

**MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014**

The PTO meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by President Danielle Scala.

AGENDA ITEMS

WELCOME TO SUPERINTENDENT CRADER

President Scala and Dr. Huss welcomed Superintendent Crader to the PTO meeting and thanked her for attending.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Dr. Huss)

- Dr. Huss provided a report on the results of 2013 NJASK testing, including a review of the performance of Woodland students and the Warren Township School District in comparison to similarly situated districts in New Jersey.
- Dr. Huss also provided some information on the Common Core standards and the transition from the NJASK to Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) testing in 2015. He noted that: (1) there would be pilot PARCC testing in some places this year since the PARCC assessment is completed online; and (2) additional information on PARCC is available at <http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>.
- Dr. Crader and Dr. Huss also spoke about the transition to GO MATH, the data from NJASK results, school performance reports and some of the factors that affect test performance and the interpretation of data.
- Dr. Huss indicated that there would be a presentation on PARCC on March 17, 2014 and additional information could be located on the Board website.

TEACHER LIAISONS (Mrs. Brower)

- Mrs. Brower spoke about GO MATH program and the transition with the higher level of critical thinking skills that the program is teaching.
- She also commented on the students' experience with the Anti-Bullying Assembly presented by Friends Against Bullying.

YOUNG AUTHOR'S DAY (YAD) AND READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY (RAAD) (Danielle Scala/Tracy Mazure-Lefkowitz)

- President Scala commented that this year's RAAD activities were cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Tracy Mazure-Lefkowitz, Chair of YAD, reported that: (1) YAD is scheduled for April 4, 2014; (2) there will be modifications to the school and lunch schedule to allow similar aged children to be grouped together for programs and events; (3) volunteers are still needed; (4) parent readers who volunteered for the cancelled RAAD will be incorporated in YAD classroom activities; and (5) additional details will follow as they become available.
- There will also be discussions about the feasibility of combining RAAD and YAD into a single day event, instead of two days.

DREAM IT – FUND IT (Danielle Scala)

- President Scala reported on recent requests from Mrs. Ronkiewicz for Art Day activities and Ms. Wisher for an IPAD appathon for teacher education on the use of IPADs.
- President Scala talked about the possibility of combining Dream It with Cultural Arts to maximize resources that would be available to the teachers.
- Mrs. Brower indicated that she will let the new teachers know of the availability of Dream It funding.

FIFTH GRADE EVENT (Judy Shanahan/Tracy Dario)

- Judy Shanahan and Tracy Dario are the Chairs and explained that the Fifth Grade Event is a day where all Warren Township 5th grade students from all the elementary schools are given the opportunity to interact with each other at Camp Harmony.
- They reported that: (1) each elementary school has been assigned responsibilities for the event; (2) Woodland has been assigned to coordinate and arrange for food and ice cream. They are looking into obtaining an old fashioned ice cream truck and using Little Shanty as the possible food vendor (pending approval); and (3) there are sufficient volunteers for the event.

ART DAY (Danielle Scala/Cindy Percario)

Art Day is scheduled for April 30, 2014. A number of activities are scheduled during the day for students, and parents may visit from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the evening. Some of the student activities will include still life, a potter and Jackson Pollack. Volunteers are needed and they may sign up on Sign-Up Genius.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS (Danielle Scala)

- *EARTH DAY* is the week of April 22. Noreen Scuderi will coordinate the clean-up and beautification of Woodland. In addition, the 5th Grade typically plants a tree each year.
- *PTO APPRECIATION EVENT* is to be scheduled tentatively at the end of April. The exact date and location will be announced when more details become available.
- *MOVIE NIGHT* is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2014 in the Gym. Despicable Me 2 will be shown and snacks will be offered. Details will be communicated as they become available.
- *TEACHER APPRECIATION* is scheduled for the week of May 5, 2014. Tanya McAusland is coordinating the event. More details will be shared as they become available.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS (Danielle Scala)

- *END OF YEAR SURVEY*: President Scala indicated an end of year survey would be distributed online to solicit input and feedback from parents on a number of topics, including ways to increase parent participation, the scheduling of PTO meetings to improve attendance, and satisfaction with Simply Gourmet
- *DIRECTORY AND MOBILE APP*: President Scala reported that the mobile app was not being widely used and may be discontinued in the future.
- *FUND DRIVE*: President Scala indicated that various fundraising options are being reviewed and asked whether parents would be willing to contribute if projects were specifically identified.
- *SCHOOL SPIRIT CLOTHING*: President Scala reported that Alice Stout and Lisa Wickey will be reviewing items that were ordered during the 2013-2014 school year to assess: (1) what items were popular or unpopular; (2) the efficiency of the ordering process; and (3) suggest changes for next year.
- *BANNERS*: President Scala suggested that the PTO and/or each grade level potentially consider donating vinyl banner(s) to the school to highlight special days/events at Woodland (e.g., First Day of School, 100th Day of School, etc.).
- *WOODLAND FACEBOOK*: There was a proposal to consider creating a Woodland Facebook page to allow the Woodland community to communicate with each other as a way to improve communication and disseminate information.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM