

Willard Model Elementary PTA
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Nov 15, 2022
6 p.m.

Welcome

The meeting started at 6:05 pm in the school gym and via live stream on the Willard Model PTA 2.0 Facebook page. PTA Vice President Sherry Williams provided the welcome. She then did a Fall Festival recap. She mentioned there were some things we could have done better, but all-in-all it was a great success. Further, the event was successful because of all the great participation and assistance from so many teachers, staff, and parent volunteers: thank you!

Lakewood Garden Club

Additionally, there was a special mention of all the work the Lakewood Garden Club (LWGC) did with the beautification of the school prior to the event, including cleaning up flower beds and the Mermaid, weeding, mulching, and planting new flowers. Further, the LWGC also plans to do some additional work with the kids over the rest of the year, including planting bulbs in the spring, selling flowers for Mother's Day, and ultimately helping the students learn about science.

Raffle

Next, PTA President Patrice Jones came out and welcomed everyone as well. She had the raffle basket that Vice Pres. Williams had put together for the Fall Festival. As things had gotten so busy at the Festival, however, we had not been able to sell tickets and raffle it off. Instead, we decided to hold a drawing for those in attendance during the meeting. (The winner was drawn later during the meeting, and he was the same lucky winner from last meeting's drawing! ☺)

Membership

Pres. Jones talked about currently having 46 PTA memberships (some have 2+ members per membership) and the overall importance of joining the PTA. She talked about how the membership dues help fund expenses for the kids and the teachers, like the Fall Festival and Teacher Appreciation week.

Also, Pres. Jones mentioned that she understands people don't always have the time to volunteer, but money is always needed and welcome and to please consider donating money or supplies if you don't have time.

Financial Report

Next, Pres. Jones shared the financial reports as follows:

Month	Balance	Credits	Debits	Ending Balance
Jan-22	1,485.80	0	662.73	823.07
Aug-22	823.07	205.66 (Membership)	88.25 (Membership)	940.48
September	940.48	708.54 (208.54 Membership and Donations of 500)	451.81 (372.06 Fall Festival and Paper Copies and 79.75 Membership)	1,197.21
October	1,197.21			

Additionally, Pres. Jones talked about how the PTA has been reaching out to community organizations and businesses to either donate to or sponsor the PTA. There may also be instances where PTA funds can help defray the cost of school expenses for the parents.

Someone asked what specific things can be donated to the PTA, and Pres. Jones mentioned paper is helpful, as we need to print out so many flyers.

Fundraiser

Pres. Jones then talked about our main fundraiser coming up for the year; the PTA will be selling Willard Model PTA t-shirts and sweatshirts sometime in January. She talked about how this will help foster a sense of pride in the students. Also, it's something that can be shared with the community. Additionally, for those who can't afford the cost of a shirt, the PTA will help to defray or cover those costs as well. The idea is so every student gets a shirt.

Volunteering

Pres. Jones mentioned volunteers are now allowed back in the school, but you must first go through the online application and vetting process called Raptor on Norfolk Public School's website. When filling out that application, be sure to check all of the different volunteer options you will be willing to fill. Then, make sure to contact the Family Engagement Specialist, Ms. Spruill, once you are ready to volunteer. She will work with you on available opportunities. In addition to doing this, you can also support your children's teachers in other ways as well, so you may contact them directly and ask what help they need.

Information Dissemination

Pres. Jones then mentioned there were flyers available on the table useful for all interested, including on holiday events in Hampton Roads and stress management, particularly as holidays can be a rough time of year for many people. If you are experiencing anxiety or depression, there are steps you can take to get help. Also, Ms. Lee, the school counselor, had wanted to be there but had a prior commitment

There was then a general discussion about the best way for information to be disseminated to the parents. Based on people's preferences, there was a discussion on the merits and downfalls of robocalls, student folders, and ClassTag. Ultimately, everyone has access to information in variety of different ways. Principal Honeycutt added that the school tries to send flyers home on Monday, and if a student has lost their folder, to let their teacher know.

Prin. Honeycutt also talked about how the school offers counseling for students and keeps information confidential, and shares it only a need-to-know basis. Also, if students don't celebrate certain holidays, they are not forced to participate.

As a follow-up question, a PTA member asked about when someone has financial needs, but doesn't celebrate traditional holidays, how do you still help them during the holiday season? Pres. Jones suggested to directly ask the people if their personal beliefs are infringed upon. Ms. Honeycutt also suggested that a person could still have their name included on a list to receive a Thanksgiving basket, Christmas present, etc., but then use the items for something else. Especially as this is the time of year when many resources are donated and distributed.

Prin. Honeycutt lastly talked about the ongoing canned food drive along with the planned events for Friday's 50th day of school.

Pres. Jones then touched on the Lakewood Garden Club's upcoming plans, and she mentioned that the winter sowing will require parents, teachers, and staff to bring in gallon or half-gallon plastic milk jugs. There will be more info and a flyer to go out on that as soon as more info is solidified with the Club. The jugs can be given to a student's teacher then brought to the PTA room.

Closing

Lastly, Pres. Jones mentioned the date of the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, Jan 17, the day after the MLK Jr. Holiday. Also, we are still looking for members to sign up for committees, and we welcome the support. Finally, Pres. Jones mentioned the 2nd and 3rd grade music performance happening on Wed, the 16th, and thanked everyone for coming. The meeting ended at 6:35 pm.