September 4, 2018

Whittier PTA General Meeting

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

There were 25 people in attendance.

Call to meeting @ 7:03pm

Secretary's Report

Requested approval for 5/23/18 meeting minutes. Karrie Donat motioned to approve, seconded by John Klemak. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

- Shane's rebate application form – extra funds will be absorbed into Angel fund
- Financials report – need motion to approve remaining balance for sound system $2,770.40, motion was approved for $3,000, motion put forth by Amy Idhe, seconded by Christie Nutt, motion passed unanimously

Guest Speakers

- Mrs Gergits – reading specialist – works with K- 6th, depends on their needs. Blue note to go home for F&P reading score, important to take that level with a grain of salt. If child is super interested in a topic they'll be reading at a higher level compared to a topic that they're not as interested in. Impt to give your child independent reading level. Oversees team time in K, LTR **learning to read**, assessing the Kindergarteners. ½ hour every day at their level. 4-5 years ago copied another school's team time. Every skill has a binder that every teacher uses with lessons/activities. PTA has supported many wish list items, and they have gone into wish list bins. 18 skills children can be in, helps them to be successful.
- Mrs. Modine – thank you for time/dedication to all PTA parents, great school community. Introduce Mrs. Langham, working on collaborating every day, we're on the same page. Working hard/accomplished so much in these few days. Reading every day with 3rd graders, set up reader's workshop. Students select their level for independent, being active listeners, "author's purpose" understanding. Persuasive opinions in writing, writing/responding to each text each day, and incorporating grammar. Excited about reading this year. Benchmark reading curriculum. MAP testing curently going on, F&P assessments. Meeting for tomorrow with Mrs. Gergits, seeing what each student's needs are. Growth mindset, instilling in students that they can achieve anything if they put their minds to it, and the power of the word "yes." If they feel frustrated instilling in them to persevere, greatest learning is achieved when making mistake. "Choosing Kind" growth mindset. Reflections on being kind. Impressed with their meaningful responses "be a leader, compassionate, risk taker" Check out our projects in the hallway.
- Mrs. Langham – form positive classroom culture, be kind, respectful, safe. Set their own classroom rules – powerful, fall back on these rules later in the year to reflect. Get to know you activities, team building, classroom meetings every day. Quote of the day. Choose kind reflections. What it means to be kind. Not our classroom as teachers, but teachers/students as community. Helps the kids to know their classroom is theirs.

Mr Krugman: awesome they've been working together for only 3 weeks, great new team, off and running. Thank you Mrs Gergits for EXPLORE.

Team of all specialists and assistants helping to assess in small groups. Last two years – foundation skills/LTR 1st and 2nd grade, then phased out. Foundation skills in Kindergarten. Stage 7 is Kindergarten.

Teacher Wish List – Presented by Mr Krugman

- Mr. K these are not NEEDS but WANTS. District provides small budget, appreciate additional help from the PTA
- Do 6th grade teachers not have requests? A: some of the teachers don't always know what they need, sometimes ask later in the year
- Ms. Sopron is using the ball inflator that was purchased two years ago, and Ms. Maria has to ask to borrow constantly which is why Ms Maria is requesting her own inflator
- motion put forth to approve Wish List by Valerie Hardy, Carla Giannelli seconded. Wish list will sit for 30 days and will be voted on @ next meeting

Co Pres Report

- Thank you for coming! Trying to focus on spreading the word, open the lines of communication. We are always accessible. Goal: to get more people involved. Moving meetings offsite, October 16th Emmett's, no babysitters. Every other meeting will be offsite. Need quorum, hoping this will be enticing to bring more people to the meetings so we can meet quorum and get more involved.
- Evereve event Sept 19th 6-9pm,style assistance, help watch kids while you shop, snacks/beverage. 15% kickback to PTA. No need to shop, just come by anyway. Family members, neighbors welcome. Money made will go to capitol account budget, next project is mats in the Jaguar Jungle, then on to outdoor classroom.
- Open Committees Young Rembrandts might be filled. Chess scholars committee needed to volunteer, 50% discount. Spring Fundraiser may have volunteers
- Reflections at district level need for volunteers or the program will not be available
- Amazon Smile Link – cannot use the app – look up Whittier Elementary School PTA - add to backpack mail?
- Tax exempt letter for volunteers.
- Check out MAVINS new bathroom redo

