Whittier PTA
General Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2018

This general meeting of the Whittier PTA took place in the LRC.

There were 14 people in attendance.

Call to meeting at 7:04pm

Secretary's Report

- Motion needed to approve minutes (Michelle Rausch moved, Karrie Donat 2nd)

Guest Speaker Mrs. Krygeris

- Genocide unit (Holocaust and others taught through novels)
- Holocaust museum visit coming up
- On the ½ day school – IL Law Day, Mock Trial (Adapted scripts from real trials) – will have two courtrooms
- Herrick staff meets with students end of May
- Keeping students busy as they're antsy to start middle school
- Sneak preview is in August, parent's night as well
- Parent volunteers for camp: need dads usually more than moms (8-10 needed total)

Treasurer's Report

- Current financial report (spring fundraiser total almost correct at $16k+)
- Proposed budget for next year: NO Jaguar Journal, increase on welcome & support
- Ann Russell request directory app, need possible increase
- Opted out of author's fest (discussion followed regarding the process of author's fest, how we fund -$1500 currently, we are aiming to opt out – we are lumped with South schools and North schools the following year, was told Kelly Coleman stated the Anderson's author fest is somewhat tied to how many books we sell)
- WRECK – Kit support for $1600 initially, but fees will be charged to refund this initial cost (adding 5/6$^{th}$ grade) and hopefully to encourage kids to attend each week (24 3/4th graders, 16 5/6$^{th}$ graders ) currently 5/6$^{th}$ graders do not need previous experience
- Reserves: $63k, Mr. Krugman is hopeful for a new front sign, mats, and sound system (budget line item for "capital projects" - take 3k from this year to put into the capital projects
- Q posed: How is it decided what the district pays for vs what the PTA is responsible for – A: Needs vs. wants usually (if we ask and the district says no, PTA responsible)
- Addie Pampalone: Frustrated concerning how much these requests will cost exactly and why the district won't help cover any of the cost. We have the money, we fundraised, why not pay for one of these?
- Susan Lorenc: thinking the gym improvement is the priority, Adam Hill: wanted to feel fiscally responsible and have two years of reserves before we pay for more big projects (Lori concurred) Michelle Rausch stated two years seems execessive, rolling over 1 ½ years seems too much in a community that's willing to always give, can we do more than $3k) Val Hardy – concerns awhile back about spending everything, needed a buffer, Mrs Krygeris stated we need an outdoor classroom, benches to seat 20-30 kids (esp on hot days) Adam asked how do other schools pay for these (Mrs. K not sure, but do not need to be anything fancy) Susan – we made $19/20k more than we anticipated, but concerns on no Jog the following year and being able to

fund in the future.. Melissa:“why are we hosting experiences, etc. for what?” Usually same families that are engaged donate every year

- Not in bylaws that we need a certain reserve
- Addie: every school is different on their budget
- Melissa Rausch made a motion to add a “capital project” line item for $5k, seconded by John Klemak
  - Belle Aire, Fairmount have outdoor classrooms
  - Needs to be in shady area (north side of school, by trees)
  - Need organized cleanup by green team to clear area for classroom
- Discussion on how much line item should be - “not to exceed” etc, what should the wording be
- Possibly could receive donated items from Home Depot to help create outdoor space
- Matt Butts: “Here is what the PTA is trying to raise money for” needed
- Sarah Bogaczyk: could put together slide show re: what we want to spend money on
- Susan: possible communication issues on what the PTA utilizes funds for
- John Giannelli: prioritize our capital projects
- Val: need to know criteria for what the school should cover vs what the PTA does not cover
- Q posed about Whittier wear, if offerings will be made for Spring. Mentioned that items used to be cuter in the past, what happened?
- Val: Whittier Wear Swap request (Winter wear share)
- Val : need volunteers for last day of school event

President’s Report

- Need committee chairs for Chess, Math and Science Night, Spring Fundraiser, Walking Club, and Young Rembrandts
  - Request by Melissa on should the experiences be attached to an event like the spring fundraiser
- Jenn: nerves with taking over spring fundraiser b/c of pressure to raise a certain amount, struggling to find a chair. Should focus on not putting pressure on the chair
- better to count on experiences vs. pure fundraising
- Request on line items for how much we raise
- Art from classes were impressive this year – discussion on if they should have been auctioned
- May 22nd need 15 for quorum

Committee Reports

Jaguar Jog has volunteer openings (photo booth, DJ, Marketing/social media, sponsorships)
Family Fun – Chipotle May 7th, 4-8pm 50% goes back to Whittier!

Meeting adjourned 8:08pm

Minutes scribed by Rachel Carrero.