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

The General Meeting of the Whittier School PTA was held on Tuesday, November 18th, 2014, in the Whittier School gym. There were 26 people in attendance.

Guest Speaker Dr. Matt Rich from District 58, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

- Technology and Curriculum are interrelated, not separate
- The district is using data to help your child grow
- Standardized tests can be greatly impacted by "a Mother's love of learning" and socio-economic levels
- MAPP is used as an informant, instead of just a label.
- Goal is to continuously challenge our students
    - What does your child know?
    - What does your child need to know?
    - What is next for your child?
- 20% of all students are above grade level. If we only teach to grade level, a large percentage of our students needs are not me
- District is looking at implementing guided math
- We do not want to hold our kids back due to text books
- Diagnostic learning and vertical learning keeps moving kids up the ladder
- Curriculum web app http://www.dg58.info/ladder/ login using student id

For the full presentation, please visit
Tinyurl.com/PTA58Learn

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes were approved from October 2014 meeting. Melissa Rausch moved to approve the minutes and Ann Russell seconded the motion

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approval for $12.50 to cover costs of folders approved. Deb Rosenberg moved to approve the motion and Andrea Knudsen seconded

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. GaGa pit installed under budget. Costs $909, approved budget was $1200. Possibly will use the overage to make a metal sign
2. The PTA thanks Melissa Rausch for another successful Variety Show
3. Spring fundraiser chairs are Michelle Aleksiunas and Carrie Grabel
4. The PTA is looking for Fall Fundraiser Chairs
5. PTA is exploring the possibility of contracting with a lunch hot provider. The PTA would facilitate the relationship, it would be family funded. Looking for PTA input on interest, benefits / negatives, cost threshold

Committee Reports:

- Spring fundraiser Let's Play for the Playground will include a silent auction, Coach Josh will DJ, minute to win it games, $25/ person. Next meeting is Dec 9 at Neat at 6:30
- Variety Show thanks the PTA for all their support. The date of the show worked well therefore we will stick to this timeframe.
- Whittier Wear shop is open online
- Variety Show date has changed to November 15th. The in-school performance is November 7th.

- One book one school: proposed book is 68 Rooms by Mary Ann Malone. It's relevant to Chicago, based at the Art Institute and Malone is a local author. Order one book per family. Will included suggested reading schedule, questions / discussions, cumulate with an event, possibly Skype with author for $100. Book is $4.60. Promotes home school relationship. Jen Mielke asked to approve a budget up to $500 and Andrea Knudsen seconded the motion
- The Playground presented to board and awaiting response, feedback seemed receptive and positive
- Winter Wonderland is in need to volunteers Dec 7 11:30-1:30
- Market Day thus far has raised $288.44. The PTA has a goal of $500, anything above $500 goes to the playground committee
- Green Team – Motion approved for $385 to remove weed trees, bees nest and rats nest. Jen Mielke raised the motion and Sharon Passero seconded

Principal's Report:

- Expressed thanks and appreciation for the Variety Show – it was truly awesome.
- Thank you for the GaGa Pit, kids love it! Mr. Winters reviewed the rules,
- Thank you for funding the buses for the March 20th Hero's and Villain's all School field trip to DGN
- SB16 continues to rear its head. Everyone agrees education funding needs to be reformed, but SB16 is not the answer. Our district stands to lose $2.3 million
- District wide change for Halloween will be implemented 2015/2016 school year. Children will not be dismissed to go home. Rather students will stay at school and change into costumes after lunch. This is due to safety concerns. Parties and Parades with parents invited will still continue
- Hospitality will serve dinner tomorrow and Thurs for parent teacher conferences
- Tomorrow is the book fair
- Student council is hosting a food drive prior to Thanksgiving break
- Toys for Tots Dec 3-dec 12
- Student council is collecting for PADS
- Board of Ed meeting next Wed
- Wed the 10th Music Program in the afternoon at 2
- Friday the 12th is PJ, Stuffed Animal / Spirit day

OLD BUSINESS:
None.

NEW BUSINESS:
None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.