

Westowne Elementary School PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022

Virtual Meeting - Google Meet



Attendees: 30 total attendees

Administration: Mr. John Palmer, Principal; Mr. Anthony Schultz, Assistant Principal;

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

Statement: Meeting called to order at 7:04 by President Carrie Differ, a quorum being present.

1. Welcome - Carrie Differ, President
2. Approval of minutes (from [last meeting](#)) - Carrie Differ, President
 - Motioned by Carrie Grahl. Seconded by membership. No discussion.
3. President's Report
 - Current and Upcoming Events
 - Ms. Ingle and Ms. Kegler shared Black History Month Celebration activities
 - Daily spotlight of 2 notable African Americans one present and one historical, presented during morning announcement
 - Opportunities for students to participate in activities throughout the week and earn special SOAR tickets.
 - [Pura Vida Bracelet](#) Fundraiser is ongoing and [gray spirit wear](#) is also on sale.
 - Spirit Week
 - Scholastic Book Fair
 - 5th Grade Committee Parent Meeting
 - Teacher and Staff Appreciation - Valentine's Day Hot Chocolate Bar
 - Membership update - 168 members. Exceeded the number of members in 2018-2019.
 - 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.
 - Catonsville Women's Giving Circle awarded Westowne PTA a grant for \$1500 to support each Westowne student to purchase a book at the Book Fair. Any remaining funds
 - Yearbooks on sale. Purchase of a yearbook allows customizable pages.
 - To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook:
 - 1. Go to www.treering.com/validate
 - 2. Enter your school's passcode: 1016142946021347
4. Treasurer's Report - Olga Mason, Treasurer
 - Revenue
 - Spirit Wear sale finished and items were distributed.
 - Culinary Craft completed. Earned about \$180 in
 - Donations and Memberships
 - [Better World Imaginarium](#) toy store donated to Westowne PTA.
 - Reward Programs
 - Amazon \$173 from September 2021
 - Box Tops earned \$60

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5. Committee Reports
 - 5th Grade Committee meeting in October (open to all 5th grade parents).
 - 5th grade teachers agreed to be “taped” to the wall. The 5th grade committee will be selling tape fundraiser.
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - The Westowne PTA did not receive the grant from National PTA. 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.
6. Unfinished Business - None
7. New Business
 - Virtual Assemblies - PTA is exploring options for virtual assemblies that students can participate in from their classrooms.
 - Scholastic Book Fair (week of March 21)
 - Volunteers needed for 3 hour time blocks during the week to act as cashiers and assist students in finding books.
8. Westowne Administration Report and Updates - Mr. Palmer, Principal and Mr. Schultz, Assistant Principal
 - Report Cards were distributed this week through Focus and paper copies. 3rd Quarter has begun. Curriculum and work will begin to get a little more challenging.
 - Continuing to work on social and emotional supports for students. Continuing to work toward a more normal.
 - Continuing to deal with the water main break on Harlem Lane blocking access to school from Edmondson Ave.
 - Received a \$1000 grant from the Baltimore County Retired Teachers Association for the library to increase the number of books.
 - Professional development opportunity on math with Westowne teachers.
 - Administration received projected staffing for the 2022-2023 school year. Next year will include a 5th kindergarten class. The Administration will provide more information on staffing changes at the March meeting.
 - Discussion on the changes to traffic patterns due to the road closure and the increase in the number of car drivers.
 - Question from membership on the possibility of Field Day this spring. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Schultz agreed that it will be possible this year.
 - Marie (Vice President) remarked on a BCPS Health and Safety presentation in which it was mentioned that the vaccine rates in elementary schools vary greatly. The Administration confirmed that they have no information on the number of vaccinated students at the school.

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9. Announcements (including date and time of the next meeting)

- Next meeting March 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM
- BCPS School Calendar
 - Number of upcoming community events, including [Southwest Area Advisory Council Meeting](#).
- Available resources and supports

10. Adjournment at 8:03 PM

Signature: Laia Tiderman, Secretary