



Attendees

- Board Members: Carrie Differ, Marie Grant, Olga Mason, Laia Tideman
- Administration: Mr. Palmer, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Pachino
- Guest: Dr. Rachel Altvater
- Members: 16 general members

Welcome

- Introduction of Board Members
- Sarah Fondelier was thanked for her many years of service.

Agenda

- PTA Updates
 - Maryland and National PTA
 - Overview of the dispute between Maryland PTA and National PTA
 - Impact to membership
 - No impact to Westowne PTA
 - Possible decision points for general membership at a later date
 - Financial Review
 - Completed as part of PTA requirements
 - Membership Update
 - 104 members (33 teachers)
 - Membership raffle winner
 - Restaurant Night Update
 - Peace-a-Pizza raised \$360!
- Ways to Support PTA
 - Overview of ways to support the PTA this year
 - Still need volunteers for
 - Equity committee
 - Book Fair
 - 5th Grade Committee
- Resources for Families
 - Reminder on Student Food Distribution
- External Guest
 - Licensed Psychologist, Dr. Rachel Altvater, Registered Play Therapist
 - Creative
 - “Child Mental Health Check: Helping your Child Navigate Pandemic Stress and Anxiety”

Westowne Elementary School PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting - Google Meet

- “Check in with yourself first”
- Think about how the behavior might be reflective of something your child is feeling.
- Ask your child “What do you know/think/have learned about that?”
- Reflecting back on what your child says to make sure you are interpreting what was said correctly. “I think I heard you say...”
- Strategies:
 - Calm Down Corner with some calming activities
 - Self-Care Activities for Families list
 - Family Code Word
- Westowne Administration Update and Q&A
 - Update from Mr. Palmer
 - Lots of teachers and staff in attendance
 - Administration has started informal observations
 - Last week 97.08% attendance rate
 - Currently making sure students are turning in work
 - Parent feedback on Talking Points?
 - Connects to more than homeroom teacher
 - Connect with specialists (speech)
 - Tutorials on how to send pictures through TalkingPoints
 - Options for more social times for students?
 - Must be supervised by teacher
 - School pictures?
 - Possibly March/April for both individual and class pictures
 - Due dates for school work
 - Recommended that teachers provide calendar for the week of what is due
 - Identify classwork, homework, and graded work
 - Parents with some concerns in reaching out to specials teachers especially
 - Teachers are expected to respond within 24 hours.
 - Climate and Culture Committee
 - Book Study
 - [We Got This.: Equity, Access, and the Quest to Be Who Our Students Need Us to Be](#), by [Cornelius Minor](#)
 - Updates on In-Person reopening
 - None
 - YMCA Activity Center at Westowne
 - Still spaces available