

Highlights of June 5, 2007 Willard PTA Meeting

Upcoming Events:

June 6- Spring Concert
June 7 – Spring Sports Banquet
June 8 – Coffee Chat in Parent Resource Center, 8 am
June 11 – Staff Breakfast in Teachers' Lounge, 8 am
June 11 & 12 – Math Finals (7th & 8th graders)
June 12 – 8th Grade Dinner/Dance, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Theme: Old Glamorous Hollywood
June 13 – 8th Graders to Six Flags; 6th Grade BBQ; 7th Grade Ice Cream Social
June 14 – 7th Grade BBQ
June 14 – 6th Graders to Strawberry Canyon Pool
June 14 – 8th grade Promotion Ceremony at 7 p.m. at Berkeley High
June 15 – Last day of school; 12:20 release time
August 27 – Pick up schedules
August 29 – First day of school

Present: 13 parents and the principal attended the meeting, which followed a lively, well attended welcome session for new parents coming to Willard in the fall.

Minutes from May 15, 2007 PTA meeting were approved with the following addition:

The results of the Board election at the May meeting were: Treasurer Jay Kelekian, Secretary Cindy Romick, and Board Members at Large Hilary Kitka, Susan Butler, Thania Marin, and Fred Huxley. A follow-up election for President, Vice President and other Members at Large will be held in the fall.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Ithurburn noted that things are going well at Willard and that this has been a good year, much improved in many ways compared to last year, although there are still improvements to be made. Overall, there has been a positive shift in the community regarding opinions of Willard, and an increase in the numbers of students applying to the school. Among accomplishments this year: having a stronger sports program, dances for the 7th and 8th graders, return to the overnight camping trips for the 6th graders after a gap of 2 years, and having a sense of more order among the students in general, which makes it possible to do more with the students, rather than focusing on triage. Goals include: continuing to work to decrease achievement gaps, increasing diversity in the honors algebra program, and redesigning the demerit system to be more effective.

There was a round of applause and thanks for Mr. Ithurburn and all his hard work this year on behalf of the students, parents and staff, which is a big part of why things are going so well at the school.

Topics for future discussion for PTA meetings or articles in the newsletter suggested after discussion included: a tutorial on MySpace for parents to learn

more about how students are communicating with each other, and recognizing/dealing with bullies.

Treasurer's Report:

Jay Kelekian presented the PTA financial statement as of May 31, 2007. The good news is our net worth increased slightly over last year (\$1,368) due to excellent fund raising efforts, but our overall spending outpaced our initial budget due to added projects, resulting in a likely \$5,000 to \$5,500 deficit by the end of our fiscal year July 31. However, this is not cause for alarm as our reserves are ample and we would be left with a balance of approximately \$10,500 to move forward with in the fall.

Discussion ensued about additional funding issues. First, four mini-grant projects approved by the PTA were not funded by the School Site Council because, although worthy projects, they were not judged to fulfill the goal of closing the achievement gap of underachieving student groups. Therefore, the PTA would like to fund these projects:

- Requestor: Sonya Martin: Materials and instructors for the African American Cultural Celebration, for all students, \$500 requested
- Requestor: George Rose: Breakfast club for students who need academic support, for 10-12 students per session, \$300 requested
- Requestor: Susanne Jensen: Dairy products for cooking classes, for 260 students including all 6th grade students, \$325 requested
- Requestor: Matt Tsang and Sarah: Materials for building worm bins/benches, for all students, \$400 requested

A motion was made and seconded that: if needed, the PTA will fund the above four mini-grant recommendations (for \$1,525) in the event that receipts are submitted and the District will allow the PTA to use categorical funds for these activities. This motion passed.

Secondly, the PTA is planning to hold a barbecue/picnic in August to welcome new incoming and returning parents to the school. Peg Bogle and Dori Schmidt have graciously agreed to spearhead this effort and have requested funding for supplies and food for the event. While there was agreement that we should try to have the event be as much a potluck as possible, it was proposed that we provide some funds to cover gaps as well.

A motion was made and seconded that the PTA provide up to \$100 for supplies for the summer event to welcome families back to Willard in August. This motion passed.

Finally, there was discussion about a compensation process for teachers who support and advise the student government program at Willard. This would be an issue for the 07-08 school year. The PTA agreed to pursue investigation of how to provide funding for this valuable program.

Summer Meeting Dates:

PTA meeting in August: Tuesday, August 21: 6 to 7 pm will be for questions for Mr. Ithurburn from incoming parents, and the regular PTA meeting will begin at 7 pm.

Beatification Day and BBQ/Picnic: Saturday, August 25: 10 am to 12:30 pm for clean up of the campus and 12:45 until 1:30 or 2 for the BBQ.

Summer Mailing to Families: Judy Ryan and Lisa Sibony kindly agreed to work with Margit Birge on compiling materials for the mailing which needs to be to the District printers by June 25. This will include things like the principal's letter, PTA volunteer interest form, PTA membership form, Directory listing form, etc. We particularly need a Volunteer Coordinator to oversee follow up with volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.
Minutes by Secretary Cindy Romick