

Westowne Elementary School PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

Virtual Meeting - Google Meet



Attendees: 32 total attendees

Administration: Mr. Scott Palmer, Principal; Ms. Lisa Pachino

Board Members: Carrie Differ, President; Marie Grant, Vice President; Olga Mason, Treasurer; Laia Tiderman, Secretary

Statement: Meeting called to order at 7:03 by President Carrie Differ, a quorum being present.

1. Welcome - President Carrie Differ
2. Approval of minutes from [September Meeting](#)
 - No discussion. Ms. Singer moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded.
3. President's report
 - Membership Update
 - 146 members and 40 teachers and staff
 - Dinosaur Playground Renovation
 - Discussion on replacing the dinosaur playground located at the back of the school with new playground equipment specifically geared for grades 3, 4, and 5.
 - The Vice President provided an overview on the availability of state and grant funding and ways for the PTA to fundraise. The PTA is working with Delegate Pat Young who is supportive.
 - Spiritwear Update
 - Opportunities to Participate in the PTA
 - Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities
 - Current and Upcoming Events
 - Restaurant Night, October 13 at [Farmhouse Greens](#) & [Farmhouse Burger and Sausage Company](#)
 - Boo Bash, October 30
 - Information on activities and ways to participate and volunteer.
 - [Catonsville Culinary Craft](#) Workshop
4. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Olga Mason
 - Fundraisers
 - Charleston Wrap just completed. Total funds of over \$1400.
 - Custom Ink fundraiser also completed.
 - Donations
 - Membership donations \$181
 - Reward Programs
 - Box Tops 32.40 as of July 2021
 - Amazon Smile \$97.00 as of August 2021



5. Committee reports
 - 5th Grade Committee
 - First meeting within the next 2 weeks. Yearbooks are a large undertaking. Looking for 4th grade parents to learn the yearbook process and help next year.
 - Current 5th graders are the first class to start as Kindergarteners in the renovated building.
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee
 - Listening sessions to understand how to best serve the PTA community along with a general survey. Volunteers needed to assist with listening sessions and survey.
 - Nominating Committee
 - Current president and vice president are term limited under PTA bylaws and cannot serve in current positions beyond this year. Treasurer's last year at Westowne.
6. Unfinished business
 - Not proceeding with Joe Corbi's Fundraiser or Drama Club for this year. If there are families interested in assisting in Drama Club
7. New business
 - Fundraiser idea from membership for a coffee and donut sale in the morning at dropoff. Along with a question from membership regarding the number of students who are bus riders, car riders, or walkers. Mr. Palmer indicated that 85% of Westowne students are eligible to ride the bus.
8. Westowne Administration Report and Updates from Mr. Palmer
 - Fall Assessments starting in late October.
 - Reminder from Mr. Palmer that the school does not do a Halloween parade.
 - Administration is working on ways to reduce traffic. More parking spaces will be available to allow families to park and allow students to enter with walkers.
 - Administration thanked families for their flexibility and understanding as the system works out on-going bus issues.
 - American Education Week opportunities for parents to observe students' classrooms will probably be virtual this year. Plans for parents to be able to observe through a Google Meet.
 - House Days were implemented to support positive behaviors and provide role modeling and sense of belonging across grades. School is split into 8 "houses". House days occur once a month, typically on the last Friday.
 - Update on school breakfast changes.
9. Announcements (including date and time of the next meeting)
 - Upcoming Events
 - Resources for families
10. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Signature: Laia Tiderman, Secretary