

John Marshall PTO Meeting

September 7, 2016

Agenda Items:

Principal's Report

- We have had a great start to the school year. The new **safety plan** is going well. There have been many positive comments regarding the changes. Ms. Patterson received a call from a school neighbor on the first day commending the school on the changes as well as how the first day of school traffic was handled. Wausau School District Director of Buildings echoed similar sentiments by stating that of all the schools that made improvements to their drop off procedures this year the changes at John Marshall transitioned the smoothest. Thank you to everyone for observing the signs and following the new drop off and pick up protocol.
- **Imagination Playground** has arrived. The playground was purchased this summer and is ready for the students to use this year. The playground was funded in part by the success of Bingo Night last spring with the rest of the cost being carried by the PTO. We are excited to see how the students will create and enjoy the blocks.
- John Marshall has hired a new **Enrichment Coordinator**, Sandy Wawrzaszek. Sandy's roles will include expanding the G2M programs as well as introducing more Family Fun Nights for the school. She will work to infuse academic ideas into our events. Sandy will also be the volunteer coordinator for the school.
- **Class Dojo**, which was introduced through a few teachers last year, will be used for all classes this year. Class Dojo will provide parents with a way for them to check in on the kids behaviors and activities throughout the day.
- John Marshall now has a **twitter** account. Check it out at @wausaujmarshall
- **Air conditioning** has been added to the cafeteria this year to hopefully make those hot days a little more bearable during lunch.

Communications Secretary

- The PTO is looking for a volunteer to be the Communications Secretary. This person would help with making sure that PTO meetings and other JM events are advertised on social media and other avenues. Things such as sending emails, making flyers or texting reminders could also be used. If you would like to volunteer to help with these communications, please contact PTO President, Sarah Werth at 715-551-7977.

Future Meeting Dates

- Options for future PTO meeting dates were suggested. General consensus was to hold meetings on either the first Monday of the month, or the fourth Monday of the month. Sarah W. was going to check with Jessica P. to see if one day worked better for her than another. A formal decision regarding the date is TBD.

Budget Review

- PTO Budget for school year was presented by Sarah W and was approved by voting members of the PTO. \$1200 expense for the Bouncy Houses is not included in this budget, but is still an option that can be considered later in the year as funds do exist to pay for it.

Non-Profit Status

- Through investigation by Sarah W., we've discovered that John Marshall PTO has an EIN number was set up as a corporation. Evidently, we should be filing tax returns each year, which

we have not, at least for the past 6+ years that Sarah's been involved (and likely not for years preceding that as the Treasurer that handed over the job to Sarah 5 years ago never mentioned anything about taxes. In fact, she told Sarah that we have this old tax number, but that it didn't really mean anything for us and it belonged to a previous incarnation of this group). It would cost approximately \$400 to apply for non-profit status however, no one is sure what all is required by the government to have and maintain this status re: taxes, the need for a board of directors, annual reports, etc. Mariha P. will ask her boyfriend, who is an accountant, if he knows anything about this. If anyone has a connection to a CPA or other individual who understands the law and could advise the PTO on the regulations or how to proceed please contact Sarah Werth at 715-551-7977.

Event Recaps

- John Marshall PTO was represented by Jessica P. and Kellie M. at **Kindergarten orientation**. Approx 15 people signed up for the email list.
- On **open house** night there was also a PTO Table to try to welcome new members. We had a poster of the traffic flow and collected sign-ups for emails.
- **New Traffic Flow** was implemented this school year. Parent and PTO volunteers have been outside before school making sure that drivers are obeying the signs and following the new drop off procedures.

There is to be no drive through of the parking lot to either drop off or pick up students. Children need to be accompanied by an adult to enter the parking lot area.

Neither parents nor kids should be crossing in the middle of the street. Please walk to corners and allow the Safety Patrol members to safely assist you with crossing.

If you plan on getting out of the car, please park in the parking lot. Drop off lanes are for quick "kids jump out" drop offs only.

Texting

- JM PTO is looking for a volunteer to manage the texting reminders. Some suggestions for this were apps such as remind.com or groupme. We would like this to be a portal for one-way communication. PTO would use this to send out meeting reminders or reminders of upcoming events. It is not meant to have messages coming back, strictly push out only. If you would be interested in volunteering to help with this initiative, please contact Sarah Werth at 715-551-7977.

South East Side Group

- The South East Side group had two representatives at this month's PTO meeting. Joan Jackson and Sue Nowak attended in order to bring attention to one of their upcoming events. Run the Runway is a 5K event being held October 1st. The event will incorporate a 5K run, with planes being parked on the runway and a visit from the fire department. This is a first year event with a goal to become a standing tradition in the neighborhood. This is a family friendly walk/run with the proceeds going to renovate Alexander Park. Alexander Park is a neighborhood park adjacent the airport. The group has worked with the city and Becher Hoppe to draw up a plan to revitalize this park and incorporate an airplane theme within the playground equipment. The cost for this event is \$25 per person or a maximum of \$60 per family. If you register before September 14th, you are guaranteed a free t-shirt. Online registration can be done at www.tandhtiming.com. The initial proceeds will go to benefit the park however as this event becomes established, the hope is that future proceeds will go to support improvements and activities for the south east side neighborhood families.

- The south east side group meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at the Wausau airport from 6:30 to 7:30. PTO is a standing item on the agenda at these meetings. All are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events

- The fall **Spiritwear** ordering season is right around the corner. Be looking for information to come home with student representatives in early October. Karissa D. has volunteered to chair this event.
- **Ice Cream Social and Tech Night** is scheduled for Thursday, September 22nd from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This year we are pairing up the annual ice cream social with an information night for parents regarding the new policies and insurance opportunities available concerning the IPAD's. This year the school will have an IPAD for every student and as the year progresses students may be expected to bring them home and use for homework. Parents will go to their children's classroom to watch a five-minute video on the IPAD and then fill out a form either accepting or opting out of insurance coverage for the devices.
 - PTO is looking for volunteers to help serve ice cream and toppings, as the teachers will be in their classrooms answering parent questions regarding the IPAD's. Please contact a member of the PTO or Ms. Patterson if you are interested in assisting with this event.
 - Norah B. will talk with Erica at Kwik-Trip regarding the annual ice cream donation. For the past few years, Kwik-Trip has donated half of the ice cream that is used at this event.
 - Karissa D. has volunteered to chair this event.
- **Fall Fest.** John Marshall will continue the tradition of Fall Fest. Dia T. and Jessica P. will be the co-chairs. The tentative dates for this event are October 15th or October 22nd. More to come soon.