PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 2016

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on February 16th, 2016, in the Whittier School Learning Resource Center (LRC).

There were 24 people in attendance.

Guest Speaker:

What's Happening in 5th Grade – Ms. Lyons and Miss Vanacora

- A lot is going on!
- Cow Eyes was a fun unit, the kids love it
- Ms. Lyons class completed their instruments in Q3 and Ms.Vanacora's class is doing instruments in Q4
- Ms. Vanacora is starting poetry, build a slave ship, MSI and Robert Crown field trip. Kids are doing Genius Hour and Junior Achievement

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Amy Ihde requested December 2015 minutes be approved. Rita Brezina put forth a motion and Michelle Hansen seconded. Motion was approved

Playground Presentation

Whittier PTA Playground Initiative: a picture of the playground was presented. Committee has worked closely with NuToys thus far.

Goal is to raise $100,000 over three years. Target installation is 2017.

Some highlights include: 16 swings plus a tire swing – current code
Pea gravel removed

2014/2015 raised approximately $29,486.38. Funds raised through Whittier families, the larger DG community and corporate sponsorship

2015/2016 fundraising efforts included Reach for the Stars and corporate sponsorship.
Brings total to $34,904 as of February 2016

- Projected for the rest of the year:
  - Penny Wars $500
  - Spring Fundraiser $2500
  - World's Finest Chocolate $4500
  - Summer Movie at Tivoli $1000
  - Brings Total to $65,404
  - Need to raise $34,596 in 2016/2017 to reach $100,000 goal (reaching out to Corporate, Alumni, increasing goals from actual activities last year)

In June, the playground will meet again with the school board to review plans.

Need to go to bid in February 2017. Per government regulations, we need three bids from public contractors

Future steps:

- Meet with District 58 to determine if district will provide any support (seeking for district to pay for installation of mulch approximately $10,000 to $15,000) Mulch is not a top priority however there is a seven-year plan to remove peagravel and replace with mulch district-wide. Removal and disposal of pea gravel is a high expense. Boarders are another expense, the quote does not include boarders
- Fall 2016 review plans with NuToys
- January 2017 – prepare final proposal to go to public bid. This is when the PTA should have a definitive dollar amount earmarked for project

Come Spring of 2016, based on projections, we would have $65,000 to go to bid, not the total amount of projected cost equal to $100,000

Proposal:

- Earmark $25,000 from PTA reserves funds for playground initiative
- Hold raffle program in Fall 2016 to raise $10,000 for playground
- Playground Committee worked with PTA Exec Board to ensure Jaguar Jog and Spring Fundraiser chairs and experiences subcommittee chairs are in place
- Options for additional fundraising: Penny Wars, World's Finest Chocolate, Summer Movie
- The Jaguar Jog and Spring Fundraising would go to the Playground Initiative in 2016/2017
- If money goes over the needed $100,000, the overage would go to the PTA general fund. However, if the money raised is from a corporate sponsor or personal donation specifically meant for the playground, we would need their written permission to move the money to the general fund
- Back-Up plan possibilities, install in pieces, especially the climber which is approximately $20,000

Tied into proposal is understanding how does it affect the budget. Corrine Potter, Treasurer, presented the following:

Cash balance $119,240.61 as of 1/31/2016
-35,154.88 less playground fund
-2443.06 less family fund
-19,804.49 less approved expenses not approve
-6763.85 less fun lunch
$56,074.33 Net Available Cash Balance as of 1/31/2016

Base budget was for 2014/2015 $37,500 including teacher wish list.

Historically, Jaguar Jag and Spring Fundraiser bring in conservatively $35,000. Last few years the reserves have been closer to 2 years of operating budget. Moving funds to the playground would bring us down to 1 year of operating budget. Recommendation from Illinois PTA is to have one year of operating expenses.

Previously, fundraising was to raise money for the upcoming year. Then switched to goal oriented fundraising (white boards, guided reading…) Led to a lot of overages with the reserve happened without intention.

Make a motion to earmark up to $25,000 from fundraising efforts in 2016/2017. Pam McGinn would like to make a motion to vote on earmarking $25,000 from the PTA reserve

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Balance sheet was presented s of the January 2016, cash balance is $56,074.33. Playground, Fun Lunch, Expenses Not Approved but Not Paid, Family Fun has been removed
- In 2015, PTA was incorporated. Cost to incorporate was $300 to State of IL, attorney fees and filing fees. We need to complete a tax return for the end of the old entity and submit a tax return for the new entity
- Corrine requested $650 to cover the above costs. Karrie Donat made the motion and Jen Meilke seconded the motion.
- Corrine asked for approval to pay the Variety Show over budget amount of $56.78 – motion approved

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- In process to elect new officers. We need volunteers to be on the nominating committee. One volunteer has to be from the board. Tina Micheals, Jen Mielke and Corrine Potter volunteered, Val Hardy made a motion to approve the committee and Rita approved volunteered
- Shadow Variety Show Committee position has not been filled yet.

Principal's Report:

- Mitten program recipients really appreciated the gifts and Mr. Krugman received written thank-yous which is a first
- General Mills box top drive this week, at the end of the first week, Mr. Swade turned 729 box tops so they won the gift card. Ms. Modine's class collected 300 box tops
- One Book One School continues as Whittier Reads, Ms. Coleman sent information regarding the next theme of Homelessness and Poverty awareness. March 7 will be community project to aid a homeless shelter.
- Kindergarten Round-Up is Friday, April 8 from 9-10. They will know if the OKEEP program will be approved or not
- PARCC testing for 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Changes to PARCC testing, only one testing window March 7 – March 24. There will be 3 sessions of ELA and 3 sessions of Math. Last year there was no penalty for lack of participation. This year, if 97% of students do not participate, there will be a penalty and the school's report card will be dinged. Mr. Krugman has encouraged teachers to include variety into the teaching structure, not necessary only going with a strict curriculum during testing.
- 2/19 – Spirit Day, Fun Lunch
- 2/22-2/26 – PTA Penny Wars
- 2/23 – Grade 5 and 6 Intramurals
- 2/24 – Science Night
- 2/25 – Movie Star Spirit Day, Father Daughter even
- 2/26 – Sprit Day
- 2/29 Leap Day Spirit Day, Family Fun Chipotle
- 3/3 – Fun Lunch
- 3/ 4- No School
- March 7 – March 24 PACC Testing
- 3/7 – WH Reads Family Event
- 3/8 – Harry Potter Day
- 3/9 5th/6th Grade Choir Musical
- 3/10 – Education Foundation 80s Night Fundraiser
- 3/11 Blue and Gold Spirit Day
- 3/12 The Reading Games
- 3/14 Reading Games Board of Education
- 3/15 Intramurals Grade 5th and 6th

Committee Reports:

Family Fun – Thank you to those who attended the Baked Apple and raised $400. Next Family fun night is Chipotle 2/29. Chili's is an option for an entire month of March to raise funds. McTeacher night is 4/12 from 4-7. Teachers will continue as greeters and food runners, but can no longer be behind the counter. McDonald's is also offering a raffle as well. April 9th Family Fun Movie Day 10:00 – children of all ages. End of year family fun event planned at Whitter, more to come.

Playground equipment – Committee has a $600 budget. Kids like the larger balls to bounce on, committee purchased the large, adult sized sitting, bouncy balls love it. The balls have lasted a long time; plan is to buy many more; cost is $18 / ball. Lunch duty is a lot of fun, great chance to watch the kids interact. Currently there are three supervisors at recess, more are needed

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes scribed by: Amy Ihde

February 16, 2016