Willow River Parent Group
Meeting Notes
April 20, 2015

15 People Present

Call to Order 6:36

1. Board Reports

Treasurer: Successful Culver’s Night, significant increase in tips

Volunteer Coordinator: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on May 5, Volunteers will be needed for food donations.  Ms. Cameron is looking for parent volunteers for end of the year Willow Walks. She is looking for parents to be at the school when students arrive back from the walk to hand out bracelets and snacks.

2. Community Garden
Willow received a $250 grant from the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Club, to be used toward the construction of the Community Garden, that will be located outside of the 5th Grade classroom doors. Construction will begin this weekend by a local Girl Scout troop. Lumber was donated by ABC Construction, and Bryan and Katie Thoreson will oversee the project, helping the girls to build raised garden beds. The Community Garden will be incorporated into Young Author Day, with the theme based on the school song, “Cultivating”. Mrs. Halvorsen, a Master Gardener, has joined the committee and they have some great ideas to get the garden up and running and coordinating families to help care for the garden during the summer. The beds will be at the school on May 3.

3.  Read-A-Thon
Viewed a Power Point presentation that will be shown to students next week, explaining details of the Read-A-Thon that will be held from May 2-May 15. Theme is Passport to Reading, with 1 minute read equal to 1 mile. Students can choose a “destination” with the goal of reading enough minutes to reach the destination. Mrs. Osterhues and Staff will make nightly phone calls during the Read-A-Thon to 2 students per class, in the attempt to “catch” students reading, (an extra incentive to read) with the children caught reading receiving blue tickets from the office the next morning. The top 2 students from each class (with the most minutes read) will have doughnuts with Mrs. OSterhues. There will be an ice cream party for the class that raises the most money.  It was discussed the possibility of having a family reading night in the gym during the Read-A-Thon.  Jodi is looking for volunteers to stuff envelopes this Friday at the school.

4.  Board Positions Open for 2015-2016
PG is currently looking for VP and PR/Communications positions.  There is an additional need for a Yearbook Coordinator next year. The Yearbook responsibilities can be divided  between a few people, and training will be provided.

5.   End of the Year Picnic-June 3rd
Student Council met and came up with ideas for activities to be held at the End of the Year picnic. Activities will be planned at a later date, but volunteers will be needed. It was suggested to look into having college students, who are looking to fulfill volunteer hours, help with the picnic.

6.  E-Recycling Drive and Fundraiser
Do you have old or unwanted electronics and cell phones? Willow River Girl Scout troop 56444 is holding a Electronics Recycling Drive to raise funds for the new raised garden bed for our school and earn their bronze award. They are accepting small electronics, inkjet cartridges, cell phones, gps units, iPods/MP3 Players, Digital/Video Cameras, iPads/Tablets, eBook Readers, Video Game Consoles/Handhelds, Video Games & Accessories, Calculators.  Each item will help raise money for our project! Drop off items in the box placed near the office beginning April 20th-May 15th.

7.  Ideas for Next Year
Family Playground Nights will be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month this summer on the school playground. Information was given to incoming Kindergarten families in hopes of promoting a sense of community with the new families coming to the school, as well as a way to stay connected with other families throughout the summer.

Website will be updated and redesigned to for the next school year, keeping the bulk of information for parents available in one location.

Upcoming Events:
“Celebrate Difference” 5K Fun Walk/Run, April 25, 9-11
Summer Swim Registration, April 25, 8-11 at HMS
Teacher Appreciation Day, May 5
Late Start, May 7

Next Meeting, May 18

Adjourn 7:14