



**Wilder PTSA General Membership Meeting**  
**October 14, 2010**  
**Wilder Commons**

- **9:15 Call to Order**
- **Secretary's Report**
  - Minutes
  - Correspondence
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - **Can be found on the Wilder PTSA website ([www.lwsd.org/wilder](http://www.lwsd.org/wilder)) under Board information.**
- **9:25 New Business**
  - **Motion to approve Standing Rules**
    - **The standing rules can be found on the PTSA Website under Board information.**
  - **Motion to approve Goals**
    - **The goals can be found on the PTSA website under Board information.**
  - **Motion to Vote in Nominating Committee**
    - **The 2010-2011 Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending individuals to fill the Executive Committee for next year. Those voted in as part of the Nominating Committee are: Beth Fazio (chair), Stacy McCannon, Joy Arnquist, Becky Spelman, Shelly Torset and Julie Doherty. Please contact them if you or someone you know would be a good fit for next year's Executive Committee.**
  - **Motion to add Movie Night to budget**
    - **Every activity the PTSA undertakes needs to be included in the budget. This activity was added after the budget was approved last Spring and was approved to be added to the 2010-2011 budget with a zero balance (we will spend what we make).**
  - **Motion to add Photography classes to budget**
    - **Photography enrichment classes were approved to be added to the budget with a zero balance.**
  - **Motion to add Credit Card Expense pass-through to budget**
    - **With the addition of online enrichment classes and payments by credit card, we needed a line item to net credit card fees.**

Enrichment class fees were increased by \$5 to cover the fees but each credit card company charges a different fee; therefore we could have small balances (positive or negative) left in the enrichment class line items.

- **Motion to Increase pay for Kinder Chess**
  - **Mr. Alston has requested an increase in pay for kindergarten chess due to an increase in his hourly rate and he is teaching a 45 minute lesson each week rather than 30 minutes. Discussion followed and this motion was tabled until the next GM meeting in February so we could gather more information.**
- **Motion to implement policy for chaperones for enrichment classes**
  - **Our insurance policy requires a PTSA member chaperone at each and every enrichment class. The instructor cannot be that person when they are teaching the class. A motion was made to request an official policy to present to parents. Discussion followed and the policy will be presented at the November BOD meeting for approval.**
- **10:00 Staff Report – Julie Doherty**
  - **The staff is excited to work with the new WeatherBug program. Karen Kroeter will be taking the staff lead on getting the program implanted throughout the grades.**
  - **The staff likes the Special Needs project the team is doing for Disability awareness month. Check out the various important people who have overcome obstacles to get where they are.**
  - **Appreciation for everything PTSA does to support the staff at Wilder.**
- **Principal's Report**
  - **The website for Weatherbug to use at home is [www.achieve.weatherbug.com](http://www.achieve.weatherbug.com). Find Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary and set it as your home site. You will always be able to view the weather at school!**
  - **A new district-funded projector has been installed in the Commons. The projector will eliminate the need for cords to run across the floor during assemblies and Mr. Simmons will be able to sit off to the side rather than in the middle of the room. Mr. R. is excited for the staff to be able to use it for other "public speaking" opportunities in the classroom.**
  - **The aging sound system has not been updated. This is something PTSA may want to consider investing in over the next few years.**
  - **The new Math program is being used throughout the grades. The district provided manipulatives have not been received.**

**The teachers are having to adjust and provide alternatives to using the manipulatives. The Math Content team, along with PTSA rep, Suzanne French, will be discussing how to use approximately \$10K in the restricted math fund to supplement the new curriculum.**

- **Forum Recap/Levy information**
  - **Special thanks to Jason Rothkowitz for organizing the candidates forum on Oct. 12. 85+ parents, staff, community members attended. One candidate mentioned it was the largest attendance they had so far. Thank you to all who came and to the Boy Scouts and 5<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers.**
  - **Please review the district levy information on the Leg website – [www.wilderptsa.org](http://www.wilderptsa.org).**
  - **There are many issues affecting education in the November election. Please make sure to get out and vote!.**
- **10:20 Questions**
- **10:30 Adjourn at 10:45 the meeting adjourned.**

## October Committee Reports

### *Special Needs – Provided by Julie Long*

October is Disability History Awareness Month, so we are planning an inspirational theme for Wilder that will have the following components to it:

- Rainbow Wall in the commons area - Teachers will be asked to spend approximately 15 minutes in class announcing Disability Awareness Month, explaining how we each have both unique gifts and challenges, and having students write a brief statement of what is unique about themselves. Teachers and students will be provided with pre-cut circles that they can write this on and will be given a list of talking points reflecting the legislative curriculum suggestions. We will collect the circles and place them on the rainbow, which will represent the beauty of all our unique attributes combined.
- 20-25 colorful posters - ~ 8x11"ish" size posted around the school by Oct 8th, profiling individuals who have overcome their disabilities to achieve success. These will represent a wide variety of achievements, careers, and disabilities. The theme will be "Look What I Achieved", and will include a photo and brief paragraph describing their achievements and a brief statement on which disability they have. (Examples are Tom Cruise/dyslexia, Michael Phelps/ADHD, Temple Grandin/autism, etc.) There will also be a few plastic type mirrors posted up, w/ the same title theme, for children to imagine their future achievements. We'll take them down at the end of Oct.
- Introductory Poster on main bulletin board by the office stating "October is Disability History Awareness Month. Wilder's theme is "Look What I've Achieved" and showcases famous individuals who have overcome disabilities to achieve great things. We are all unique and can inspire each other!"

We'd like to also talk w/ the librarian to propose that any related books on hand be displayed, perhaps w/ a list for interested students.

