PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2015

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on March 24th, 2015, in the Whittier School gym.

There were 25 people in attendance.

Guest Speaker:
Mrs. Plepel was unable to attend due to sickness

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were approved from February 2015 meeting.

I'd like to put forth a motion to approve the February 2015 minutes

Amy Toth (Name of first person to make motion)

Addie Pampalone (Name of person that seconded)

TREASURER'S REPORT:
- Unavailable

Include Cash Balance

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
- The PTA thanks the Spring Fundraiser Chairs Carrie Grebel and Michelle Aleksiunas. Great event that the community truly enjoyed.
- Bylaws reviewed to ensure we are acting consistently with its intent and the local PTA. Changed content is highlighted. They are available online. April the changes will be voted upon
- From the District Meeting attended by Val Hardy and Rita Brezina, if interested, families can request a in-district transfer to move to a full-day kindergarten program. It will be approved only if there is available space. The district in not anticipating a lot of open spots. There is no busing for out of school transfers
- To help avoid the summer slide, Indian Trail school if offering summer school as well as an extended school option for special ed students
- Similar to the summer math program, the district is in process for a reading program and is looking for ideas. Ideas include a library hosting a LRC party and online enrichment. Feedback is requested regarding interest.
- The district is allowing students to bring their own ipads to school, must be an Apple product that uses a lightening connector. There is the possibility of kids keeping their ipads over summer
- District 58 is hosting a Fit Fair Thursday evening
- PTA council is starting a special needs PTA for community support. May 13 is an informal meeting
- Next Month is the Volunteer Fair, we are asking the committee chair or a representation to attend from 7:00-7:30
- Jaguar Jog – we have a chair: Amy Cable is spearheading the event

- Fun Lunch will be chaired by Geeta Woods and Shari Manny
- Looking for suggestions on PTA meeting times, does the community think the meetings would be better attended if meetings were held during the day? No babysitting during the day

Committee Reports:

Playground – An up-to-date plan was presented. To frame the initiative, in 2012 a committee was formed to review replacing the primary playground. The committee interviewed 10 companies. The district has approved the idea of a new playground. To help design the playground, the team requested feedback from the stakeholders: student, teachers and school staff. 200 people responded. Top 7 requests were swings, monkey bars, slide, zipline. Current estimate is $100,00 to replace, in comparison, Hillcrest is spending $500,000 on a new playground and Fairmount if refurbishing its playground which will cost 40-50k. The current design includes 16 swings, 1 tire swing, a star rope climber, monkey bars and other enriching activities. 7 schools are looking to replace their playgrounds. The park district, while not involved, has been very helpful. At this time, the committee has received 3 public bids and choose the lowest cost. Its estimated that 40% above equipment will be the labor costs. Please visit the Playground Apparatus on the web site

Spring Fundraiser "Let's Play for the Playground" – Thanked everyone for their support. Estimated $20k+ from the event.

Science Night

Green Team – Phase 1 was clean-up primary side of school, Phase 2 will take place over Spring Break – weed trees will be removed, it cost an addition $65 over budget Carrie Grebel approved motion and Debbie Doberez seconded. Onto Phase 3: the beautification of our school. The green team is asking for $1165.11 to purchase drought tolerant perennials. Amy Toth approved motion and Debbie Doberez seconded motion. Indian Princess offered to help as did 1st grade browning

Market Day

Hospitality

Whittier Wear

Teacher Appreciation

Reflections

Variety Show

Fun Lunch

Jaguar Jog

Destination Imagination

WRECK

Book Fair

Author Fest – book signing at DG library April 17th. 6:30 is a book sale followed by 7:30 signing

OTHER Committees:
Chess

Principal's Report:

- All School Field Trip to DGN was great, kids were on their best behavior. The orchestra did a fantastic job. They played a compliation of Star War, Captain America and patriotic songs. 4 or 5 Whittier Alumni were part of the orchestra. Estimated bus cost at $850, actual cost came in at $1250 due to an additional $400 of conflict costs (peak times for buses) Jen Mielke approved the motion and Carla Gianelli seconded it.

- PARCC is over for grades 3-6. School stayed on schedule, technology was a little shakey at first, lots of trouble shooting
- In May, there will be round 2 of PARCC testing.Greades 3,4, 5 will have two tests and Grade 6 will have 4 tests. MAP, PARC and AIMS all will take place in May. School hopes to have results by June. As soon as the results are received, they will be published. Six students opted out, with 5% of students within the district opting not to take the tests. The number of opt-outs was insignificant in terms of reporting results.
- School website calendar will continue to improve and be updated with events at school. If something is planned last minute, the school will send an email
- The lunch room rules ask that you do not, but do not prohibit, sending cans including soda. Soda is a mess to clean-up. Soda is a treat during fun lunch.
- DI Certificates will be presented at kids council on Thursday
- Friday 3rd quarter ends, its Hawaiian Day and Spring Break begins
- March 8, walking club begins
- March 10, its baseball spirit day, kindergarten round-up and fun lunch
- March 13 is a board of education meeting
- March 15 is walking club
- April 15 is 3 and 4 grade music
- April 16 is Author's Fest, 6th grade has visitors from Herrick, Market Day
- April 17 Author Fest
- April 21 PTA meeting and volunteer fair
- April 22 is walking cluf
- April 23 5th and 6th Herrick Concert
- April 24 is Fun Lunch
- April 28 is Ultimate Frisbee
- April 30 Book Fair, Open House

OLD BUSINESS:
SEL Committee presentation is April 15th at 7:00 for parents of girls in 2nd – 5th grade. This discussion will be held by Sarah Felckner and a Pediatrician to review the changes that occur during puberty. There will be time for questions and answers

NEW BUSINESS:
Nominating committee approved Karrie Donat and Carla Gianelli as VP for next year. April meeting they will be voted in

Creating a Fundraising committee is in review, responsibilities and roles are being defined

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Minutes scribed by: Amy Ihde

Date: April 21, 2015