**PTA Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday March 6, 2014**

**6:00 PM**

1. **Welcome –** Donna called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. **Principal’s report –** Principal Jo Shirley announced Irwin’s recent designation from the Magnet Schools of America as a “Magnet School of Excellence”. She also shared that Ms. Deming was selected at the Teacher of the Year.
3. **Treasurer’s Report –** Perrin Morse stated that letters will be sent to donors at the end of the Load Up Our Libraries Campaign. The Budget is up to date as of February 2014 with copies available printed and on the website. The budget had been assessed and revised by the Executive Board and Principals based on available funds as of January 2014. Due to snow and make-up days, teacher and staff training funds of $2,000 will be saved for use in the fall of 2014.
4. **VP Maroon (Alan)** 
   1. **Men of Irwin** 
      1. **March Reading initiative** – Teachers are inviting dads to come read on Fridays in March in conjunction with the Load Up Our Libraries Campaign.
      2. **Lunch with Dad** Friday 3/7/14
      3. **Men of Irwin Night Out** Thursday 3/20/14 6:15-10 pm Hickory Tavern Northlake
      4. **Men of Irwin Meeting** Friday 3/28/13 8:45 am
      5. **Spring events –** MOI will have a Spring Clean Up Day to do landscaping and will help organize a school-wide Cookout on Thursday 5/8/14.
      6. **Hospitality -** Staff Breakfasts continue with 1st grade and kindergarten families hosting the next two. Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is being planned and coordinated by Venetia St. Vilus.
   2. **Events**
      1. **Father/Daughter Dance** – everyone had a good time with the “Moments of Praise” a special touch to be produced soon.
      2. **Upcoming events** - include Mother/Son event, Multicultural Night, 5th Grade Celebration.
      3. **Spirit Nights –** wewill have one in March.
5. **VP Gold – Fundraising**
   1. **Load Up Our Libraries Update –** Leah Zanville reported thatclassrooms are leading the charge. Boogie for Books school dance will happen on Friday March 21st to help raise funds as a community. Advanced tickets sales will be designated to the student’s class, while money collected at the door and other income will go to classes that need extra support. Classes and vendors will set up tables to raise money. Once classes raise $1500, books will be ordered and the other $500 will be for carpets and easels.

Balanced Literacy is in full force with Men of Irwin’s reading initiative, increased focus on non-fiction, vocabulary and Caesar’s English. MAP testing will continue to provide feedback with the next testing period coming the end of March and early April. MAP and EOG Parent Information Sessions will take place next Thursday March 13th. Teachers’ Assistants priorities are to give extra academic support in reading with a special emphasis on 3rd graders who are struggling. The role of differentiated teaching and learning was discussed.

There was much discussion about the Achievement Gap including the variety of contributing factors, desire to support parental involvement and goal of working to lessen the gap. The Load Up Our Libraries Campaign will help give tools to improve reading which is one facet contributing to the Achievement Gap.

Company Matching list and procedures have been posted to the PTA website.

* 1. **Spring Raffle** – items are being collected and let Leah know if you have ideas, connections or items for the raffle.
  2. **Summer Stars Program** – has been created with the goal of bringing in money for the PTA’s operating budget at the beginning of the year while encouraging academic engagement over the summer. More to come.

1. **Nominating Committee –** Yolanda Gilliam and Leah Zanville expressed the need for another committee member. Job descriptions will be on the website by March 14th and all are encouraged to consider how they want to get involved next year. Elections are scheduled for May 8th.
2. **Advocacy –** Monique Dedeaux gave an update that NCPTA has a program promoting inviting politicians to school and requested any connections anyone may have to make this happen at Irwin. The Hoot newsletter will have links and information about current advocacy initiatives.
3. **Irwin Community Book Club –** Beth Collins Himes reported that the book club continues to meet with a good mixture of parents and staff. Teachers and many parents are unable to participate due to the time; however, there is potential for future book clubs to accommodate different schedules.
4. **School Survey –** PTA will be distributing a school survey aiming to do so sooner than later in hopes of increased participation and ability to use results in planning for next year.
5. **Approval of Minutes –** the minutes from February’s PTA meeting were reviewed and approved.
6. **Adjournment –** adjourned at 7:07 pm. Minutes recorded by Beth Collins Himes