



## PTO Meeting Agenda

January 20, 2015

5:30 PM – Library

1. Welcome
2. Treasurer's Report: Lora Harlin - balance is \$6,881.70
3. Mr. Dunn – Writing Assessment and NAEP – 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade in computer lab in February
4. Report from PTSO Meeting with Dr. Wright –
  - a. Primary focus in all decisions is what is best for ALL students. Not one school, not one circumstance. Dr. Wright is up driving the roads as are Sheriff's Department and other school officials on bad weather days. Decisions are made based on what is reported by all. She wants our community to get out of the "what's best for my student/my school only" competition mind set and let's make sure all of our students/schools/teachers have what they need to succeed.
  - b. Focus across the state is testing/assessments and Common Core. Our student's don't need to stress out!
    - i. Month of February will have a heavy focus on the writing assessment for grades 3 – 12. While important, our students and teachers don't need to stress out. We need to encourage our students to do their best. Teachers have a great idea of where students stand based on benchmark and STAR 360 as well as other formative tests giving better info than writing assessment type tests.
    - ii. NAPE – a national "report" card type tests where random students, random grades, random schools, random districts are tested. Parents are given the option to opt out their student – notices will come home soon Dr. Wright puts very minor emphasis on this as no information is given to schools as to what is tested, reported, how individual students did, or results. It is given across the nation, but not representative of our school district or individual school. Given in grades 4, 8, and 12.
  - c. Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> School Board Work Session – Dr. Wright is leading this work session to help the board visualize and work through two main issues...
    - i. 1 to 1 Digital Devices – There is a 3 year technology plan however it hasn't been fleshed out. Dr. Scott Smith from Morrisville, NC, will be here to share and explain how their digital conversion has impacted their entire county – academically and economically. They have hot spots in the community, rolling buses that are hot spots, and wireless at the school building (allowing parents to bring students back after school and "hang out" in the parking lot to have internet access). Allows for enhanced learning across the board. In the last 2-3 years, a change in capital projects (new construction or renovation) has allowed for technology (digital devices) to be included in the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment budget of projects meaning devices are being funded differently. Watertown benefitted from this. Carroll Oakland will see something with our addition. LSSD is on a 1 to 1 conversion for their middle school students. Cost over 3 years would be \$15 million for a total of 17-18,000 students. She emphasized that technology is a TOOL and the plan would include training so teachers can use it effectively in "blended" classrooms.
    - ii. Growth/Impact on Facilities – over 7,000 plots have been approved around the county including 590 behind Mt. Juliet High and 2,500 at Bel Aire off Beckwith. Visuals and projections of impact on our schools will help put this growth into perspective. The various "odd" zonings like Wilson Central and hole created by LSSD zoning will be used to help see the complexity of school zoning in our county. Dr. Wright was rezoned during her high school career and would never want other students to go through that. As new schools are built, Dr. Wright's plan would be a phase in so students can complete at a high school they begin. Everyone loves their school and has confidence it is best. Her goal is to have all our schools have great educational environments and opportunities so that students WANT to attend a new school when it is built. Again – What is best for the students is the driving force of the decisions. We are not in trouble at this point, but without immediate conversations we probably will be. Our high schools are "at capacity" but there are things that can

be done like staffing (more teachers on rolling carts moving classrooms which utilizes every space during planning periods), awareness, and scheduling. Focus must be on the babies – youngest students to make sure we don't over crowd classrooms. Dr. Wright is taking several commissioners on field trips to schools to help them see the various learning environments and how schools are managing with old buildings.

iii. Vision –

1. Middle School Curriculum Re-write – Dr. Wright was able to get a grant to fund re-writing the middle school curriculum. She is working with a team of middle school teachers so the curriculum is more extensive and better prepares students for high school. The plan is for it to launch in fall 15-16. This research based and using some of what is in place elsewhere. Specifically beginning pre-algebra in 6<sup>th</sup> grade to introduce concepts and Language Arts – mechanics in writing.
2. ACT Scores – working to improve our ACT scores as it is a nationally recognized indicator and ALL juniors are required (by state) to take it once. Predo analysis has been introduced and given to students to help them see areas of weakness. In addition, ACT prep time helps teach students how to take the test. More focus is being given to making sure students have the right math course sequence and right courses. This reinforces what they are learning in class. Improvement in ACT scores helps students receive more/higher scholarships and looks better for those looking to come to our community (businesses and individuals). In addition, skills learned during the ACT prep can translate to other tests and course work.

iv. High school Scheduling – Scheduling is Time Management – she will meet with high school principals on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss next year's schedule plan. She will give them the non-negotiables such as 8 credit hours, minimum of 75 minute class time, fitting in time for RTI (required by state for high school beginning next school year), and teachers maximizing instructional time (make sure they know how to use the full time). Again – she understands what works at one school won't at another due to staffing (ex. Watertown vs. Wilson Central). She wants the principals to come up with what works best for their students first and teachers second.

5. Dr. Wright invite to next meeting – Dr. Wright said she would be glad to come and talk to parents. Do we want to invite her to our next meeting? If so, I'd like to push the time to 6 PM to allow more parents time to get from out of town jobs.

6. Projects/Annual Events:

- a. Winter T-shirts – January long-sleeve/short sleeve option for shirts. Status: Design contest ends this week. Mrs. Veurink will let us know the winner. The new design will be available to order in early January. Kelsey Suddarth is a winner. An additional winner may be announced. \$25 Walmart gift card and free long sleeve t-shirt will be given to each winner.
- b. Valentines Carnation Sale: Send home Wednesday, January 28, due Thursday, February 12. Will fill orders if extras are available on Friday, Feb. 13. Led by Jerilyn Boles. Helpers will be needed the week of to collect orders, cut into strips, tag the flowers, and deliver the day of. Volunteers are needed Feb. 12 in shifts or all day (8:30 – 10:30, 10:30 – 12:30, 12:30 – 2:30)
- c. Fern Sale: March – April Time frame- A co-leader is needed for this event.
- d. Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4-8. Co-leaders to organize the menus and volunteers are needed.
- e. Thought this year – instead of “bars” – simpler menus with big entrees, ask parents to sponsor a teacher for the week/day with donations vs. bunches of small items needed for each day. Could have multiple recipes or use one recipe (ex. 7 layer taco salad, baked spaghetti, breakfast for lunch). Thoughts suggestions...?
- f. Field Day: PTO will work with school staff to host a Field Day and make t-shirts available.
- g. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Give Back Day: In the mid April time frame, we'll see what options there might be and work with on-going construction to find projects. An option might be to assist teachers in packing up and preparing for moves around the building.

7. Funding Requests:
8. Other Business:
  - a. Construction Update:
  - b. Officer Steve day....May end of year thanks from PTO word of mouth and facebook, possibly lunch
  - c. 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation Tuesday after memorial day, at LHS, awards stars to come
  - d. discuss meeting times for next year possibly 6?
9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 5:30 PM