PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2015

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on January 20th, 2015, in the Whittier School gym.

There were 17 people in attendance.

Guest Speaker:

Ms. Lopez – school nurse

- Excludable and Non-Excludable diseases
- Federal regulations and guidelines, States have own health guidelines, then county as well
- When do we need to send people home from school for health reasons?
    - Fever – equal to or over 100
    - Vomiting or diarrhea
    - Suspect bacterial eye infection (itchy eyes w/ drainage = conjunctivitis)
    - Skin infections (impetigo)
    - Undiagnosed rashes
- To come back to school
    - No fever for 24 hours (off medicine)
    - No diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
    - On medication/antibiotic for 24 hours (strep, etc.)
    - Is the child well enough to participate in school activities? (even if fever-free)
- Excludable
    - Influenza
    - Chicken Pox
    - Other
- Non-Excludable
    - Head Lice (infestation)
- Policies and administrations regulations around head lice
    - No exclusion of students for head lice or nits
    - Focus on working with parents/caregivers on prevention and treatment for head lice
        - Families to check hair thoroughly and over time
    - No longer doing class-wide or classroom head checks
    - No notification letters sent home for lice unless there is a "cluster" in a particular classroom
    - Center for Disease Control info:
        - No disease is associated with head lice
        - Lice is transmitted through head to head contact
    - American Academy of Pediatrics statement:
        - "No healthy child should be excluded from or allowed to miss school time because of head lice. No-nit policies for return to school should be abandoned."
        - Head screening programs have not shown significant effect on the incidence of lice
    - Facts:
        - 6-12 million cases of lice infestation each year among children ages 3-11
        - Like dark – so go for longer hair
        - Lice are wingless
        - Cannot live off of the head for more than 1-2 days
        - Live close to scalp and feed on human blood

        - School nurses are often the first to detect head lice or to receive info about head lice based on attendance reports from parent calls
        - Almost anyone can get head lice (not a sign of poor hygiene)
        - Animals don't play a role in spreading head lice
    - Symptoms of head lice:
        - Itching or tickling
        - Difficulty sleeping (lice are more active in the dark)
        - Sores on the head (from scratching)
    - Treatments for lice:
        - Lice-killing shampoos do a good job of killing live bugs, but they often don't take care of the nits
        - Home remedies – mayonnaise and olive oil (not that effective)
        - Prescription treatments – kill greater percentage of nits
        - Product called "Fairy Tales"
            - Natural enzyme in it
            - Special comb
            - Non-toxic so can use as often as want
    - Following a lice infestation:
        - Household members living with someone infested with lice should also be checked
        - Vacuum floor and furniture where infested person sat/lay
        - Launder linens, clothes, hats, towels, etc.
        - Boil combs, brushes, hair clips, etc. or seal tightly in bags until all die
    - Avoid stigmatizing children who are infested, dispel myths, provide information, etc.
    - More info: visit NASN.org

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were approved from November 18, 2014 meeting.

I'd like to put forth a motion to approve the November 2014 minutes

Jen Mielke (Name of first person to make motion)

Melissa Rausch (Name of person that seconded)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Corinne not in attendance so no official report
- Rita shared that checks have been requested/processed in a timely fashion
- A few outstanding teacher wish list items still so current balance is just a snapshot

_____ Include Cash Balance

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Looking for Jaguar Jog chairs for next year
    - Volunteer self
    - Offer up names of people who you think would be a good fit

    - Reminder that the Jaguar Jog or other fall fundraiser is what funds the PTA's operating budget for the year
- Co-VPs for 2015-2016
    - Have candidates
    - Due process – can be a contested election
- Looking for 2 general PTA members to be part of nominating committee
    - Interested? Tell Val, Rita, Deb, or Tiffany
    - Will finalize nominating committee membership at Feb. meeting
- Will share slate at March meeting and then vote on VPs at April meeting
- Hot Lunch program
    - Not replacing Fun Lunch
    - Outside vendors
    - Plan ahead to order one or more days of lunch
        - Anna's Cooking – set menu per day
        - Gourmet Gorilla – options ($5 avg. cost)
        - Smart Lunches – options ($6 avg. entrée; with side and drink could be $8-$10)
    - Do not want to use a program that requires staff resources or significant parent volunteer commitment
    - Discussion:
        - Online ordering
        - Choice of options
        - Flexibility
        - Cost – majority felt $6 per day is the cap on what would be reasonable
        - Minimum purchase per day? Per school per month?
        - Kickback to the school?
        - Ease of access for students (would want to know how lunches would be labeled / how they would find their lunches upon delivery)
        - Allergy concerns?
    - Next steps:
        - Survey of Whittier families to gauge interest
        - Feedback from schools currently using
        - Consider benefits to school

Committee Reports:

Playground

- Committee presented to D58 Board of Education to move forward with a playground and it got approved
- Working on next steps (more to come at Feb. meeting)

Spring Fundraiser "Let's Play for the Playground"

- Backpack insert going home on Jan. 21 with more info about the event and registration (due by Feb. 25)
- Jan. 29 – Spring Fundraiser planning meeting (everyone welcome)
- Solicited donations – if anyone knows anyone who might donate a product or service, let Carrie Grebel know
- Experiences subcommittee meeting – February 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Rita Brezina's house
- Ideas for experiences? Share today!

One Book One School

- Jan. 28 – Skype with author
- Work on Thorne Room dioramas to go in LRC museum walk on Jan. 28
- Sequel to *68 Rooms*
- Around half of students participating as well as many staff!

Science Night

- Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m.
- Want to volunteer to run a station or check people in? Let Debbie Dobrez know.

Green Team

Market Day

Hospitality

Whittier Wear

Teacher Appreciation

Reflections

Variety Show

Fun Lunch

Jaguar Jog

Destination Imagination

WRECK

Book Fair

OTHER Committees:

Principal's Report:

- Teachers are excited about their wish list items (new screen in gym highlighted)
- Map testing – about half-way through
    - Running smoothly
    - Kids prepared
    - Feb. 4 early dismissal – teachers do data analysis on MAP test results and make plans for next trimester
- Kindergarten roundup – Thursday, April 9 @ 1:30
    - Let potential kindergarten families know to contact the Whittier office to get their name on the list
- Kids council – Friday
- District 58 Science Fair – Jan. 24
- Erin's Law presentation by Jessica Stewart at Longfellow
- Book Character Day on Jan. 28
- One book, One school at 6 p.m. on Jan. 28
- Jump rope for heart
- Jan. 29 after school – Winter Wiggle (Student Council in place of Holiday Hop)
- Jan. 30 – Superbowl Spirit Day
- Jan. 30 – Fun Lunch
- Feb. 4 – 11:40 dismissal (PM kindergarten attends, no AM)
- Feb. 9 – BOE meeting at 7 pm
- PT conferences from 5-8 p.m.
- Education Foundation hosting Harlem Wizards at DGS at 6 p.m. on Feb. 15
- Feb. 16 – Presidents' Day – NO SCHOOL

- **What's Happening in 4th Grade – Mr. Miller & Ms. Carey**
  - Solar system studies
  - Field trip coming up to Planetarium
  - Persuasive, narrative, and expository writing all being covered
  - 4-5 paragraphs in essays (formal papers)
  - Fun art/craft projects to correspond with core learning

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Sharon Passero thanked everyone who donated to Toys for Tots
  - School will be receiving a plaque at Kids Council this week

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes scribed by: Valerie Hardy and Debbie Levinthal

Date: January 20, 2015