Here are a few links regarding Disability History Awareness legislation:

<http://wadisabilitymonth.org/>

[http://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/Disability%20History\\_508%20compliant\\_links.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/Disability%20History_508%20compliant_links.pdf)

<http://disabilityhistoryweek.org/>

<http://onestop.education.jhu.edu/bin/m/z/booksfordham.pdf>

<http://www.loc.gov/disabilityawareness/>

### ***Volunteers – Provided by Silvana Barbieri***

Volunteers Pictures were taken last week for the Committee Chair volunteer board.

Quick recap of OPEN positions on org chart:

- ❖ Wilder Green Team-working on this one
- ❖ Chess Tournament
- ❖ Spring Play
- ❖ Field Maintenance
- ❖ LWSF Ambassador
- ❖ Drug and Alcohol

Committee Chairs and their volunteers recognized this month:

- ❖ Carnival: Carrie Stilwell and Nichole Cilley
- ❖ Health Room: Tamara Goodwin
- ❖ School Beautification: Sara Tschumper and Mary Haynes
- ❖ Vision & Hearing Screening: Deb Benton
- ❖ Birthday Books: Melinda Ellis

### ***Enrichment – Provided by Tracy Ray***

- ❖ We are up and running! We are in the process of working out the teacher stipend which is becoming quite the challenge. We are working with the district to determine the process of paying district employees for leading enrichment classes.
- ❖ None of the classes are full. I have been adding a few new students in Spanish, karate and Chess. We changed the language classes back to sessions, in order to help increase the class sizes. K-1 Spanish is now integrated with Intermediate Spanish.
- ❖ We will be opening up registrations again soon. Probably November and December for the Winter session.
- ❖ We would like to write something up in the school newsletter advertising the new session classes and dates.
- ❖ Online process made everyone's job a lot easier in terms of payment and refunds.
- ❖ Still working on volunteer policy for classes, would like board input.
- ❖ Still need someone to help with Chess tournament!!

### ***WeatherBug***

Is installed!!! Check out the display by the salmon tank to see the current weather conditions at Wilder.

### ***Lake Washington PTA Council Meeting Update - Heather Lund, Co-President, Wilder Elementary***

This past Thursday evening (10/7/10) I attended the council meeting and the main highlight was a presentation by our LWSD Superintendent, Dr. Chip Kimball. He spoke to the council about the overcrowding issues that are facing the school district. He indicated that this year we had 600 more students enroll than last, including 400 more than expected. Currently 21 out of 28 of our elementary schools in the district are over capacity. At current projected levels, total student enrollment will overtake district capacity in the 2012/13 school year. This includes all available permanent classroom space and all portable capacity. The decision has been made to change school configuration and make feeder changes in 2012. These changes will reduce or eliminate the overcrowding issue at 12 elementary schools but will create overcrowding at two high schools. Some additional strategies that the district may implement include: At Elementary schools, continue eliminating specialized classrooms (music, art,

computer labs, etc) and convert to regular classrooms, limit or eliminate full day kindergarten, re-boundary some elementary schools as needed, bus students to less crowded schools. At the High Schools, double shift students at Redmond and Eastlake High Schools, etc.

Currently the district is investigating the possibility of a proposed Levy. Unlike the previous failed bond, a levy would need to be approved by a 50% simple majority. The district is using evaluation data from the failed bond effort and current parent input to determine what dollar amount would be most agreeable to the voters moving forward.

Dr. Kimball provided some great charts/graphics showing the projected capacities at all our schools (very interesting at Wilder and Evergreen). They can be accessed on the district website [www.lwsd.org](http://www.lwsd.org) and I would encourage all of you to take a look and continue to become more informed.

### ***Reading Enrichment/Classic Books – Provided by Jennifer Vince***

- ❖ Classic Book training is complete.
- ❖ All classrooms, grades 1-6, are participating in Classic Books. (not kinder's)
- ❖ Most classrooms have between 5-8 volunteers both for class coordinator and discussion leaders.
- ❖ A couple of classrooms need more volunteers, which I will try to round up.
- ❖ Over the next week, the Classic Books Library will be re-organized and shelves labeled to make book finding easier!
- ❖ I hope to add a few new books to our C.B. library this year. Selections have not yet been made.

On another note, I am missing the Classic Books binder. This binder contains the complete book inventory and sign-out sheets, and our classroom volunteers need this in order to make book selections. Would you mind asking around to see if anyone has borrowed it? I am hoping it was not lost during the installation of the new carpeting.

### ***Leg/Advocacy Update – Provided by Jason Rothkowitz***

There are many issues affecting schools on the November ballot. Please get informed on the issues and vote. Information is available on the Leg site at [www.wilderptsa.org](http://www.wilderptsa.org).

In addition, the district is planning to put a levy on the February ballot. This measure has important implications for Wilder and all schools in the district. The district is trying to address the overcrowding that will occur in the majority of the schools in the district over the next 5 years.

### ***Math Adventures – Provided by Rebecca Lavering***

Math Adventures is fully staffed and up and running in all classes!

September was a busy month for us which consisted of developing the teams, conducting the Orientation training, along with getting all our leaders trained. We have a nice mix of veteran leaders who returned to the program along with several new leaders this year. It's always great to get fresh people and ideas flowing into the program.

Space was a bit of a challenge this year without having the use of Pod 3 ~ Big Woods. We managed by being creative, with some classes being held in the classroom, others in the Commons or Portable 4, and of course our regular pod rooms ~ Plum Creek and Silver Lake.

New this year are the online lesson logs. We are in the process of migrating all of the Math Adventures binder materials into an online fashion. We are starting with Kindergarten and working our way through the grades. It will be a slow process, but a wonderful resource to have when it's all complete.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact the Math Adventures team ~ Michele Miller, Rebecca Laving, and Nancy Lauer.