**Sept. 9, 2014**

**PTO Meeting:**

Meeting opened with Michelle Myers PTO President welcoming everyone to our first official meeting of the new school year.

Members present: Andrea Munoz, Jessie Thomas, Kimberly Probus, Emily Coleman, Dominique Moses, Mr. Bill Conn, Mr. Loren Connell, Tammi Bird, Michelle Myers, Della Carroll, Christy Morgan, Ann Schwarz

VP of Activities Tammi Bird reported on activities PTO sponsored last year which were:

-Breakfast with Santa

-Penny Wars

-2 Teacher Appreciation events

-Popsicles for students grades 3-8 during testing week

-Field Day Activities

Sign-up sheets to set up small groups who will organize these events for this year were passed out. The date for Breakfast with Santa was set this year for Dec. 6.

Treasurer Christy Morgan gave us a report on our current balance for our account which was $600.22. We are still waiting for the paperwork to go through for our incorporation and our tax exempt status.

A Presentation and Q & A on *Standards Based Grading* was then given by WISD Director of Instruction, Mr. Connell.

**New Business:**

PTO is planning to purchase good quality metal pencil sharpeners for the Middle School classrooms.

Michelle listed plans for other events not sponsored by PTO that we have been asked to help with:

-Our help is requested for the first Program Review day of the year which will have an Appalachian theme and take place on Sept. 25. Practical Living needed PTO volunteers to help specifically with loaning supplies such as washboards, clothes pins, etc. Also, needed volunteer help with the lower grades to help supervise the kids as they learn about washing clothes by hand without running water or machines to help.

-PTO volunteers will also be needed to help with this year’s Fall Festival event on Nov. 6 and overseen by our new elementary Dean of Students Ms. Joanna Mahan.

-Michelle brought to the PTO’s attention a parent concern regarding the capacity limit of the classrooms for 5th grade. A motion was made and seconded to discuss the matter. The parent in question had asked the PTO to write a letter to the School Board to address the matter and ask for another teacher to be hired.

-Mr. Conn the teacher present stated that an aide had been hired to help out in both classrooms to help solve the problem of the classes being one student over capacity. Legally this addresses the problem and does not stress the school budget as much as hiring a new teacher would.

-It was determined that as an organization that represents **both** the parents and the teachers of our school that we could not in good conscience take sides in this matter. But we could write a letter of acknowledgement of the issue and our awareness of it. The letter would state that we acknowledge the concern of our 5th grade parents, but also our understanding of the difficult decisions that have to be made on the part of our school by our current board and administration. Such decisions must be in the best interest of all Williamsburg students.

-A motion was made to vote on whether such a letter would be written on behalf of PTO to send to our School Board and Superintendent. The motion carried and a vote was taken that was in favor of our submitting a letter of acknowledgement to the School Board and Mr. Byrd our Superintendent.

Meeting was then Adjourned

**Next Meeting will be October 14, 2014**