

**Westowne Elementary PTA
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019**

Attendees: Louise Njoroge, Megan Shawker, Paul Sloyer, Carrie Grahl, Laia Tiderman, Becki Kaman, Shab Nassierpour, Donald Stolley, Olga Mason, Carrie Differ, Marie Grant, John Palmer, Stacie Lauer (Principal)

Meeting Called to Order at 7:02 pm

Approval of Minutes (October)

- Motion to approve – Meg Shawker
- Motion seconded – Laia Tiderman
- Minutes approved as written

Treasurer Report (given by Marie)

- Budget year to date was reviewed.
- Revenues were down for Fall Fest even though the turnout seemed bigger
- A lot more cars participated for 'Trunk or Treat' (17 cars this year vs 4 last year)
 - Potentially will be treated as a Community Event next year
- Movie Night was a big success (5th grade committee made approximately \$700 through concessions)

Executive Board and Chair Report

- Membership (sign up available tonight)
 - As of today:
 - 160 members
 - Of those, 30 are Westowne Faculty and Staff Members
 - Last year at this time we were at 39 Faculty and Staff
- Reward programs
 - Box Tops Update –
 - November Submission was for \$90 and we had an additional 100 box tops submitted to the school
 - Leading classrooms
 - Brady with \$181; George with \$112; Coe with \$112
 - New collection sheets are going out with a gift certificate to Book Fair as a prize.
 - A Holiday Shoppe gift certificate was the prize for the November submissions. Winner will be notified by email.
 - FUNding Fridays:
 - October FUNding Friday - \$73.44
 - Low for a normal FUNding Friday, however a flyer was not distributed.

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- Top 3 Classrooms: 1st place – Ms. Rees \$209.48; 2nd place – Ms. Cuttitta \$77, 3rd place – Ms. Bolden \$65
- November 15 – *Dress Like a Teacher Day!* Dress as your favorite teacher in honor of the American Education Week (Nov 18-22).
- FUNding Friday was moved to the 3rd Friday of the month for the month of November to make sure that we don't interfere with House Day.
- Additionally, appreciation type events will be the theme for future FUNding Fridays.
- Amazon Smile - \$674.04 as of August 2019, Calendar YTD
 - No update since last meeting because donations are updated quarterly.
- Holiday Shoppe
 - Set Up will be Monday, Dec. 9;
 - Holiday Shopping will be Dec. 10-12 with Parent/Teacher Shoppe on the night of the 12th
 - Break down will be on Thursday, Dec. 12 after the Parent/Teacher Shoppe.
 - Chair is needed – commit to be at the school each day.
 - Sign Up for volunteers will be Posted Soon. Help needed to make the event a success!
 - Holiday Shoppe will be in the Parks & Rec Room and the Y before/after care will be in the gym or cafeteria or Pods.
 - Donations can be dropped off at the school or porch drop off (accept anything except breakables)

School Report

- Principal
- School Events November-December
 - Nov 18-22 American Education Week
 - Nov 21 – Report Cards Distributed
 - Nov 22 – Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Dec 19 – Star Wars Reads Day
 - Dec 20 – Winter Break starts at the end of the school day
- Black Saga, ECO Explorers, EPIK Kids, Yoga, Drama Club and Zumbini clubs are running.
- Dinosaur Playground – Couldn't replace pieces for the 2 large pieces of equipment. When clearing mulch to repair the ground, 2 smaller pieces of equipment had rust and was considered a hazard so those 2 pieces were also removed.
 - Right now there are no pieces down there. Will regrade inside the metal fenced in area, when the area dries up and then remulch.
 - Two picnic tables were cleaned up and will be put down in the mulched area.

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- Plan to remove the cement foundation.
- Power washed the red/yellow equipment. And kids can use that.
- Need to discuss possible additions to the playground including what we want to put down there and how we fund it.
 - Any requests need to go through the Capital Budget Fund.
 - BCPS will not pay for new playground equipment.
 - Grounds and Facilities would be able to take care of the equipment once installed but any replacement would not be the responsibility of BCPS or the county.
 - Procurement would still need to go through BCPS but funding can go through the PTA.
 - Additional information needs to be researched (i.e. who would choose the contractor, etc.)
 - Not many new schools in the area have done a similar effort.
- Is anything going to be done about the fields?
 - It's graded at 4% which is for general athletics.
 - Parks and Rec are starting to utilize it for soccer (on weekends).
 - The field was aerated and seeded earlier this year.
 - We will keep getting it aerated and seeded.
- Intermittent Playground (same side as the library)
 - New sod was put down and the orange fence will stay up through the spring.
 - There are plans to do the front area on either side of the main sidewalk (most likely in the spring).
- BCPS is willing to come and put in a sidewalk in the "Car Rider" area.
- Studio Crew Updates
 - Water testing was completed. Found a few trouble areas.
 - Have to order pieces to replace the sill.
 - It's now a matter of getting the replacement pieces.
- BCPS 2020-2021 Calendar
 - A full week of spring break.
 - Mr. Palmer had not received a lot of feedback regarding the Calendar.
- Turkey Trot went well. Everyone was very positive.
 - Nice turnout for parents cheering on the kids.
 - Can reach out to local Universities for Marching Band next year.
 - Next year they are looking to do top 5 girls and top 5 boys.
 - May change up Field Day as well to make it more like the Olympics but nothing has been decided yet.
 - A question was raised about state guidance for Trans-gender students and how that affects students and future plans for Field Day and Turkey Trot.

