of certain aspects of pool party (underwrite the pizza or cake, etc.) to help defray costs.

**Treasurer's Report -**Colleen Currier

Busy month- reimbursement for assemblies, teacher expenses, 5th grade events, parent social ticket proceeds. Colleen will be putting next year’s budget together and will discuss for next year.

**PTG By-Laws**- Liz Colgan

Needed to be updated this year as there is an every three year review requirement. Conflict of interest statements and online meetings/voting were the major changes in this review period. Motion to approve new by-laws made by Liz, seconded by Colleen, unanimously approved.

**General Comments/Questions**

Discussion around room parent communication and the volume of activities we’ve had asks for in a short period of time. Can we establish a calendar not just of activities but of asks to the parent community/each classroom? Robin will put a meeting together related to this and event calendar. Ideas were shared about how to engage more families in volunteerism and the annual appeal.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38pm

**PTG meeting schedule for 2022**

June 6th at 9:30am