

Winterset Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes—DRAFT
November 13, 2012

Present: Janet Temple, Jen Tonapi, Ken Smith, Sara Mudd, Joan Baker, Sara Campbell, Heather Mackling and Amanda Lamberti

- I. **Call to Order**—Joan Baker called the meeting to order at 6:37pm in the Winterset.
- II. **Approval of the October 9, 2012 minutes**—One change was noted regarding the Cookie Dough sale order pick-up date. Motion to approve with this change by Ken Smith, second by Janet Temple.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report**—Janet Temple reported that we’ve had more membership dues come in and we raised \$115.67 from the Election Day Bake Sale. We have not received the check from the Wendy’s restaurant night yet (it should be around \$80). McDonald’s will mail us a single check after all of our restaurant nights with them are complete. Mama Mimi’s on November 11th was successful—10 percent of sales from the whole day went to Winterset PTA.
- IV. **Principal’s Report**—
 - i. Mrs. Tracy announced that since the last PTA meeting the school has hired Emily Coglin for Kindergarten. Winterset now has roughly 20 to 22 students in the kindergarten classrooms. The children have more individual attention and space in the classrooms.
 - ii. The 4th graders are attending the “All That Jazz” concert.
 - iii. Jr. Achievement is going on right now.
 - iv. A test is currently being conducted to identify gifted/talented students for the upper grades.
 - v. Beginning on November 5 and ending on November 16, students in grades 3 and 5 will be given the InView Test of School Ability and students in grade 4 will be given the Terra Nova Test of School Achievement. The tests take approximately 2 to 4 hours and will be given in short segments during this span of time. Mrs. Tracy emphasized that the 4th grade NOVA is very important because it determines students’ math track beginning in 6th grade.
 - vi. The Election Day Bloodmobile was very successful. Thanks to all of the parents (and neighborhood voters) who participated. The Red Cross was very happy with the draw.
 - vii. Camera Club is up and running for 4th and 5th graders.
 - viii. Winterset also hosted Children’s Theater: K-2 watched Cinderella, featuring Mr. Dietry as Prince Charming! Coming up for 3rd–5th grades: The Ugly Duckling.
 - ix. The Cardinal Health Symphony Orchestra will perform for students on November 27 and December 4 at 1:30 pm.
 - x. The Winterset Holiday Concert will take place on December 13 at 7:00 pm. Band and choir will perform.

- xi. MH on Tour (Many Hands on Tour) will perform for Winterset students on December 19. This is a group of students with disabilities who put on an inspiring performance.
- xii. The Ridgeview Orchestra will perform for Winterset students on December 20.

V. Calendar and Committee Updates—

- i. COSI On Wheels: Thanks to PTA volunteers, especially to Heather Mackling, for all of your work on this! We had lots of volunteers, Jen Tonapi took photos and hung them on the bulletin board in the lobby. This was the best year yet, because it was very interactive. All of the kids were working at the various stations. Next year's theme will be ecology. Ms. Burke said it will fit nicely into her curriculum. February is the sign-up for next year.
- ii. Artists in Schools: This year is set up. We don't have anything for February (maybe focus on Black History month as theme?) and/or March. Mrs. Tracy suggested searching Artists in Schools – through GCAC (which acts as a clearing house). Mrs. Tracy wanted to have Children's Theater come in March for a writing (plays) workshop. They choose 15-20 plays that students have written, and they come to the school and have the students act them out. Shannon Reilly – worked with (or her husband has worked with?) Dora the Explorer creators and would be willing to offer students a workshop. Should we start planning March through next year? Mrs. Tracy responded that it wasn't necessary, and suggested that we wait until the annual planning meeting in May or June. Jen offered to help if needed.
- iii. Election Day Bake Sale: We made about \$150. Thoughts for next year: we should have more volunteers in the morning—to sell doughnuts and coffee. Ms. Dobbs and Amanda did a great job organizing this. Thank you!
- iv. Spiritwear – Amanda reported that she has received a big stack of orders. As long as people turn in orders by Thanksgiving, then they'll have their items by Christmas. Joan will add a reminder in her weekly e-mail to parents. We added \$1 per item, so the PTA will make a little profit.
- v. Science Club: Kim Bullinger provided her update via e-mail. They will be starting on Dec. 10. Mr. Bullinger has completed his background check. Other volunteer checks are in progress. Topics for this year will include magnetism, electricity, acids and bases, light and sound. They have experiments for all topics and websites for students to visit and research more on these topics. They were going to keep the club size at 15 (20 absolute maximum, unless more parent volunteers get involved to help). Mrs. Tracy has received several forms to date. This club is offered for 4th and 5th graders this year. If successful and if there's a demand, they will consider expanding next year.
- vi. Membership: Ms. Dobbs continues to make progress on the directory. Amanda is assigning membership numbers to everyone, along with instructions on how to register. Parents will be have access to get coupons from retailers when they register. She's almost done with the flier that will go home in Friday folders.

