

## Westowne Elementary PTA

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2019

**Attendees:** Alicia Shipe, Kari Shipe, Megan Shawker, Laia Tideman, Shelia Barksdale, Megan Long, Dawn Handy, Lisa Sloyer, Stacie Lauer, Chris Burk, Donald Stolley, Carrie Grahl, Mary Winkfield, Nasasha Parker, Anthony Schultz (Assistant Principal)

### Meeting Called to Order at 7:02

### Approval of Minutes (September)

- Motion, Second, approved as written

### Treasurer Report

- Reviewed Budget – No changes made
- Rewards programs were discussed. See below for those updates.

### Executive Board and Chair Report

- Membership – We discussed that there are currently 139 members, 29 of those are Westowne Faculty and Staff Members.
- Reward programs
  - Many large companies don't do Rewards Programs anymore – ie. Safeway, Giant, Target
  - Box Tops Update – Submission for the school Year-to-Date is over \$300. The leading classrooms are: 1<sup>st</sup> place - Ms. Brady (96), Ms. George (87), Ms. Neral (80). The PTA wants to thank Kristin Sharp for coordinating the BoxTops. Additionally, there is a new app for BoxTops and they are phasing out physical BoxTops. To use the app, you take a picture of your receipt using the app and the app will determine what qualifies for BoxTops.
    - The app shows you Year-to-Date totals.
    - Shows ways you can earn BoxTops, extra/bonus BoxTops.
    - Lots of items still have physical BoxTops and we are still collecting those.
    - When you scan, you can click on the Star at the bottom of the screen so you can give a Teacher's class the credit towards earning a pizza party at the end of the year.
  - FUNding Fridays – The top 3 Classrooms for FUNding Friday are: 1st place – Ms. Rees \$204.74; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Ms. Bolden \$65, 3rd place – Ms. Cuttitta \$52.
    - One parent gave a big donation of \$200 towards FUNding Friday for Ms. Rees.
    - You can make a monthly donation through PayPal (can be done through the PTA website) that can be earmarked for FUNding Friday and a specific classroom if requested.
    - Question – What is FUNding Friday?

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- Answer: Usually last Friday of the month, but can be different if it conflicts with other school activities. It's a school spirit day. We ask that those that can, give a small donation and at the end of the year, those small donations add up. Also, the classroom with the most donations gets a pizza party.
  - The next FUNding Friday is Oct. 25 – Graphic novel/Comic Day! Wear your favorite graphic novel/comic book character gear! Please, no costumes or masks.
- Amazon Smile – Calendar Year-to-date as of August 2019 is \$674.04.
  - Amazon Smile App is not in the Android App store.
  - Question - How many people are signed up for Amazon Smile?
    - Approximately 70 people which includes staff, grandparents, etc.
  - For Apple products, you can still shop on the Amazon app, bookmark the Amazon Smiles website and checkout from the website.
  - Reminders about the Amazon Smiles will go out around mid-November for holiday shopping.
  - When you search for it, Westowne Elementary PTA
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee – Was done separately at the end of the meeting

### School Report

- Principal
  - Mr. Schultz, Assistant Principal, stated he was there for to hear any concerns or issues that we may have so far. How is the school year going so far?
  - Enrollment is currently at 700.
  - House Day was a huge success. The kids seem excited about it. They are hoping to build on the success and hold monthly “House” meetings. There are 8 Houses. It's a way to integrate the kids throughout multiple grades. Houses are comprised of various grades and classrooms.
  - Turkey Trot is for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Children have a choice to try out and must also qualify. No date was provided for Turkey Trot.
- School Events October – November – No updates.

### Meeting Topics

- PTA thanks – The PTA thanked the following people for their assistance thus far in the school year.
  - Laia Tideman for Club Coordination
  - Erin and Brij Lal for Movie Night
  - Robin Decker for Restaurant Night Coordination
  - Kristin Sharp for Box Tops Coordination

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- Mari Slade for drama club assistance
- Megan Shawker for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee Concessions and Scholastic Book Fair (and more!)
- Stacie Lauer for FUNding Friday help
- All the amazing Fall Fest volunteers so far! Grade level basket coordinators, Silent Auction, and more!
  - We still need volunteers for Fall Fest. If you can only do an hour, please sign up. Any time you can give, we are appreciative.
  - Fall Fest is from 3 – 6. We need volunteers for set-up, clean up, welcome table, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concessions, etc.
  - Non-perishable foods and coat drive are still happening during Fall Fest.
- Upcoming School and PTA Events
  - October 9 – Schools Closed for Students
  - October 12 – 3 pm to 6 pm - Fall Fest at Westowne!
  - October 15 – Restaurant Night - Peace a Pizza
  - October 16 – Westowne Fall Picture Day
  - October 18 – Schools Closed for Students
  - October 25 – FUNding Friday - Graphic novel/Comic Day!
  - October 26 – Trunk or Treat at Westowne
    - Details for Trunk or Treat were discussed, including where to park the cars, event time, etc.
  - October 29 – Second Fall into Reading Night
    - Great program run by Ms. Cvengros for K-2 and all K-2 parents should attend.
  - November 8 – Movie Night
    - It's in the cafeteria. People bring blankets and chairs to watch the movie. Doors open at 6 and concessions are available.
- Upcoming Community Events
  - October 15 – 6 pm to 7 pm - BCPS Workshops on Understanding and Managing Behaviors at Home
  - October 8 and 22 – Baltimore County Board of Education Meetings
  - October 14 – Southwest Area Education Advisory Council
  - October 15 and 16 – Kindergarten Night at Catonsville Library
  - October 21 – Community Conversation with New Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams
- PTA Fall Club Update

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- Drama Club
  - After review of scripts and a parent meeting a production was picked. This year's Drama Club production will be Alice in Wonderland, Jr. Signup forms went home to 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The forms and a \$35 club fee are due on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Auditions will be October 14-16 and will be by grade level. Children can sing any appropriate song they like for their audition. Once rehearsals are complete a cast list will be emailed out to parents.
  - We are awaiting the copyright for the play before a formal announcement is made.
  - More information including musical excerpts from the play are on the website <https://www.westownepta.com/dramaclub.html>.
- Yoga Club for grades 3 – 5 will be starting late October or Early November. It will be before school.
- We are working on Lego Robotics.
- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - We are looking for parents who would like to volunteer to lead a club. The club can be anything that you are interested in. The run 4 to 8 weeks but it's dependent on the Parent Volunteer. You pick the day of the week, the time, the subject, etc. Usually a small fee that covers supplies.
- School Assembly Update
  - Looking to get an Assembly late November or early December.
  - We are always looking for suggestions.
    - We have to have two assemblies (broken out K-2 and 3-5) and they cannot be back to back; a lunch period is usually in between.
    - Also looking for something that caters to all the age groups.
- Sponsorships –
  - If you have a business or know someone who has a business, and are interested in sponsoring the PTA, please check out the website. <https://www.westownepta.com/sponsors.html>
  - Sponsors are highlighted on our website, on the FB group and in our newsletters.
- New business - suggestions from membership
  - No new business.

**Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

### Board Members:

Carrie Differ – President

Marie Grant – Vice President

Sarah Fondelier – Treasurer

Olga Mason – Secretary