

Wilson PTG Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018

Call to Order – 7:03 pm.

- Josie Dix introduced this year's officers: Josie Dix, President; Katie Glazier; Vice President; Zack Kozel, Treasurer; and Alex Evans, Secretary (Alex and Zack were unable to be present).
- Officer terms are ideally two years, so we are looking for new officers for next year.
- Josie shared thank you notes from the 3 scholarships that were awarded to graduating seniors back in the spring.
- The entry door to the office has been replaced by the PTG at a cost of \$1500. Staff, students, and parents are all very pleased with the upgrade.

June Minutes – Russ Branham motioned to approve the minutes from the June 2018 meeting, Makeesha Stachofsky seconded, there was no discussion, and minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Presented by Josie on behalf of Zack

- Zack proposed carrying over the budget from last year, but there are two items that need further discussion.
 - Funding for Mrs. Padgham's drama program. Last year we donated \$700 to complete her gofundme campaign. She is asking for \$1100. The increase is cover what she actually ended up spending last year.
 - There was a proposal to replace the laminator, which works, but only if it is left on all day. A high-quality replacement will cost up to \$3000.
- Russ Branham moved to approve the budget with an amendment of \$1100 for drama and \$3000 for a laminator. Hilary Kozel seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- Auction funded a gaga pit costing \$2000. With funds, Mrs. Bresson also purchased a basket of playground equipment for each classroom.
- Each classroom received \$1000 from auction funds. Mrs. Fischer has returned her funds, which will go to Ms. Melton.
 - There was a question regarding whether Mrs. Passinetti would receive funds. It was clarified that classes from last year get the money. There was a suggestion that Mrs. Passinetti receive Mr. Krotzer's funds. Josie will ask if he has spent the money. Anything he has purchased will be split between 6th grade classrooms and any unused funds will go to Mrs. Passinetti.
- Each classroom will, again this year, receive up to \$300 (\$4500 total for 15 classrooms) for field trips. Last year only \$750 was used and funds are not carried over. Teachers will also receive \$200 for classroom supplies, as is standard each year.

Family Directory – Hilary Kozel will be working with new parent, Brynn Snyder, to complete by October.

Pizza in the Park – Russ Branham. Fliers are going out tomorrow. Eighteen volunteers will be required, split into 3 shifts. Watch for the Sign-up Genius.

Hospitality – Carly Howarth will be taking over next year.

World Language Program – In need of a new chair. We are planning for fall and winter sessions this school year.

Monster Mash – Our October event. If you are interested in chairing a committee for this event, it will be appreciated.

Art Night – Coming in November. Chaired by Laura Cook-Crotty

Box Tops: Lead by Kristin O'Malley. Keep collecting.

Volunteers Needed – to chair the following initiatives/events/clubs:

- Assemblies and author visits
- Dinners out fundraisers/community events – 3-4 events for the school year.
- Talent show – Courtney Malone volunteered to put together a committee. Could take place in January or March.
- Science fair – Last year was lead by Ms. Passinetti and Ms. Helms. We could use a parent or teacher to help lead this again this year. Ideally it will take place earlier in the year.
- It was discussed that we need to spread out big events through winter and early spring so that time after spring break isn't so heavily loaded. Consider as we plan these events. Book Bingo can take place any time of the year.
- Chess club? We have all the pieces but have never had a club.
- Lego Robotics – A pilot program is slated to begin for 20 1st graders in a couple of weeks. There are \$500 stipends available for any other parents who want to lead more groups. Daryl Gefken and Mr. Sarfino are looking into another class for older kids.
- Anyone have other ideas? If there is something any parent is interested in leading, please let us know.
- Courtney Malone suggested Radical Rick as someone who could do an assembly or after-school program. She will look into it.

Citizens Advisory Committee – Hilary Kozel

Meetings don't begin until next month. We need a new parent to attend and report to our PTG for next year. The meeting is informative and covers information concerning the entire district. Meetings are 2nd Monday of each month from 7 to 8:30 at the Libby Center.

Principal's Report – Tony Ressa

Thank you for the new office door. Thank you for 1st day coffee. Excited for the upcoming building project. Getting more classrooms is a big deal. Turned the time over to Greg Forsyth from Capital Projects Rhonda Williams, School Director.

Building Project – Special guests Greg Forsyth and Rhonda Williams

Josie proposed the idea of a “Phase 2” for Wilson’s building project. We have outgrown our school and, in addition to more classrooms and improved playground, could use things like a bigger gym, stage, bigger kitchen, multi-purpose room, nurse’s office, closing of a street for more space. Josie also requested better communication with the district when changes are made, as we would have suggested a bike rack be placed in the front of the school when the new retaining wall was put in over the summer.