Principal's Report

- Thank you for coming out tonight
- Awesome clap in on first day, kids enjoyed it, good distraction for that first day, parents tend to hang on till the last min and creates a bit of anxiety
- Choose Kind theme has exploded, been awesome already, when someone feels down they ask to go to the bathroom, now they have positive messages in the bathroom if they go there
- Mrs Modine/Mrs. Langham talked about Reflections – every day I give a reflection, (discussion/theme, will carry over to home).. choose kind t- shrits will be avail for Whittier wear. Fun theme/great message. Being able to teach and work on choices and choosing a positive message..
- EXPLORE was phenomenal, thank you to parent volunteers. Fri 1-6 grades will get the F&P snap shot for a guide.
- Sound system is awesome, thank you! Matt Croft put together video for new bathrooms. So much beter than what we had. Miss Sopron uses the microphone. Mats are in very

poor shape. Hoping through fundraiser and extra projects we can replace some of the mats asap. $10K expected to be needed to fund the mats

- Through strategic plan – parent partnerships and communication and reporting. Affects report cards – now a trimester format. Reasons: with reading series, 9 weeks isn't a long enough time to assess improvement. P/T Conf will be different. No report card to go off of. Conf will be after Columbus Day weekend. Focus on growth charts. Putting final touches on how this will go. No student conferences. 20 min of adult time. May revisit student led piece in Spring. Teachers/parents gave feedback prior to this decision. Oct and Jan will be p/t conf. Focus on learning that is taking place vs just a grade. Trying to improve communication across the district to define a communication tool. Leaning towards seesaw as the tool. Use one tool to see everything for each child vs. multiple platforms. Progress is visible each year, everything stays in seesaw does not get deleted. District is moving toward seesaw. Need consistency.

Committee Reports

Jeff Paul – 105-147 registrations, issue with registrations, last year was 157. To get t shirt must register by Fri. 2 sponsors needed at bronze level. Interested in volunteering – sign up genius to lock into a time slot. Logino family offered to purchase Jaguar mascot costume. 30 volunteers currently, could always use more. Some volunteering is very low commitment. Skuttlebutt's, hot dog/popcorn locked in for after party. Jamba Juice.

Melissa Rausch – experiences provided by families raise $ for PTA. Currently 9 events planned. Continue with online sign up, will not be necessary to attend Jog to sign up for events. Billing will be invoiced to pay through paypal or check. @ Goal for Events but open to more events. Sunday night after race will open for sign up. Registration closes as slots are filled. People are already talking about spring experiences. Moving towards being inclusive, inviting all and not just father/son etc. Focused on student/adult or family.

Rita Brezina running Whittier Wear collection drive – winter wear share. Whittier gear that doesn't fit anymore – bin starting tomorrow for the next three days in the vestibule to collect. Angels will get first pick, then will be open to "purchase" for donation on curriculum night. Need volunteers? Rita says lets see how much we have first, if I need volunteers will advertise on Facebook page. Jeff Paul offered old Jaguar Jog t shirts.

Karrie Donat – Fun Lunch Another flier going out, how to register. Make sure you register for all 7 lunches. Another round in spring. Ordering closes next Wednesday, was incorrectly reported as 9.5. Fun lunch volunteers needed. 11:30-12:30 time commitment. Tables set up, help distribute. Volunteer form is up on the PTA website.

Variety Show date March 9th – more details to come
Reading Games March 16th

Playground/recess committee – choosing to be kind. Coming up with more cooperative games – frisbee golf – working with Miss Sopron to teach them the game before introduced at recess. Cornhole. Miss Maria asked to replenish different balls.
Whittier PTA wesbite – feel free to peruse

Adjourned @ 8:20pm.

Minutes scribed by Rachel Carrero.