

## MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Prior to the regular PTO Meeting, there was New Parent Orientation, which began at 7:08 PM. At the New Parent Orientation, PTO President Tricia Patricco:

- Introduced the PTO Executive Board
- Provided an overview of the PTO and membership, the forms of support provided by the PTO to the Woodland community; outlined the forms of communication and sources of information from the PTO and the district through e-blasts, teacher websites, the PTO website, PTO's Facebook page with reminders and weekly lost and found updates, the school calendar and new Woodland online directory; and identified events sponsored by the PTO throughout the school year. Encouraged all to JOIN PTO and find places to volunteer throughout the year. Touched on Sign Up Genius & Simply Gourmet.
- Talked about security procedures and process for morning drop off and emphasis on safety and visiting Woodland.

After a brief Q & A the New Parent Orientation concluded at 7:35 PM.

### PTO AGENDA ITEMS

The PTO meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Tricia Patricco.

**MR. HEANEY**—Mr. Heaney welcomed all parents back to Woodland.

- Presented a slideshow about Woodland.
- Talked briefly about our Blue Ribbon status.
- Encouraged parents especially parents of younger students to volunteer and take up the baton as graduating parents leave. Reviewed pick up and drop off rules.
- Briefly mentioned PTO sponsored events: Science Day, International Day, Young Author's Day, Olympic Day, Trunk or Treat, Field Day, Parent vs. Teacher Volleyball game (new this year), and Bingo Night.
- Reminder that kids should dress for the weather as outdoor play is part of recess. Encouraged students to wear sneakers.
- Reminded people not to discipline other people's children, let the teachers handle these issues.
- Advised that there are drills at school for fire, active shooter/lockdown.
- Explained about visitor policies and no "piggybacking" at the entrance.
- Reminded about FERPA—Family Educational Rights & Privacy Acts. Reminded not to post pictures of other kids on social media.

- Reminded about infectious disease concerns and only have the Nurse treat an injured child.
- Reviewed HIB—Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, handled by Mr. Heaney.
- Technology at Woodland—5<sup>th</sup> graders receive Chromebooks for use and bring them home; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders use Chromebooks in the classroom; Kindergarteners, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders use IPADS in the classroom for the daily 3. Warren uses “Go Guardian” software for online safety and internet use.
- Talked about the Sensory Path which is complete and mentioned that the Gaga pit has new mats.
- The library will have a full redesign and will look like the outdoors. Will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period and be done by the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period. Volunteers will be needed and an SUG will be sent.
- 5<sup>th</sup> graders news cast done every morning and can be watched using the link on the Woodland website. Archived every day.
- Student of the Month—one student will be selected per homeroom based on character traits.
- Growth Mindset lessons will begin this Friday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Spirit Days—team jersey day was the first one. Week of Respect will be the week of Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Upcoming items at Woodland: After school clubs will be starting. NJSLA scores will be sent out this week via parent portal.
- Encouraged parents to follow Mr. Heaney on Twitter.
- Thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a great school year.

**MS. PRANZO, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**—Introduced herself and touched briefly on her role at Woodland. Talked about our new theme for this year which is Growth Mindset and activities that will be introduced throughout the year. Talked about Lunch Bunch and the goal to get every student to have lunch with her. Emphasized that her door is always open.

**TEACHER LIAISONS**—Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Rzasa are our PTO liaisons for this year. Mrs. Rzasa thanked the PTO for the back to school staff luncheon. Teachers enjoyed Back to School Night and liked all the books that were donated to the classrooms.

**SEPAG**—Special Education Parent Advisory Group—Paige Jasaitis is our liaison for this group and encouraged parents to contact her or their case manager.

**PTO MEMBERSHIP & FUND DRIVE**—PTO membership is encouraged for all families. PTO sponsors wonderful events like Family Fun Night at the Stirling Hotel, Family Fun Day at Camp Meadowbrook, Bingo Night on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, Mom’s Night Out on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Trunk or Treat on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, Dad’s Night Out in Nov. at a microbrewery in Chatham, Dec. night at A & R workshop, Parent/Teacher Volleyball and Basketball games, Sweetheart Dance on Valentine’s Day. Mentioned the new digital directory available to PTO members via computer or app on phone.

**FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**—Dana Marucci reviewed some of the new fundraising initiatives for this year like a private movie screening at Cinemark in Watchung and Baseball Day at Yankee Stadium. Encouraged parents to come up with any ideas for fundraising.

**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS**—Fall offerings include On the Court Basketball and Bricks for Kids Lego Program.

**SIGN UP GENIUS**—Is used for class party donations.

**SIMPLY GOURMET**—Kim Kardos briefly explained the Simply Gourmet lunch program, including Pizza Day with ice cream on Mondays and Bagel and Smoothie Day every other Friday. October menus are currently available on the Simply Gourmet website. You can follow Simply Gourmet on Facebook or Instagram.

**SPIRITWEAR**—Every Friday is Spirit Day. Students are encouraged to wear their Woodland shirts or maroon.

**SCHOOL CALENDARS/EVENTS**—Tricia reminded everyone of the school calendars which is on the Board of Education Website and the Woodland calendar which is on the Woodland website.

**REMINDERS**—Tricia reminded parents to label all their child's belongings, to send in a paper note if your child is being picked up, to opt in for Amazon Smile and box tops.

**THANK YOU'S**—Thank you's were extended to Stephanie Lindy, Paige Jasaitis and Ashley Abines for organizing the Back to School Teachers Luncheon. To Aideen Stoddard and Sarah Medina for all their efforts with Green Thumb. To Melissa Frega and Sumitra Nicholson for organizing the Book Fair. To Danielle and Adrian Rowell for the wonderful bulletin boards throughout the school.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**—The minutes from the June 7, 2019 PTO Meeting were submitted for approval by Tricia Patricco seconded by Lauren Wishnia and Kim Kardos, voted and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.