PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 2015

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on September 15th, 2015, in the Whittier School Learning Resource Center (LRC).

There were 27 people in attendance.

Guest Speaker:

What's Happening in 4th Grade – Ms. Carey and Mr. Miller

- We love our 4th Grade class!
- Math, we are starting multiplication – two and three digit numbers
- Science – solar system and weather
- Social Studies – maps and regions
- Reading – analyzing characters and more challenging vocabulary
- Language Arts – subjects, predicates and clauses. Rules of capitatialization
- Beginning narrative writing

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Amy Ihde requested May 2015 minutes be approved. Val Hardy put forth a motion and it was approved

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Balance sheet was presented
- Audit form was presented

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Community Communication such as Nextdoor. Some community members seem displeased with Whittier and espousing negativity online. Our PTA is asking Whittier families to disengage from Internet trolls, do not respond and remain silent. The goal of Nextdoor is to make a stronger community, not tear a neighborhood apart. Andrea Knudson, the administrator to Nextdoor, provided tips on dealing with inappropriate content. Two options exsist: one, you can flag inappropriate content. Click on a person's name, where you will find an ellipse and hit "mute". If there is a discussion, you can mute it as well. In the upper right hand corner, there is an arrow you can click that says "mute discussion"
- We have had some requests from members of our community, but not part of Whittier school, who have asked to be part of our PTA. They would have access to our directories, school calendar, have a vote, etc. Discussion ensued that while most intentions are good, however, it could be used for nefarious purposes. Val Hardy is going to check with the PTA Council that we have the ability to change our bylines to say something to the effect "PTA is only open to families with current students at Whittier".
- Membership cards will be distributed through backpack mail. We have to send back cards we don't use to avoid being charged.

Principal's Report:

- An offer was made to a neighbor that had concerns with street closures for the Jog. Mr. Krugman and Amy Cable offered to meet with the neighbor to discuss her concerns, but she was not responsiveness. In addition, Debbie Levinthal, offered to reserve a special parking space for her via email and never heard back

- Requested approval for safety patrol field trip which was over the budgeted amount by $666.60 includes balance of bus cost as a thank you for safety patrol. Rita Brezina and Suzy Ennis moved a motion to approve. Due to it being over $500, it will be approved next month
- Wish list was revealed, however, there might be additions. Total amount presented was $7489.95
    - Listening Center (Mrs. Plepel) $200
    - Whiteboard Skins 2 (Mrs. Bartkowiak & Mr. Szuck) $900
    - Electric Pencil Sharpeners 2 (Mrs. Jurinek & Mrs. Modine) $90
    - Kidney bean shaped table (Miss Carey) $300
    - Scholastic Scope Subscription (Mrs. Kygeris) $227.45
    - Digital Camera (Miss Vanacora) $200
    - Dry Erase Easel (Mrs. Jurinek) $225
    - Imagination Journals (1st Grade) $270
    - Wilson Reading Supplemental Materials ($350)
    - Ball Inflator (Mr. Winters) $200
    - Fountas & Pinnell Ready (intermediate) $412.50
    - Water Fountain Water Bottle Fillers – 2)$3600
    - Social Work (SEL) Resource (Mrs. Felker) $515
- More global diverse list than prior years. A couple of teachers have asked for grants from the education foundation. Oct or Nov is when they find out if they get funded. One grant was a little over $500 and one grant over $1000
- Funds raised by the Jog is for the budget, the teacher's wishlist and left over for the playground
- Tina Micheals and Rita Brezina put forth a motion to approve the teacher wishlist
- Squirrel and Longitudinal Reports Parent Meetings Monday Sept 21, Oct 6, Oct 8 and Oct 19
- Map testing results available in Squirrel
- Sept 16 – Picture Day, Walking Club, Gifted Program Cirriculum Night 6:30-7:40
- Sept 18 – Spirit Day Jaguar Jog Flashback Friday, Fun Lunch, VS Rehearsals Begin
- Sept 20 - Jaguar Jog
- Sept 24- Half-Day Student Attendance AM kdg attends, PM kdg no school, 1st – 6th Early Dismissal at 11:40, Staff development in the pm
- Sept 25 – Spirit Day Jaguar Jog Shirt or Neon Colors
- Sept 30 – Kids Council 8:20
- Oct 2 – Whittier Blue and Gold Spirit Day, Fun Lunch
- Oct 5-7 6th Grade Camp Edwards Trip
- Oct 9 – Whittier Blue and Gold Spirit Day
- Oct 12 – No School, Columbus Day
- Oct 13 – No School, Teacher work day, BOE meeting 7pm
- Oct 16 – Whittier Blue and Gold Day, Fun Lunch
- Oct 20 – Draw your Destiny Assemblies, PTA meeting 7:00pm

Committee Reports:

Destination Imagination – Shelly Beavers and Wendy Carter are co-chairing. Information meeting canceled due to lack of interest. Six teams have committed as of now. Competition is March 5th at Hadley Jr. High. Whittier Showcase night will be before the competition to be a practice. Team manager trainings are coming up and chairs will be sending out the dates once available

Reflections – Oct. 30 is deadline. It's a fine arts competition. Mr. Boloneo will be holding workshops, dates are TBD. Theme is "let your imagination fly"

Math and Science Night – Wendy Carter and Michelle Rafacz are co-chairing. Math night is for grades 4th – 6th and is planned for the end of Oct / Beginning of Nov. Science night is for all grades and will take place sometime in Feb. Dates to be solidified soon.

Family Fun – it's a committee that organizes a monthly outing that are easily accessible for the whole family that raise money for a Family Fun activity such as Park Day, Sky High. Val Hardy thanked everyone for attending the Culver night. Anyone interested or if you have an idea that generates a kickback to a non-profit, please let Val Hardy know. If you would like to be on the committee, please attend the meeting Monday night September 21

Directory – Whittier PTA directory contains the entire student body. Paper directory is $5, online directory is free; search capability has improved online and is more mobile friendly. Families need to input their information online under manage my account. Any issues, please contact Andrea Knudson.

Master Piece of the Month – Offered in 1st – 5th Grade. Once a month, a volunteer goes into a classroom with a piece of art and incorporate a craft of discussion. New focus will be on Illinois artist. If interested in volunteering please contact Kristi Maher

Jog is on track and participation numbers very similar to last year.

Language Stars – Denise Llewellyn proposed to dissolve language stars due to lack of interest. Enrollment was six kids last year and six kids this year. Need 10 students per class. If you paid for the class, you will receive a refund.

Market Day was acquired by World's Finest. Market Day is no longer offered

Whittier Wear – sell shirts at packet pick-up at the Jog. Fliers will be handed out with the new merchandise, online sale will start Monday September 21. There are two new T-Shirt designs as well as the traditional shirts offered in previous years

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:
Committee chairs, please take a look at your Web page and ensure it is up-to-date. Any questions, contact Andrea Knudson. In addition Ann Russell will be transitioning to role Web site administrator.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Minutes scribed by: Amy Ihde

September 15, 2015