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- More research needs to be done for that.

Meeting Topics

- PTA thanks
 - Fall Fest, Trunk or Treat, FUNding Friday, Movie Night
 - All of the volunteers who helped make these events a great success and a lot of fun!
- Upcoming School and PTA Events
 - **November 14 – Restaurant Night – Lima's Chicken** – Get your dinner from Lima's Chicken and a portion of the sales will support the Westowne PTA.
 - The flyer does not need to be shown and the fundraiser does not need to be mentioned.
 - **November 15 – FUNding Friday – Dress as a Teacher**
 - **November 18 through 21 – American Education Week** – Parents are invited to visit their child's classroom on the following days. Please signup using the link provided in the flyer that went home and also provided in the Forum.
 - November 18, 9:30am – 11:00am, Grades 2 and 5
 - November 19, 9:30am – 11:00am, Grade 1
 - November 20, 9:30am – 11am and 1:30pm – 3pm, Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten
 - November 21, 9:30am – 11am, Grades 3 and 4
 - Grandparents are welcome any day.
 - For any accommodations, reach out to the teacher
 - **November 19 – Picture Retake Day**
 - **November 19 – Fall Into Reading** – 5pm
 - **November 21 – Report Card Distributed**
 - **November 21 – Battle of the Books** – 8:15am – 9am
 - We used to participate against other schools but we no longer do that.
 - Any questions can be sent to Kim Feldman and Kate Cvengros.
 - **November 22 – Conference Day** – School Closed for Students
 - **November 25 – Preschool-3 and Pre-K Conference Day** – No school for Preschool 3, Pre-K
 - **November 27 – Westowne House Day**
 - **November 28 & 29 – School Closed – Thanksgiving**
 - **December 9 through 12 – Holiday Shoppe**
 - **December 10 – Next PTA Meeting**
 - **December 19 – Star Wars Reads Day**
- Upcoming Community Events
 - **November 16 – Catonsville High School Cheer Clinic** – \$30 per child

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- **November 19 – Baltimore County Board of Education Meetings** – 6:30 pm – 6901 N. Charles St., Towson, MD 21204, Building E, Room 114
- **November 22 – Sleep Out America** – Hunting Hills Swim Club. This is a fundraiser for the Covenant House to raise money for homeless teens around America.
- **November 28 – Catonsville High School Turkey Trot** – www.CatonvilleTurkeyTrot.com
- **December 3 – Baltimore County Board of Education Meetings**
- **December 9 – Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council** – Woodmor Elementary

- PTA Fall Club Update
 - Drama Club –
 - Letters went out last week with rehearsal schedule. It also went out in email.
 - In December, rehearsals will go to 2 day a week rehearsals.
 - The PTA website also has information.
 - Zumbini
 - 18 students signed up
 - Interested in doing another session this school year.
 - Limited by how many instruments she has
 - Yoga Club
 - 16 students signed up
 - He is interested in doing another session.
 - Yoga is looking for a parent volunteer.
 - The price may go up to \$30.
 - Paper vs online registration
 - Both is good.
 - Not everyone is online.
 - One concern is that if the clubs fill up quickly than online registration happens a day or two after the paper registration goes out.
 - If lots of kids sign-up, all registrations taken and if there are too many, a random selection of the registrations is done.
 - Money for the club
 - It depends on the club.
 - For Yoga, we reimburse him for supplies.

- School Assembly Update
 - An assembly has been scheduled for the week of February 11th.
 - We would have one in February and then one in March.

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- Dinosaur Playground
 - See update above.
- 2020-2021 School Calendar
- New business - suggestions from membership
 - No new business

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Board Members:

Carrie Differ- President

Marie Grant - Vice President

Sarah Fondelier – Treasurer (absent)

Olga Mason – Secretary