PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL

Downers Grove, Illinois

PTA MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2014

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

PARENT EDUCATION:

Introduction by Val

Mrs. Felker – 3rd grade lesson that we can take a peek into what the students are up to in their 2nd step learning. No right or wrong answers- something she focuses on with the kids as well. Start with a brain builder activity. This time skip counting – inevitably someone messes up, and it's good practice to show compassion, empathy and encourage kids to accept the "oops". View card, which is a photo of a situation and a visible sign of an emotion. Name the emotion you see, and then go into the lesson. Managing anger – Proactive strategy to teach kids to notice the emotion before it gets out of control.

1. How to recognize the clues to being angry or out of control:
    a. clenched fists
    b. warm
    c. clenched teeth
    d. hot ears
    e. flushed
    f. tight shoulders
    g. Breathing changes or holding breath
2. Identify the "why" of the feeling
3. How to change back to normal
    a. Deep breaths
    b. Remember you can change your reaction but cant change other people
    c. Count backwards
    d. Positive self talk
    e. Stop and think about choices
        i. Call kid out on unfairness
        ii. Walk away
        iii. Get retaliation
        iv. Get in trouble
        v. Lose a friend
    f. Talk about the feeling (assertiveness – a calm, firm way of talking) without blaming words
4. Practice role playing the situation and additional situations with similarities
5. Remember our own role in a problem and take ownership of that

Programming provided K-6, and then 7&8 as well to train kids how to learn to navigate these issues throughout life with confidence.

PTA Business Notes

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were approved from February 2014 meeting.

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

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Voting on new website – New website approved with unanimous vote of attendees.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Next year's registration will be an online process, beginning in April. Hard copy will still be available. Remember to do registration as early as possible, as it helps with staffing. Fees not due until August; also available for online processing. Existing families information will already be in the system. In-coming kindergarteners will be doing hard copy registration, as it will not be available before kindergarten roundup. Fee increase, up from $100 to $125. Hadn't gone up in 10 years.
- School calendar for next year will be approved in April. Looks like last day will be Wednesday, June 11th – a half day (as opposed to the hour last day as usual). Kids will make up 3 of the 4; the staff will make up all 4.
- Moving toward guided math kind of like guided reading – to help move kids to like-skilled groups. Looking at different options/opportunities for next year. Cross age group groups are being considered.
- 1:1 program? Great feedback coming in from parents and staff. The proposal goes to the board next year in April. Pilot since day one – so nothing has been promised. 5th grade gets it for 3 weeks as a test.
- Highland PTA is having an Internet safety parent workshop, March 20th at Highland. All are welcome. Renowned detective in this area coming to present to parents.
- Reading games – a great success. Kids were excited to read!
- Upcoming events –
    - 5th/6th grade choir musical on Thursday the 20th
    - Friday the 21st All-School field trip to DGNHS for orchestra concert
    - Saturday the variety show "WOW! It just gets better and better"
    - Thursday, the 27th – Staff participating in "gene" day
    - Friday, the 28th – summer day from Student Council – dress for summer/ no swimsuits.
    - Kindergarten roundup, Thursday April 10th
    - Tuesday, April 15th – Report card day/PTA

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Variety Show** - The Committee wanted to thank the board for approving the purchase of the microphones. The dress rehearsal and school show were successful and amazing. The show touches 2/3 of the student body.
- **DI –** 7 teams participated at regionals, 1 will move on to state. The family showcase is this Monday from 6-8pm.
- **Book Fair –** April 24th (same day as open house) Details to follow
- **Beverage Bonanza –** Coming up on Friday! Please sign up by tomorrow. There are some great prizes.

OLD BUSINESS:
None.

NEW BUSINESS:
Almost finalized on McTeacher night on April 8th.
Reminder for Potbelly family fun tomorrow night on Highland.

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