

# Westowne Elementary School PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2022

Virtual Meeting - Google Meet



**Attendees:** 22 total attendees

**Administration:** Mr. Anthony Schultz, Assistant Principal;

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

**Statement:** Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Vice President Marie Grant, a quorum being present.

1. Welcome - Marie Grant, Vice President
2. [Watch D.O.G.S](#) (Dads of Great Students) Program - Ms. Pitcher
  - Pizza night March 15 at 6 PM at the school.
  - Commitment of one full school days or 2 half-days.
  - Implementing a soft launch for
3. February [Meeting minutes](#) available
  - No approval needed, as there were no votes at the last meeting.
4. President's Report
  - Membership update - 168 members.
  - Playground Renovation Update
    - Delegates Ruth and Ebersole and Senator Sydnor have requested funding for the playground. 15-18 month timeline if funding is approved. Opportunities for advocacy from membership. Many thanks to legislators for their support.
  - Catonsville Women's Giving Circle awarded Westowne PTA a grant for \$1,500 to support each Westowne student to purchase a book at the Scholastic Book Fair through All for Books.
  - Update on Free State PTA and National PTA
    - Continues to be ongoing legislation with the entity that was formerly the Maryland PTA. National PTA has helped to establish a the new [Free State PTA](#)
  - Current and Upcoming Events
    - Scholastic Book Fair
      - Volunteers needed during school hours to assist students, set-up, and breakdown. [Sign-up here.](#)
    - 5th Grade Committee
      - Working with Administration on possible fundraisers.
    - Black Excellence
      - Congratulate the Black Excellence Westowne team who won first place in BCPS contest.
    - Grilled Cheese and Co. Restaurant Week - March 21-25
    - Teacher Appreciation Week - May 2-6
5. Treasurer's Report - Olga Mason, Treasurer
  - Overall budget is doing better than expected, but we are entering the time of year where the PTA begins to spend down revenue.
  - Revenue
    - BricknFire Pizza Orders
  - Reward Programs
    - Amazon \$173.81 as of December 2021.

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- Box Tops earned \$60.20 as of January 2022.
  - FUNDing Fridays \$429.00 to date.
  - Restaurant nights \$813.00 to date.
6. Committee Reports
- 5th Grade Committee meeting coming soon. Yearbooks on sale through May 13! All students in the school will be included if they took pictures with LifeTouch this fall.
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
    - Still working on developing listening sessions and surveys. Any members interested in working on the DEI Committee should email the PTA.
  - Nominating Committee
    - All PTA roles are up for re-election this year. Nominating Committee recommendations are presented to general membership at the April meeting.
    - Elections
      - The PTA has open positions for the 2022-2023 school year including:
        - President
        - Vice President
        - Treasurer
        - Secretary
7. Unfinished Business - None
- Virtual Assemblies - PTA is planning to have a 123Andres
8. New Business
9. Westowne Administration Report and Updates - Mr. Schultz, Assistant Principal
- Finishing up MAP and WIDA testing. MISA (Science) testing for 5th grade starts soon. State standardized assessments start in April for grades 3-5.
  - Buses are running more smoothly. Sign up for Talking Points to make sure you get information on any delays or issues.
  - Masks are now optional for students in BCPS.
  - [StarLab](#) coming to school possibly next week.
  - Questions from Membership:
    - Question regarding any potential changes to the mask mandate based on changes in cases. Mr. Schultz explained that the decision is from the BCPS central office based on guidance from the health department and the CDC. Mr. Schultz confirmed that about a third of students in each grade are choosing to wear masks.
    - Vaccine clinic is coming to the Westgate March 21 from 4-7 PM.
    - Rodney asked if there could be a survey to determine interest in school uniforms.
    - Question regarding the impact of the new guidance on social distancing. Mr. Schultz confirmed that schools are now allowed to participate in-person field trips.
10. Announcements (including date and time of the next meeting)
- Next meeting April , 2022 at 7:00 PM
  - BCPS School Calendar
    - Number of upcoming community events, including [Southwest Area Advisory Council Meeting](#).

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- Available resources and supports

11. Adjournment at 7:55 PM

**Signature:** Laia Tiderman, Secretary