Greg Forsythe, Director of Capital Projects, explained that a bond was passed in 2015, which included an addition to Wilson. Wilson will gain 6 classrooms and a renovated and improved playground. The 2018 bond was approved by the school board in August and will be voted on in November. It is a middle school replacement bond in order to allow 6th graders to move up to middle school, which will allow for gained classroom space and lower class sizes for K-5. It will also add a commons and 9-classroom addition to Lewis and Clark. The money for these bonds has already been assigned, but there is potential to save capital dollars, which could be further assigned. There is no phase 2 for Wilson as of now, and other schools are in need of updates. Bond decisions are made by the school board and Greg’s job is to implement those decisions.

Construction for Wilson is slated to begin in the spring and be completed some time in the 2019/20 school year. Garco Construction is on board as contractor.

Greg opened up the floor for questions. (The following is not a complete transcript, but somewhat condensed and paraphrased for clarity and brevity.)

Hilary Kozel: If a group of people wants to advocate, what would be the suggestion?

Greg: Would first recommend 2018 bond support. Then be involved in the Bond Board and district-wide committees.

Hilary: Did the city decide to put their portion to a vote?

Greg: The city is running a \$78 million bond for public libraries.

Katey Treloar: How would parents have gotten involved when plans were being made? No one seems to know when parents were asked for input.

Greg: The plan was developed 2013/14 and general plans were put on the 2015 bond. That would have been the opportunity to see it.

Katey: There is still time to give feedback and make changes?

Greg: We would love feedback but it needs to happen relatively quickly.

Makeesha Stachofsky: What is timeline for new middle schools?

Greg: The goal is to have them all built by 2024.

Makeesha: Is there flexibility in how former 6th grade classrooms will be used? Whether for additional K-5 classes or other purposes?

Greg: The idea is to gain more classrooms.

Russ Branham: What does it practically look like if a collective group would like a phase 2 and sees that the current plan need to be adjusted to accommodate it?

Greg: To design to a phase 2 that isn't funded or seen is not practical. We do try to think ahead.

Russ: The question is how do we give feedback that could potentially change what is in those designs today?

Greg: You can email me or Tony or fill out comment sheets at the open houses.

Russ: How are those suggestions vetted?

Greg: We look at the budget and the focus of the goal and then make decisions at a district level.

Josie: Do parents come to those meetings?

Greg: Design meetings happen with the school staff and other stakeholders within the district.

Kathleen Lohrmeyer: It doesn't sound like there is any parent participation in the process. As a participant in these meetings over the past year, no plans have been presented to us. We were only shown plans last week and now have a limited time to offer feedback. That doesn't seem like effective communication or transparency.

Greg: We have a design committee headed by Tony that has been meeting since the end of last school year.

Kathleen: Why weren't parents made aware of that meeting so we could provide feedback?

Greg: Staff members are the representatives on those committees.

Rhonda Williams: I don't think parents have been involved in making decisions. The district is starting to see that it's a need. This phase is fairly committed. You need more classrooms so neighborhood kids aren't sent to other schools. A second phase is a fabulous idea, but won't be on the 2018 bond. You probably won't be around to see any of it happen. You will have some input, it just won't be immediate.

Kathleen: This is done, so whatever feedback we have, we're silenced on.

Hilary Kozel: This is a lesson in how parents need to become more engaged. There have been a lot of community meetings and parent turnout is sometimes low. It's our job as taxpayers to learn where tax money goes.

Kathleen: How do I find out about those meetings? How can I participate? The parent and taxpayer voice has been silenced and I may have a different opinion or insight of what will best benefit the students. How is this going to be fixed so that parents are involved?

Rhonda: We have not asked parents until the last 4-5 years. The bond meetings come out in the news and there are invitations. The process is changing now, but we can't go back.

This discussion continued to the conclusion of Rhonda and Greg taking these parent concerns back to the district to advocate for more parent involvement. Kathleen volunteered to be a parent voice in how to better communicate.

Josie returned the discussion to a phase 2 and how and when to get it on a bond.

Greg: 2024, unless there are savings in the 2018 bond.

Courtney Malone suggested holding a separate meeting to hash out ideas before coming to the district.

Monica Bertucci clarified that this bond is about adding classrooms, so any suggestions or feedback need to be focused on the classrooms and the playground.

Josie asked when the project will take place and what the deadline is for submitting feedback. Greg reiterated that the soonest the project will begin is spring break and the soonest it will be complete is Winter break next year. Playground plans have not been completed, so bring comments to us. Next design meeting is October 9.

Josie adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm.