

# PAW MEETING NOTES

October 4, 2021

**PAW OFFICERS: Sherri Gallus (President)**

**Amber Rud (Treasurer)**

## A. INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE

1. Attendees: Sherri Gallus, Lizella, Heidi Ness, Amber Rud, Melissa Feeney, Emily Grafing, Molly Penk, Jen Och, Lyndsey Olsen, Sara Martini, Derek Branton
2. Sara Martini presented about Title 1 and family engagement
  - a. Title 1 is a federally funded reform strategy for raising student achievement
  - b. Title 1 funding can be used for all students and staff at Westwood, including parent engagement and staff development
  - c. Parent involvement is a big part in schoolwide Title program, so working hard to get parent support, do training, plan family activities, etc.
  - d. Sara can provide links to MN state standards for language arts and math for anyone interested
  - e. Westwood received a new Wonders reading curriculum this year – similar to previous curriculum but updated version
  - f. Achievement goals for Title
    - i. Increase percentage of students grades 3-5 who meet or exceed MCA reading test from 57% to 63%
    - ii. For math, increase percentage from 60%-66%
      1. Math is District 742 focus this year
  - g. What are we doing?
    - i. Teachers are looking at data to find strengths of each child at Westwood and identify their needs
    - ii. Finishing up STAR reading and math tests to help determine where kids are at and where they need to improve

- h. Studies show that parent/family involvement leads to better homework, better engagement, better grades, greater likelihood of attending college
- i. What can parents do to ensure success?
  - i. Check school communications in take home folders and announcements on SeeSaw
  - ii. Participate in family events
- j. School compact will be coming out this month – brochure for parents with info such as conference dates, family events, etc.
  - i. Student-led Parent Teacher Conferences (In person)
    - 1. Fall (Oct 28 or Nov 4)
    - 2. Spring (Feb 10 or Feb 17)
  - ii. Planned Family Events
    - 1. PAKRAT – parents read with students nightly
    - 2. Math Game Bags distributed at fall conferences
    - 3. Hour of Code – in school and virtual
    - 4. Reading breakfast celebrating One District One Book
    - 5. STEAM night on March 22

#### B. PRINCIPALS REPORT

- a. First month of school going well. Routines and procedures are being established, STAR testing taking place to get baseline of where kids are at. MEA approaching, after that will be parent teacher conferences and then family engagement events.
- b. SeeSaw message - looking for parents/grandparents/aunts/uncles who might be interested in helping in cafeteria during lunchtime, currently shorthanded. Part-time position from 10:30-1:30 each day. Reach out to Mr. Branton if interested.
- c. Kids adapting well and settling back into full-time school
- d. Parent support is greatly appreciated

#### C. TREASURERS REPORT

#### D. UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3. Great Theatre play in a week
  - a. \$4,500 if just Westwood, \$4,000 if all elementary schools in 742
  - b. 5<sup>th</sup> graders only, will perform to all age groups and then to parents
  - c. Sherri applied for Leaf Grant, expecting response by end of month

- d. Central MN Arts board may also be a potential funding source
- 4. Believe Fundraiser October 24<sup>th</sup>-November 8<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Catalog fundraising, purchase online with items shipping to homes
- 5. Shirt fundraiser
  - a. All proceeds benefit Westwood's playground upgrade
    - i. Mr. Branton gave an update on playground status: District came to inspect equipment and will put on "long term maintenance" (next budget cycle, next year). Good chance that District will fund the project and additional fundraising will not be necessary.
- 6. Vote in new members
  - a. Melissa Feeney was voted in as Co-President
  - b. Amber Rud was voted in as Treasurer
  - c. Heidi Ness was voted in as Secretary
  - d. Vice President remains open
  - e. Discussed frequency of meetings – will still do monthly even if there is not a lot to discuss
  - f. Sherri has a to-do list that she will give to Melissa
  - g. Agenda/notes will be sent out via SeeSaw, Facebook, and Website
- 7. Sherri gave an overview of PAW activities in a typical year (this year and last year have been scaled back due to COVID)
  - a. Event to welcome families back (ice cream social, pizza party)
    - i. Culvers has been used in the past – free ice cream but would have to use them again in another event during the year (families would have to pay)
    - ii. Mr. Twisty is another option but has limited hours and can be difficult to book
  - b. Week 2-3 would be Walk A Thon (will happen in Spring this year)
    - i. Kids would have a fundraising envelope to get pledges
    - ii. Kids walk the field, play sports with high school kids, and bounce in bouncy house
  - c. Fall Party
    - i. Kids can dress up if they want
    - ii. Games all over school
    - iii. Performances

- d. Coin Wars
  - i. Each classroom brings in different coins each day of the week, class with highest amount gets a pizza party
  - ii. Generates around \$3,000
- e. Spring Walk A Thon
  - i. Field day activities and games
    - 1. Think about what can kids do outside that would be fun and different than gym
  - ii. Art and music activities
    - 1. Sherri has ideas for art activities
    - 2. Musical chairs/cake walk
    - 3. Possibly something similar to street dance
  - iii. Parent volunteers/student volunteers
  - iv. Prizes will be given out no matter what
- f. Spring Picnic – after school hours for kids and families
  - i. Can be done as a fundraiser – selling pizza
  - ii. Can also just be done as a thank you – everything free
  - iii. Boy scouts may be willing to come and do a food stand also, they will provide the food but all proceeds go to them
  - iv. Carnival games – many still in the closet, 5 Below also has a lot of games
  - v. Popcorn – we have a Popcorn machine, but it is messy, movie theater and Apollo can also possibly do
  - vi. Great to involve high school kids – just need to reach out
  - vii. Can reach out to community in general too for sponsors

#### E. OPEN FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION

- a. Trunk Or Treat
  - i. Mr. Branton will confirm if we can do
  - ii. Planning Oct 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-7
  - iii. Would be set up in parking lot with social distancing considerations
  - iv. Sherri will email Community Ed person to coordinate parking and will also notify photographer

- v. Sherri will create sign-up genius for trunks, candy donations, then will send out flyer and electronically advertise for trick or treaters
  - vi. Jen and Lizella will create a flyer and graphic for advertising
  - vii. Masks optional, costumes must be school appropriate, and no weapons allowed
  - viii. If we run out of candy, there is a stockpile of small prizes that could be given out. We also have a budget of \$1,000 for fall party so could purchase fillers if needed.
  - ix. Looking for ~50 trunks, estimating 100-200 kids
  - x. Scavenger hunt during event could be fun
- b. Field Trips
- i. Can we still do? Unsure, not right now but may change.
  - ii. Last year had to be within the county and only one class per bus
  - iii. Busing is expensive
  - iv. St Johns has been a good destination in the past
  - v. Can no longer ask families to fund field trips, can ask for donation but cannot require

#### F. MEETING ADJOURNERD