PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2015

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on April 21st, 2015, in the Whittier School gym.

There were 30 people in attendance.

Guest Speaker:

What's Happening in 6th Grade – Mrs. Krygeris and Mrs. Zagorski

- It's a busy time of year, doing a lot to keep students engaged
- Three field trips are planned in May (thank you PTA for your support!!!)
    - First field trip is to the DuPage Judicial Center in a courtroom for a mock trial about social media
    - To prepare for the field trip, a local attorney visited the 6th grade and gave a presentation on being a lawyer
    - Second field trip is to Robert Crown
    - Third field trip is to the Art Museum
- Per the Illinois standards of education, the 6th grade is learning about Genocide, primarily through reading novels. We encourage you to talk to your student about this heavy topic
- Reading games will be Saturday, March 12, 2016 at O'Neil
    - Currently developing reading list
    - Plan to release three book titles prior to break to motivate reading over summer
- This year has had the highest yearbook sales by at least 50 more yearbooks sold than last year
    - It's a trial year with the company
    - If all goes well, we will use them again
    - Customization page has had positive feedback. If we use the same company, we will give everyone a heads up

Principal's Report:

- Thank you to all that attended the volunteer fair
- We are currently in the 4th quarter with seven weeks left of school. Please register, the sooner families register, the sooner the school can start planning for next year
- Celebrating Earth Week this week and have asked students to pack a waste free lunch. The students also helped to clean-up the playground.
- On Friday, the 1st graders will walk to the park to plant a tree
- Next week starts the end of year testing marathon. Kindergarten – 6th Grades will begin MAP testing. Grades 3-6 will begin PARC testing as well as AIMS web testing. Weeks of May 11th and May 18th will be used as make-ups
- Next week is Open House from 6:00-7:30 which includes the book fair
- Week of May 4th is staff appreciation
- May 11th is Board of Ed Meeting
- May 18th the district is holding a parent tech / assessment and reporting session. There will be an afternoon as well as an evening meeting

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Amy Ihde requested March 2015 minutes be approved during the May 2015 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Primary Playground Project account has been added as a line item. The Teacher's Wish List* has been finalized and will be added to next budget. As of 3/31/05:

- $11,909.26 in the Playground Fund
- $1,227.50 in the Family Fun Fund
- $3,992.28 in the Fun Lunch Fund which will be used to pay vendors every two weeks until year end
- $8,679 of approved 2014-15 budget expenses which haven't been paid out yet
- Leaving $74,635.04 in net available funds.**

**PLEAE note during the meeting, it was noted that Teacher's Wish List items in the 2014-15 budget column on the March 2015 financials was not included, As a result, the amount of approved 2014-15 budget expenses which haven't been paid out yet is actually $14,170.94, not $8,679, resulting in the Net Available Funds reducing to $69,143.10 not $74,635.04.

$69,143 Cash Balance

A motion was put forth to move to approve the budget at the May 2015 meeting as it stands.
Lisa McTigue put forth motion, Karrie Donat seconded motion

Below is the process of how a PTA member can request funding for a project:

1. First the request should be brought to exec to be run by Mr. Krugman if necessary before being addressed at a general PTA meeting
2. Any PTA member can request money from the PTA; it's up to the membership to decide if an activity is to be funded. The executive board is not the gate keepers
3. Request should be brought to the general PTA meeting
4. If it's less than $500, during the meeting, the membership can vote to approve or deny request.
5. If the amount is greater than $500, it has to sit for one month. The next PTA meeting, membership will vote to approve or deny request

Members discussed use of disposal funds, one idea mentioned was replacing the Basketball Nets as well as asking Mr. Winters other ideas he has about improving the gym.

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- The membership voted on slated officers. Karrie Donat and Carla Giannelli to serve as 2015/2016 Vice Presidents/Presidents-Elect. Amy Toth put forth the motion and Lisa McTigue approved
- The 2015/2016 Bylaw Revisions were approved. Jen Mielke put forth the motion and Jill Moran seconded
- At the end of our fiscal year in June, there will be an annual audit. Debbie Doberez is the chair, Jen Mielke, Lisa McTigue will join the committee as will one other PTA member
- On May 13th at 7:00 at Hillcrest the District will hold an information meeting regarding the Special Ed PTA
- McTeacher night at McDonald's is tomorrow, April 22. 10% of sales go back to the family fun budget
- Family Fun is hosting an end of year picnic directly after the end of school on June 5th. More information to come

Committee Reports:

Playground –

- To help track our fundraising goal and build excitement with students, there will be a poster thermometer to measure actual savings vs $100,000 goal.
- Please attend the fundraising strategy meeting on April 29 at 7:00 at the Downers Grove library.
- The playground committee has partnered with Savers to help raise funds. Whittier will receive $0.20 for every pound of donations. Please drop off donations at Whittier before or after school week of May 11. Included in the donation list: gently used clothes, shoes, accessories and linens

Green Team –Phase 3: spending $1605.11 has been approved to beautify which will include purchasing drought tolerant perennials. Jill Moran approved motion and Lisa McTigue seconded

Destination Imagination – Congratulations to the three teams moving onto Globals in Knoxville, TN. 18 Whittier students and their team leaders hope to attend the event. The excitement of winning a spot at Global was palatable amongst the children. Having the children be chosen to compete at Global is a huge since of pride for Whittier, Downers Grove and the state of Illinois.

It's a camp like atmosphere where multi-national companies, such as Disney and Vista Tech, sponsor different events.

The team leaders have asked the PTA to sponsor each child $250. Total cost to the PTA would be $4,500. The cost to attend the event is estimated at $1,000 per person.

Jen Mielke brought forth the motion and Barb Allen seconded

Since the monetary request if over $500, we need to wait until the membership is convened again to approve. The DI event is May 20, in the interest of time, a special meeting will be held to review and approve request. Details forthcoming.

Previously, PTA provided the following support for teams going to Global:

- In 2012, two teams went to global. The PTA gave a total of $500 ($250 / team)
- In 2009, one team consisting of seven students and one parent were given a total of $1,600 ($200 / student and $200 for the parent supervisor)

Membership discussion included:

- Setting precedence's for funding DI teams going forward, especially since more of our population is becoming involved, therefore the number of kids attending Global might increase – what can we afford to fund?
- Spending $4,500 on a small percent of our population is of some concern. For comparison, an enriching STEM in-school field trip for all the student population would cost approximately$3,000
- Comparisons made to playground, even though some members have children that will never benefit from a new playground, parents still choose to support initiative.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Minutes scribed by: Amy Ihde

Date: April 22, 2015