PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF WHITTIER SCHOOL
Downers Grove, Illinois
PTA MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2014

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, in the Whittier School gym. There were 27 people in attendance.

Guest Speakers: Ms. Pawlowski and Mrs. Richards – What's Happening in 1st Grade

The start of the year has gone well!

1. Students are learning the overall rules and procedures
    - It's an adjustment for them, but one that has been relatively smooth
2. MAP and AIMS testing went well
    - Students had a strong understanding of the testing process
3. iPads coming beginning to mid-October
4. Classroom plants have sprouted!
5. October 15 is Lyman Woods Field Trip
    - Compliments science curriculum
    - In the past, students have had a great time and enjoyed themselves

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were approved from May 2014 meeting. Lisa McTigue moved to approve the minutes and Jill Moran seconded the motion

TREASURER'S REPORT: Reviewed budget as of August 31, 2014 as well as the audit report completed on September 11, 2014.

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. The PTA web site www.whittierschoolpta.org is fully functional
    a. If you have not done so already, please register for the PTA http://whittierschoolpta.org/references/join-our-pta/
    b. In order to receive the Whittier PTA Weekly, users must be registered on the site.
    c. In addition to being able to register online, paper registration is still available as well

2. Make sure you have entered in your contact information for the Whittier School Directory
    a. Online registration available at: http://whittierschoolpta.org/directory-signup/
    b. Online directory is compatible with smartphones and tablets
    c. The goal is to distribute the paper copy of the school directory in October, however this is dependent on families entering their information in a timely manner

3. The GaGa Pit - The PTA has received permission to build a GaGa Pit using District 58 approved building plans
    a. GaGa is played in a large octagon called the GaGa Pit. GaGa a variant of dodgeball, with the object of hitting players below the knee with a ball while avoiding being hit by others.
    b. The game has a wide appeal to various age groups as well as gender
    c. GaGa pit was one of the top items most requested by students during the playground survey
    d. Estimated Cost is $1200, voting to approve the expenditure will take place during October's PTA meeting

4. Mr. Krugman reviewed the Teacher's Fall Wish List.
    a. If the PTA were to fund all wish list items, it would cost approximately $6,500
    b. We will vote on funding the wish list during the October PTA meeting

5. In May, the PTA approved spending $1,000 on landscaping. Due to more intense root systems than anticipated, total project cost was $1,233.
    a. Rita Brezina brought forth a motion to approve the $233 in overage. Mellissa Rausch approved motion and Jill Moran seconded the motion. Motion Approved.

Committee Reports:

- **Chess** – Chess Club begins October 20th. Three sessions are offered: Fall, Winter, Spring. It's led by professional instructors from Chess Scholars. This program is offered for children k-6. There is a fee associated with this activity
- **Green Team** - Focus is on the landscaping beautification of Whittier. Front of school is the next project to be slated
- **Jaguar Jog** is scheduled for September 28, 2014. Please buy raffle tickets! Ordering tickets online is a cinch http://whittierschoolpta.org/jjtix/ Send to grandparents, FB it, Sell, Sell, Sell! There are some really cool prizes as well. The committee is looking for families to sponsor intersections – a prize will be rewarded for best corner, no food please! Race marshals are needed as well
- **Family Math Night** is October 20th at 6:30 and families of 4th-6th graders are welcome to attend. Volunteers to run a game are needed
- **Playground Recess Equipment** has been busy buying balls for the kids to play with, but they still have $100 leftover in their budget. Any ideas? Jump ropes? More balls? Let Tina Michaels know
- **WRECK** starts October 7th from 6:30-7:30. Boys AND Girls from 3rd and 4th Grade are invited. It's sponsored by the PTA and is completely FREE

Principal's Report:

- **Lots of renovations!** Over the summer, ventilation in the gym was rerouted. It pulls in fresh air, while removing stagnant air leading to a more comfortable environment. There is new tile, carpet, tuck pointing. The gym floor will be refinished this November.
- **A big thanks to the Green Team / Landscape team.** The staff appreciates your hard work!
- **Curriculum Night went well.** It was a well-attended night.
- **Team Whittier is the 2014 / 2015 school theme –** lots of new faces in the building leads to lots of team activities
- **ALS Ice Bucket Challenge** raised $1,800!
- **Map Testing is over**
- **Half-Day Thursday, September 18.** Dismissal prior to lunchtime to no lunch, AM kindergarteners attend regular hours, no school for PM kindergarteners
- **Drop-Off / Pick-Up has been going well –** after several close calls involving students and cars, a new drop-off / pick-up procedure has been implemented. The process is streamlined and ensures the safety of the children, the school's number one priority
- **Spirit Day is every Friday.** Show your Whittier Pride and were blue & gold
- **September 25th is Picture Day.** The photography company has requested students do not wear green
- **A Random Acts of Kindness program** has been implemented at school. Children caught doing something kind will have their name on the board. In addition, the principal visits their class, thanks them, and gives them a special pencil
- **October 1 – October 3 is Camp Edwards.** The 6th Graders will be out of the building. Mr. Swade is the interim principal in Mr. Krugman's absence.

OLD BUSINESS:
None.

NEW BUSINESS:
The PTA is in need of a tax accountant, taxes are due November 1, 2014. Please contact the PTA if you are able to help

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.