PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
May 20th, 2014

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on Tuesday, May 20th, 2014, in the Whittier School gym. There were 29 people in attendance.

Guest Speakers: Mrs. Gergits and Mrs. Krygeris "Goodbye Summer Slide"
http://whittierschoolpta.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Goodbye-Summer-Slide-Presentation.pdf

Mrs. Gergits and Mrs. Krygeris presented ways to avoid the "Summer Slide". For the presentation, please see link above. Some bullet points from the presentation:

1. Structure is important, have a plan to read each day, for example
    - Monday, reading at the library
    - Tuesday, reading at the park
    - Wednesday, reading in your PJs
2. Start a book club for kids
    - Each child can read the same book, then meet to discuss
    - Each child can read a different book and share their thoughts
    - Read a book together then watch the movie
3. Join a Book Game program
    - Meatheads – read 5 books, get a free burger
    - Anderson's Bookshop has a program
    - Downers Grove Library has a program
4. Practice Math Skills
    - Board Games
    - Money
    - Time
5. Practice Writing
    - Send postcards to friends
    - Have a child write a sentence or two after each chapter
6. Most importantly, HAVE FUN and READ DAILY!-

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were approved from April 2014 meeting. Amy Toth moved to approve the minutes and Jane Hagen seconded the motion

TREASURER'S REPORT: The 2014-2015 budget has been approved.

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. The PTA is excited to unveil its new web site www.whittierschoolpta.org

Functionality of the web site includes:

Online PTA registration is available and encouraged. In order to receive the Whittier PTA Weekly, users must be registered on the site. In addition to being able to register online, paper registration is still available as well

- Online directory is compatible with smartphones and tablets
- Volunteer registration for events similar to SignUp Genius

- Electronic invitations similar to Evite
- Order Whittier Wear
- Also a great resource to avoid the summer academic slide with links to reading and math programs

2. The Whittier School PTA Facebook page is another communication vehicle being employed in the coming year. Please search for the page and ask to join! It is a closed group.

3. A motion to approve opening a bank account for possible funds overage from the Jaguar Jog allocated to build a new primary playground was approved. The PTA will work with the school administration on the operating budget and the wish list in order to identify overage funds.

4. Back to School Social is tentatively scheduled for August 22 at 3:00. Allergy friendly popsicles will be served so all can join. Hopefully teachers will be able to take a break and enjoy the treat too!

5. Incoming Kindergarten Playdate is June 4 from 5:30-7:00 at Randall Park. All our welcome to attend and meet our new families.

6. Retirement Party is June 9th from 3:00-3:45 in the Jaguar Jog. Please stop by to say thanks and farewell.

7. The PTA is awaiting quotes for landscaping and clean-up, current budget is $1000

8. There are two open committee chairs:
    a. Green Team
    b. Chess

Committee Reports:

- Teacher Appreciation - Our staff was extremely thankful for Teacher Appreciation Week. The recurring theme from the hand written thank you notes included Teachers and Staff are grateful for the PTA and support the organization provides. The committee prepared a luncheon, breakfast, custom tote bag, flowers and a $35 Target Gift Card.
- Jen Mielke reported the Book Fair profits totaled $866.47
- Jaguar Jog is scheduled for September 28, 2014. First committee meeting is June 4th at 7:00 at Corrine Potter's House, please stop by
- Summer Math packets will be sent home week of June 2nd. Due to construction at the DG library, summer math club worksheets will be exchanged at Hillcrest School.
- Variety Show date has changed to November 15th. The in-school performance is November 7th.
- Family Fun picnic is June 8th from 1:00-4:00 at McCollum Park
- Last Market Day pick-up is June 5th. There will be a raffle for mixed grill.

Principal's Report:

- **Teacher's Wish list** was submitted and being review for 2014-2015
- **Registration** went extremely well with all but a VERY small number registered for next year. Good job families!
- **2014-2015 Fresh Look / Fresh Faces.** The school is getting new carpet and tile this summer. In process to hire new teachers and librarian
- **Two sections of every grade –** NO splits for 2014-2015
- **Last kids council is May 30th** to include a jazz concert
- **Field Day** is June 3rd, pizza will be served
- **Last Day June 11th** early dismissal at 11:40. 6th grade clap-out is at 11:30. Kindergarten last day is June 10th

- **Office closes** June 17th, reopening August 1st.
- **No School Memorial Day**
- **Mr. Swade attended the meeting.** He thanked the PTA for their support. Said it was a great year and is especially proud of the ownership the kids took on for the yearlong animal project.

OLD BUSINESS:
None.

NEW BUSINESS:
None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.