- vii. Library Grant: Mrs. Segal has been given her budget to buy books.
- viii. Teacher Grants: No new grants have been issued since the October PTA meeting.
- ix. Box Tops/Kroger Cards: Box Tops has raised \$423.10 to date (we budgeted \$1,279 for the entire year. Kroger Card revenues are down—the last report we received indicated that only five people are currently participating. Ken said will send a reminder flier home the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to try to encourage parents to sign their card up before holiday shopping begins.
- x. Restaurant nights: Kim Bullinger has set up a few more for 2013. Mama Mimi's last night. McDonald's was slow. The next McDonald's night is December 17. Jen will look back and evaluate the program participants and make recommendations for next year's program. Bob Evans has been scheduled for January. The February 11 restaurant night at McDonald's will include Ronald McDonald and posters.
- xi. Basketball: No basketball this year.
- xii. School Improvement Committee: Sara Campbell asked about volunteer or contribution opportunities for busy/working parents who maybe don't have time during the school hours. Can they just donate a set amount? The group decided to send home QUARTERLY fliers or postcards to parents with suggested donation amounts (\$25, \$50, \$100) and examples of what their donation will cover. Ken Smith suggested that we tie this to the trees/playground funds. Sara Mudd will create a flier and/or postcards and route to officers for approval. Parents can send to family members to ask for donations possibly in place of Christmas presents (plus end of the year/tax benefits).
- xiii. Winterset Sign: Joan is still working on the sign.
- xiv. Lego League: Diana Marcil was interested. She's just doing a very small program through Mrs. Palmore's class. If it gains momentum, she might consider expanding.
- xv. Read-a-thon: We really need a few volunteers to lead this effort. Other possibilities include having a Math-a-thon concurrently for kids who maybe aren't crazy about reading. What's involved in the Read-a-thon:
 1. Ask for donations from businesses to purchase prizes for kids.
 2. Create a time-tracking sheet/form (we have from past years), also track
 3. In past, we've had contest for t-shirt design with sponsors' logos on the back. We've had a Harry Potter themed one, with two competing houses. (Sara Mudd has all of the files for the printed materials and can share/help if we want to do the Harry Potter theme again. Joan Baker has also chaired. Both are happy to assist.) The top-reading-classroom has passed a trophy around...
- xvi. Spring Fundraiser Ideas: The group decided to wait and look at what we've brought in so far, see if we need another one. Jen made a few suggestions of things she's read or heard about:

1. A book donation/book sale in the gym – maybe during the Fun Fair.
2. Walk-a-thon idea – a fitness type event. We could have the high school band playing while kids walk laps around the school grounds.
3. Family get-together, like a movie night, and sell concessions. Mrs. Tracy said that we would need to get copyrights/permission to show movie. Donation jar (film companies prefer that PTAs don't charge "admission"). Other suggestions included checking with the Carriage Place movie theater to see if they'd let the PTA have a matinee just for Winterset? The group agreed that the focus of some fundraisers should be to bring Winterset families together to connect with each other. Carriage Place theater has \$1 movies at 10 am during the week, at least during the summer.

VI. **Adjournment**—Motion by Jen Tonapi, second by Sara Campbell. The meeting wrapped up at approximately 7:15 pm.

VII. **Next Meeting: December 11, 2012 in the Winterset Library.**