PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2015

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on December 8th, 2015, in the Whittier School Learning Resource Center (LRC).

There were 18 people in attendance.

Guest Speaker:

What's Happening in 1st Grade – Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Pawlowski

- Holidays around the world – Hanukka this week, last week was Mexico, students are excited
- Readers Theatres Plays, fluency, expressions, group reading. Four plays from each class

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Amy Ihde requested October 2015 minutes be approved. Jen Mielke put forth a motion and Wendy Carter seconded. Motion was approved

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Balance sheet was presented – any questions, please let Corrine know. She added a snapshot of the cash balance
- As of the October meeting, cash balance is $55,251. Playground, Fun Lunch, Expenses Not Approved but Not Paid, Family Fun has been removed
- Need to incorporate or need to create a constitution. Incorporation is recommended as it limits liability. Board is moving forward to incorporate. The fee to incorporate is $50. We will still be a non-profit. Does not change tax filing.
- Another idea presented where we give money to the district to hold on to.
- Assurity Bond is another avenue to protect personal liability. D and O insurance covers the directors and officer

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- A big thank you to Melissa and the Variety Show team.
- Thanks to Jen Mielke and Denise Lazar for the Book Fair
- Winter Wonderland was wonderful and thanks to those that spearheaded
- Mittens are available, still some remaining, please pass along mittens are available. Please deliver gift with mitten, unwrapped
- Some open positions on the Board in the spring, we need new co-vice presidents, treasurer and secretary. One option is only one president instead of two co-presidents. Nominating committee in January, present candidates in Feb and vote them as active in March. This enables new board members to shadow existing board members to learn rules. If interested, please reach out to existing members
- Another PTA change / idea is to have less meetings through-out the year.
- Regional council meeting – school PTAs are going to have a larger role in the reading games going forward. PTA will be the workhorse behind the event. Staff will still choose books and questions. Volunteers will shadow this year and take over 2016/2017 Jan 6 there will be a meeting at Whittier. Goal is to have volunteers across the district. Thus far, five schools have asked to become involved. Reading Games are 3rd – 8th grade. Two book lists, one for the younger grades, one for the older grades. Teams compete over 3 rounds at the middle school. Teams are 5-8 children. More than 90 teams participate. It sells out within hours of the Web site opening.

Principal's Report:

- Family Math night was very neat. Thanks Wendy. Variety Show gets better and better. Thank you Melissa. Book fair was awesome! Kids were excited, parents were excited, and the sellers were excited
- Two additional wish list items were approved. Mrs. Coleman has requested the Reading Game Books (and book ends to display the items) $617.90. Ms. Lyons requested a $115 rolling double sided dry-erase easel – Rita Brezina moved to approved and motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Variety Show – 800 attendees + 200 students that participated. Thank you for all the support! Belle Aire mentioned that VS is a fundraiser, she suggested using her videographer for a kick back as well as a photographer that would sell prints. Its always been a non-fundraising activity. Budget is $1700 which is offset by break-a-legs. In the past, VS money raised by posters, ads and break-a-leg messages. No one gets a take of the concession stand. We rent the Tivoli for $500. Tivoli makes money from the concession stand. Melissa is looking for someone to shadow her next year. Melissa has been part of it for 5 years. Further discussions included – can VS be a bi-annual event, VS on even numbers of years / alternate years be a play. VS has been a tradition at Whitter annually, part of the culture

Math night – successful night, 20 families attended which is average. Thank you to the parent volunteers and thank you to the teacher volunteers. Michelle and Wendy will chair again next year. Fun Night!

Reflections – 17 total participants, chairs would like to increase involvement. Possibly display artwork in hallway to increase interest. December 9, judging at Herrick

Book Fair – Thank you to Ms. Coleman, gave book talks, helped students create wish lists. Retail sales $8500 which exceeds both fairs last year. $1500 went to in-kind books for the LRC. Relationship with Anderson's is going well. Spring book fair April 25 – 29, April 28 is open house. Please let Jen and Denise if you have any feedback. One comment is more adult books. Invite Kindergarten Round-Up families, include a flyer in Kindergarten packet. If you order online and enter Whittier at check-out, our school gets a 20% kickback

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes scribed by: Amy Ihde

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