PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2014

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, in the Whittier School gym. There were 28 people in attendance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were approved from January 2014 meeting. Dwindling attendance was discussed to find out why people do/do not attend. General consensus was that the information distributed regularly in the Whittier Weekly has them informed of regular PTA happenings. When there is a special need for attendance (i.e. vote needed), then more people come. People also said a Parent Ed element like we will do in March will draw them to the meetings. Discussion of whether there is a need for a meeting every month.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's report was distributed.

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Vote taken to approve the purchase of three wireless microphones. Passed.
- Nominating Committee Update: Jen Mielke announced the current people running for the 2014-2015 PTA Executive Board.
    - Co-Vice Presidents – Debbie Levinthal and Tiffany Kuelthau
    - Treasurer – Corinne Potter
    - Secretary – Amy Ihde
- Website upgrade. Co-VP's, Rita Brezina and Val Hardy, proposed we move forward with the new platform for the PTA website. There is a one-time fee of $1,000 - $1,200, and a fee of $100-150/year. We are currently paying $250/year for less functionality. Discussion of keeping paper options available for those who don't have internet or printing capabilities. Motion passed to move forward with the new site.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- There is a traffic study being done for the Grand/Hill intersection to see if a crossing guard is warranted. Crossing guards are employed by the village and it can take 5 years to get one. There are no more safety patrol students running that crosswalk, so teachers have been out there helping kids cross safely. They are looking at possible drop off areas on Grand and Blodgett. More information is coming.
- The teachers are coming up with experiences to be auctioned at the Beverage Bonanza.
- This summer there will be ventilation upgrades in the gym (not air conditioning), and halls and classrooms will be tiled.
- School Calendar:
    - 2/20 3rd/4th grade music program 9:00 a.m.
    - 2/21 variety show practice
    - 2/26 dental hygiene presentation
    - 2/28 no school – teacher institute day
    - 3/3 no school – Pulaski Day
    - 3/4 - 3/14 ISAT testing for 3rd-6th grades. Grades 3, 5, 6 do reading and math. Grade 4 does reading, math, and science. This is the last year for ISATs. Next year they will do PARC testing.
    - 3/6 DG58 Fitness Fair. Teachers will wear fitness gear on 3/5 and 3/6 to promote.
    - 3/7 variety show tech rehearsal
    - 3/14 variety show matinee for students and staff only
    - DGN Music performance all school field trip (buses paid for by PTA, thank you)
    - 3/22 variety show at the Tivoli

- What's Happening in 5th Grade: Mrs. Lyons and Miss Vanacora told us about what's happening in their classrooms.
    - The next edition of the Jaguar Journal will feature third grade contributions working with the fifth graders.
    - Both classes went to see the performance Frindle as a class field trip.
    - They dissected cow eyes and had lots of parent participation.
    - They will make musical instruments this spring.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Playground Committee**: Pamela McGinn, Carrie Grebel, and Melissa Rausch presented three potential primary playground equipment layouts ranging in cost from $63,500 to $97,500 from vendor NuToys. They vetted several companies and this was the best quality and price. The project can be done in phases if financing allows. It includes new equipment and replacing the pebbles with mulch. It was suggested we start fundraising goals to accomplish this as soon as possible, and collect corporate sponsors and private donations. It is too late to gear the Beverage Bonanza toward this fundraising goal, but extra funds can be earmarked as approved by the board and next year's budget. For more information, contact Pamela McGinn.
- **Spring Social/Fundraiser:** Beverage Bonanza on March 21. Question was presented as to why we aren't doing a big fundraiser like Game Night this year, and it was explained that without fundraising goals, the board didn't feel right asking people to donate for some unknown future expense as there are already excess funds in the PTA account. There was also no one to chair the committee at the time of budgeting. Also, since the fall fundraiser, Jaguar Jog, has gotten bigger, the board didn't want to ask Whittier families to donate to another big event in the same year. Now that we have the playground proposal, maybe next year we will want to have two big fundraisers to collect funds for this project quicker.

OLD BUSINESS:
None.

NEW BUSINESS:
None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.