Walnut Hills Elementary PTO September 5, 2023

Ways to reach us

- Web https://www.WalnutHillsPTOWaukee.com
- Facebook https://www.facebook.com/WalnutHillsPTO/
- Email PTOWalnutHills@gmail.com

Minutes:

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Minutes Approval – May – were not available.
3. Budget Approval for 23-24 school year – budget approved by group; Jill Purcell called for approval; Cassie Meurer 2nd approval.
4. Principals' Update
   Douglas Barry, new interim principal, introduced himself and chatted a bit about his family. Arlicia Shaw, new assistant principal (shared with Shuler) introduced herself. Doug said that Walnut Hills has 593 students as of that night, but by Friday would have 591 students, as a few are leaving the district. Waukee currently has 10 elementary schools, soon to be 11, when Waterford opens in fall of 2024. We had 29 new students move to the district in grades 1-5 and 72 kindergarteners. October is when we will find out how the new voucher system effects the district and in December the new boundaries to-be announced, that would include Waterford Elementary school. His interim position to-be posted in December and he anticipates they will hire someone by late December/early January.

5. PTO Event Updates

a. Fun Run Oct 11th with rain date of the 12th- Goal is 35K and $75 per child
b. Striders starting on Sept 6th completed during the day over their lunches
2. -1st spirit wear event just closed yesterday
3. -Fall themed classroom party Sept 22nd
4. -Home Sweet Cone for first spirit night out 9/20
5. -Fill out student directory

6. PTO Committee Information – Committees need help, please reach out to volunteer!

   Book Fair- Low to moderate time commitment Spring and Fall. They are responsible for organizing two books fairs a year, in conjunction with Fall and spring Conferences. Work with WHE Librarian, Scholastic, and volunteers to coordinate book fair dates, ordering materials, setup, sale, and tear down.

   Classroom Party/ Parents-High time commitment all year. This committee creates and distributes a sign-up for all classrooms to recruit classroom parents and party volunteers. The committee provides directions and resources to classroom parents, whose responsibilities include creating a class directory, recognizing teachers on their special days, and keeping families informed of PTO and school-related news/activities. Assist teachers by communicating classroom needs and teacher wish lists. This committee also provides party planners with direction regarding activities and games, crafts, and snacks prior to the 3 parties during the year.

Conference Meals-Low to Moderate commitment Fall and Spring. Help plan catered meal for teachers at the conference and put together sign-up genius for treats throughout the conference week.

Fun Run-Moderate time commitment Summer and Fall. This is a committee to plan event along with an extensive team of volunteers that can help just the day of. Coordination of funds for the main school fundraiser. Coordination of community donations of funds, sponsorships, promotional gear, prizes, marketing, and logistics day of. Coordination of student donations and deliver of prizes.

School Supplies-Low to Moderate time commitment in Spring and beginning of Fall. This committee coordinates the orders for prepackaged school supply kits, that were ordered by parents at the end of the school year. Delivery is the following fall to the schools and the committee delivers to respective classrooms.

Spirit Night Out- Low to Moderate time commitment could be all year depending on commitments. Help contact local businesses to partner with WHE for fundraising events. Advertise monthly Spirit night out events.

Spirit Wear- Moderate time commitment mostly Summer and Fall with 2-3 sales throughout the year. Have input and help design Spirit wear for our WHE families to purchase throughout the year.

Striders- Moderate all-year time commitment. This committee coordinates volunteers all year to track student's laps during recess sessions. They put together lap cards, hand out prizes, and engage students during recess! The best part of this committee is being able to participate in the **Grand Blue Mile**.

Teacher Appreciation- Low to Moderate time commitment all year. Help plan gratitude events and monthly gestures to show our Walnut Hills Staff how much we appreciate them!

Yearbook-Low to Moderate all-year time commitment based on committee size and events held. This committee documents the school year with photos from the first day, to field trips, school life, and classroom activities. Then coordinate the book layout and the yearbook provider.

7. Douglas Barry reminded everyone about the petition for the proposed bond; encouraged everyone to sign, if you have not already. He reminded everyone that the Walnut Hills parking lot is on the list for this.
8. Adjournment

Next PTO meeting Tuesday October 3rd!