

Westowne Elementary PTA
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020

Attendees: Megan Shawker, Becki Kaman, Suzanne Taber, Shab Nassirpour, Rachel Davenport, Carrie Grahl, Cathy Ritzes, Paul Sloyer, Laia Tiderman, Anthony Schultz (Assistant Principal), Lisa Pachino (Assistant Principal), Kathryn McKnight

Meeting Called to Order: 7:02pm

Approval of Minutes (November)

Motion to Approve: Meg Shawker
Motion Seconded: Rachel Davenport
Minutes Approved as Written

Treasurer Report

- The Box Tops total is at 0 because the PTA has not received a check, however based on the numbers from the app, we appear to be on track for where we were this time last year.
- FUNding Friday and Restaurant Night totals are approximately where we should be for mid-year.
- Holiday Shoppe – Did really well this year. May be our highest total and significantly more than budgeted.
- 2nd half of the year, beyond BoxTops and FUNding Friday, our big fundraiser is the Scholastic Book Fair which is coming up in March. It culminates in Literature Night.
 - Meg Shawker mentioned that we will need a new Chairperson for the Scholastic Book Fair next year, as this is her last year as a Westowne Parent.
 - We are waiting on a grant from All For Books.
- The budget is designed to spend money because we currently have a surplus. The goal is to spend down the surplus.

Executive Board and Chair Report

- Membership (sign up available tonight)
 - As of today:
 - 167 members
 - Of those, 31 are Westowne Faculty and Staff Members
 - Ms. McKnight has “volunteered” to be our PTA Staff Liaison.
- Reward programs
 - Box Tops Update
 - Most products are getting transitioned to the App. Marie gave a reminder on how to use the App.
 - \$445.70 YTD according to App
 - Leading classrooms – Verbal Update
 - FUNding Fridays:
 - November FUNding Friday: \$203.75
 - December FUNding Friday: \$400.70

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- Top 3 Classrooms: 1st place – Ms. Cuttita \$302; 2nd place – Ms. Rees \$218.96; 3rd place – Ms. Bolden \$141
- January 31 – Next FUNding Friday (also House Day): Write a note of thanks or draw a picture for Mr. Baker and the Building Staff.
- FUNding Friday structure has changed from “dressing up” to acts of kindness and gratitude.
 - Amazon Smile - \$714.97 as of November, 2019
 - This is the total from the website
- Holiday Shoppe
 - Total Revenue – Approx. \$5400 (\$300 over last year and well over budgeted amount)
 - Thank you to all of the amazing Holiday Shoppe volunteers that made it happen!

School Report

- Assistant Principals
 - Mr. Schultz and Ms. Pachino discussed the School Report Card and what the administration is doing to raise the scores.
 - The school is 8/10ths away from getting 4 stars.
 - Ms. Pachino discussed Individualized Education Plans (IEP) – 126 (21%) of Westowne students are under an IEP. She also discussed how she is assisting Case Managers and teachers with the IEP process.
 - Student enrollment is 726 and at the beginning of the year we were under 700.
 - BCPS has expanded the Language Line and it is easier to contact families now that are not native English speakers.
 - ELA and Math collaborative planning – sharing lessons that meets rigor of the standards.
 - New Teachers – meet once a month to do some instructional planning and networking. Helps build the confidence of the teachers.
 - Math numbers were down across the whole county – Mr. Schulz is helping to create unit tools to supplement curriculum.
 - The administration is already seeing some results. MCAT will be the real test, which occur in the Spring. There is a six-week window.
 - PTA will amplify the message when MCAT dates are announced.
 - School Environment – The scores dropped this year for multiple reasons. The administration met with cross sections of students to discuss how safe they feel in the school.
 - 88 referrals this year compared to 149 same time last year
 - 5 suspensions compared to 24 same time last year
 - All students are over 94% attendance.
- School Events January-February

Meeting Topics

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- PTA thanks
 - American Education Week, Holiday Shoppe
 - All of the volunteers who helped make these events a great success and a lot of fun!
- Upcoming School and PTA Events
 - **Jan. 20 – School Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
 - **Jan. 20 – Restaurant Night – Panera Bread** – Get your dinner from Panera Bread and a portion of the sales will support the Westowne PTA. Must bring flyer or show electronic flyer for sales to count.
 - **Jan. 24 – School Close 3 Hours Early For All Students**
 - **Jan. 31 – House Day/FUNding Friday**
 - **Feb. 4 – School Closed for Special Election Primary**
 - **Feb. 11 – PTA Sponsored Assembly**
 - **Feb. 11 – Next PTA Meeting**
 - **Feb. 11 – Restaurant Night – McDonald's on Frederick Road**
 - **Feb. 13 – Science Night – Engineering Night**
 - ***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**
 - **March 10-12 – Scholastic Book Fair; March 12 – Literature Night**
 - **March 20 & 21 – Drama Club Productions**
- Upcoming Community Events
 - **Jan. 21, Feb. 11 & 25– Baltimore County Board of Education Meetings**
 - **Feb. 20, March 9 – Southwest Area Educational Advisory Council – Hillcrest Elementary**
- PTA Winter Club Update
 - Drama Club
 - Zumbini - Jan. 30 Session – 6 Weeks
 - Another session may begin in March
 - Yoga Club – It will probably not begin until the Spring. It will be open for Grades 3-5. He would be open to sessions with younger grades if he has an assistant.
 - Chess Club is most likely not coming back.
 - Lego Robotics may come back in the spring.
 - Green Club – the flyer went out. 2nd through 5th grade.
 - EPIK Kids – Ms. Ingle is helping out with EPIK Kids. Available to 3rd and 4th grades.
 - Making lunches for the Southwest Homeless shelter.
 - Have made cards for the nursing homes.
 - Collected candy for soldiers and donated to different law enforcement and fire departments.
- School Assembly Update
 - One coming up on Feb. 11
 - Looking for one more

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- Dinosaur Playground – most of the play equipment has been removed for safety reasons. There is an opportunity for someone to take the lead and do fundraising to buy new equipment.
- Board Elections for 2020-2022 Term
 - There will be elections this spring.
 - At least a couple of positions may be open.
 - If interested, please feel free to reach out to us.
- New business - suggestions from membership
 - No new business

5th Grade Committee - Met after the meeting and discussed upcoming fundraisers and yearbook options.

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Board Members:

Carrie Differ- President (absent)

Marie Grant - Vice President

Sarah Fondelier – Treasurer (absent)

Olga Mason – Secretary