March 20, 2018
Whittier Elementary School
General PTA Meeting

Number in attendance: 21

Call to meeting 7:03pm

Secretary's Report
- Request to approve minutes, Karrie motioned to approve, Rita seconded

Treasurer's Report
- Spring fundraiser total in - $13,974.55
- Budget will be voted on 5/22 meeting

Kindergarten Guest Speakers
- Changes to K program – teams vs. classes, found two groups that work and made those the classes, flexible seating (no assigned seats while working – ball chairs, bobble stools, reg chairs, rockers) works great! Students making good choices, working hard
- Scientist of the week – prepare experiment at home to present to class
- Dinosaur program – paleontologist visit, dig for fossils
- New theme, dress up each week, built "Seuss towns"
- Basketball unit for March Madness, bracket on wall
- Teachers attended IL ACD Conf.
- Animals unit (Brookfield Zoo trip next month) chick eggs
- May – EXPLORE participation for K students, pirate unit, Mother's Day program
- Any need from PTA? Will ponder...

5th Grade Guest Speakers
- Hands-On, "slavery unit", built slave ship, great hands-on experience, all lessons in the ship
- Thank you to PTA for purchasing the novel "Blood on the River" (from perspective of Jamestown boy, discusses leadership)
- Robert Crown coming up (5/3)
- Finished "Eyes", next Physics of Sound (tuning forks, pitch/volume)
- Mr. K both classes are involving kids more for hands-on, participation vs. teachers standing in front of class, lecturing)

Co-President's Report
- For May meeting vote: nominating committee (Rita, Val, Jenn) nominates Amy Cable and Sarah Bogczyk for VP (accepted), no additional VP candidates stated, Lori Achilles for treasurer (accepted), Rachel Carrero for Secretary (accepted)
- Committee Chair Openings for 2018-19
  - Author Fest, Chess, Family Fun, Hospitality

President's Report
- Spring Fling Fun Day 3/23, Morning Trivia Game Show (Primary/Intermediate split) teacher/staff round, 11-11:30 All School Dance Party, Fun Lunch 12-12:40, All School Assembly
- DI – ALL 5 DI teams advanced to State (State program 3/24)
- Reading Games – thank you to chairs, announced teams, students' names from each team
- PARCC – Dates on website today, 4/4 thru 4/20. Change of necessary % of student participation (95% required). Not teaching to test but teaching to be familiar with the test

Only one test per day (max 2 hrs)  4/5 Parent Update Meeting/Forum 7pm Educational Townhall Meeting @ Lincoln Center

- Kindergarten Round Up 4/13 @ 9am in the gym (new format – stations) 45 students so far are on the interest list

Committee Reports

- Spring Fundraiser – Christie Nutt
  - Despite weather people came out! $8500 before door opening, 160 added to the event, event totals abo $15K, thank you to volunteers
- Jaguar Jog
  - Jeff Paul – Helping to take over from Cindy Maquet, need 12 volunteers, trying to solicit through room parents, village application is in, Sept 16th proposed date for event, In need of: photo booth, DJ, mascot, jr run coordinator, swag/goodie bags, general marketing/social media
  - Discussion on purchasing a jaguar costume vs. renting
  - Little Creperie never paid last year's fee
  - Thank you from VP for stepping up to volunteer
  - In need of (2?) Lg Gatorade jugs, still borrowing them from families that have graduated from Whittier, request to send to presidents for approval
  - Possibly cut corner sponsorship as number of volunteers dwindled
  - Melissa Rausch – can change up since no pressure to fund raise
  - Rita Brezina – experience can bring in $10K, could push for more
  - DJ – just need music outside, not necessary for DJ.  Could use school's stand-alone speakers to bring outside and play music

- WRECK – Matt Butts
  - Recap for this year – 24 students to start, 2 on waitlist, down to 18 by the end of the session. Took over from Paul in January, using LEGO to create robots (teeter totter), final project: spent last 3 weeks in teams of 4 to get robot to follow line, 4/5 had success at the end of the project. Proud of their success.  Proposal to cover 5/6th grade WRECK program as well, hoping for high school program as well.
  - Keep current kits for 3/4th grade, request four new kits for 5/6th grade
  - Need parent/high school volunteers
  - For next year: 12 week sessions, more structure
  - In next few years would like to convert to a First Lego League
  - LEGO program has new objective each year
  - Currently no fee to register, but kits are not cheap, proposal to charge fee to be on a team, will help cover new kit cost
  - Beginning of school year's Ice Cream Social could have booth to introduce to families what the program is about
  - Needs schedule for next year's program (prob 3/4th grade in fall, 5/6th grade in spring)

New Business

- New projects (sign, sound system) still on the wishlist

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm
Minutes scribed by Rachel Carrero.