

Westowne Elementary PTA
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2020

Attendees: Meg Shawker, Stacie Lauer, Carrie Grahl, Laia Tiderman, Anthony Schultz (Assistant Principal), John Palmer (Principal), Olga Mason, Carrie Differ, Marie Grant, Louise Njoroge, Lisa Jarrett, Katie McKnight

Meeting Called to Order: 7:07pm

Approval of Minutes (January)

- Motion to Approve: Meg Shawker
- Motion Seconded: Stacie Lauer
- Minutes Approved as Written

Treasurer Report

- Donation received for All for Books
- INCOME: FUNding Friday and Restaurant Night deposits were made.
- EXPENDITURES: Expenditures were less than revenue. Biggest Expenditure was for Literature Night supplies.

Executive Board and Chair Report

- Membership (sign up available tonight)
 - As of today:
 - 167 members
 - Of those, 31 are Westowne Faculty and Staff Members
 - *No change since January Meeting*
- Reward programs
 - Box Tops Update
 - \$452 YTD according to App
 - Leading classrooms – Ms. Brady – 250, Ms. Sullivan – 196, Ms. Coe – 182, and Ms. George – 165
 - Collection sheet coming soon - next submission deadline 3/31
 - A check was sent out but has not been received by the PTA.
 - FUNding Fridays:
 - January FUNding Friday: \$323.70
 - Top 3 Classrooms:
 - 1st place – Ms. Cuttita \$387;
 - 2nd place – Ms. Rees \$253.70;
 - 3rd place – Ms. Bolden \$161
 - February 21 – Next FUNding Friday: Write a note of thanks or draw a picture for the cafe staff.
 - One option to support FUNding Friday is to set up a PayPal payment.

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- Students are supposed to be bringing in the note/drawing and turning them into the teachers. However, if teachers want, they can do the activity in class.
- Amazon Smile - \$714.97 as of November 2019 – Updated quarterly.
- Thank you to Catonsville Women’s Giving Circle - \$925 grant received for All For Books Program/Scholastic Book Fair
 - Children who don’t have money at the Book Fair can purchase a book.

School Report

- Principal
 - We had a good assembly today, Tuesday, Feb 11.
 - Feb 17 – School is open.
 - Hearing and Vision screening starts on February 25th through March 3rd. For all grades, but may not be for all students. It depends on where students are at in the cycle.
 - Scholastic Book Fair is coming up.
 - Pirate Reads Day and “Walk the Plank” literature Night is March 12th
 - Testing Season is approaching.
 - Winter MAP assessments are happening right now.
 - 5th Grade Science Assessments and MCAP are coming up in the Spring/May time frame.
 - Daily Dojo messages if your student is out sick.
 - Maryland State Department of Education is monitoring absences as a whole. They are no longer looking at it as Excused and Unexcused absences.
 - Absenteeism is lower this year than it was at this same time last year.
- School Events February – March

Meeting Topics

- Upcoming School and PTA Events
 - **Feb. 11 – PTA Sponsored Assembly**
 - **Feb. 11 – Next PTA Meeting**
 - **Feb. 11 – Restaurant Night – McDonald's on Frederick Road**
 - **Feb. 13 – Maryland Science Center Engineering Night at Westowne – 6 pm to 8 pm**
 - ***Feb. 14 – Any Lost and Found Items Not Claimed By This Date will be Donated to Southwest Emergency Shelter***
 - **Feb. 17 – Presidents’ Day – School OPEN**
 - **Feb 27 – SKATE NIGHT for the 5th Grade Committee at Hot Skates**
 - **March 10-12 – Scholastic Book Fair; March 12 – Literature Night**
 - **March 20 & 21 – Drama Club Productions**

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- Upcoming Community Events
 - **Feb. 11 & 25, March 10 & 24– Baltimore County Board of Education Meetings**
 - **Feb. 14 – Battle of the Books Author Visit at Catonsville Library** – Author Kekla Magoon (The Season of Styx Malone) will be at the Catonsville Library discussing her books and will also hold a Q&A session. Book sales and signings will be available.
 - **March 9 – Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council** – Hillcrest Elementary
- PTA Winter Club Update
 - Drama Club
 - Full Cast rehearsals will be starting soon.
 - Set design/painting will be starting soon.
 - Pre-sale of tickets to parents will go out next week.
 - General Admission tickets will be available beginning first week of March
 - Yoga Club – will start soon
 - Chess Club or other clubs – Looking for volunteers to run Chess Club or other volunteers.
 - PTA will look into potentially paying for club leaders.
- Dinosaur Playground
 - This is a standing item. Community interest and leadership is needed to look into how much it would cost to get new equipment.
- Board Elections for 2020-2022 Term
 - We are open to new board members.
 - Olga and Marie will be staying on so we will have two board positions open.
- New business - suggestions from membership

Additional Discussion –

- How much did the PTA know about the traffic calming that happened on Harlem Lane?
 - The PTA knew very little. The County reached out to Mr. Palmer to say it was going to happen however, no one knows if the county is done with traffic calming.
- Drop-off areas – There are continually cars that are double-parking in the parking lot in the morning and in the afternoon. Mr. Palmer speaks to people as much as possible however it is difficult to make sure that people are not double-parking.
- Spirit Wear pre-sale is open now.

5th Grade Committee – Did not meet because there were not enough members.

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Board Members:

Carrie Differ- President

Marie Grant - Vice President

Sarah Fondelier – Treasurer (Not Present)

Olga Mason – Secretary