

Westowne Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2015

Present: China Williams, Jessica Brown, Stacie Lauer, Justine Stull, Scott Palmer, Amanda McBride, Judy Robey, Amanda Ferragamo, Crystal Shelley, Erin Furth, Emily Shaw

Meeting called to order by China Williams at 7:06 pm

December minutes approved as written.

President's Report: China Williams

1. Maryland notified PTA regarding over-payment of Charitable Status Registration fee
  - a. Refunded \$50
  - b. Working to resolve discrepancy between our records
2. School Support – Hospitality: \$500 added to budget
  - a. Funds refreshments for events like American Education Week and Groundbreaking Ceremony
3. Boundary study to continue
  - a. Thanks to all for completing survey
  - b. Local PTA boards working collaboratively to identify strategies for welcoming incoming students
    - i. Student ambassadors
    - ii. Open house
    - iii. Community events
  - c. Will revisit topic pending results of Boundary Committee/addition of new students to Westowne
4. Holiday Shoppe
  - a. Great work, Katie!
  - b. Thanks to all for the donations
  - c. Thanks to the volunteers, including middle school helpers for unloading closet
5. Upcoming events
  - a. SW Boundary Meeting, Catonsville HS (Dec 9)
  - b. Art to Remember pickup Thursday afternoon
  - c. PJ Day Friday with Holiday Cheer (favorite holiday colors)
  - d. Teacher Holiday Luncheon (Dec 15)
  - e. 123 Andres (Dec 16)
  - f. Cookies & Cards (Dec 17 & 21)
    - i. Baked goods donated for teachers lounge
    - ii. Cards from families and students to decorate lounge
    - iii. Consider giving cookies/cards to bus drivers and crossing guard, Ms. Bev
  - g. Five Below 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser (Dec 18-20)
  - h. Advanced Lego Robotics to begin in January
6. Schwan's check deposited: \$194
7. Needs an afterschool Chess club teacher for spring (Possibly Gideon Stanton)
8. Mr. Landel to run Intro Lego Robotics

Treasurer's Report: Stacie Lauer

1. Chuck E. Cheese's Night: \$97

- a. Working with Chuck E. Cheese's to determine if amount was an error given discrepancy between funds raised by spring and fall events
2. November Pajama Day: \$378.84
3. Wrote check to school for technology fund: \$424

Secretary's Report: Justine Stull

1. 179 members
  - a. All PTA volunteers need to be members

Vice President's Report: Jessica Brown

1. Box Tops
  - a. New collection sheet going home

Principal's Report: Mr. Palmer

1. PTA to provide membership form to share in newsletter
2. Thank you for American Education Week refreshments and support
  - a. Around 294 visitors
  - b. Positive turn out for Grandparents Day
3. Holiday Shoppe looks great with lots of stock
4. Devices are to be delivered Thursday
  - a. Will be labeled, registered, etc.
  - b. Will be introduced to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades soon
5. Ground Breaking Ceremony Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – approximately 10:30
  - a. Expecting representatives and press
  - b. Will host brief reception with PTA provided refreshments
  - c. Will send thank you cards from PTA, signed by students, to representatives
6. Westowne scored decently on PARCC
  - a. Information available in Baltimore Sun article
  - b. Scores this year create baseline for future years; cannot be compared to any previous test scores
  - c. Expect further information in January Words to the Wise
  - d. Parents to receive student reports
7. Thanks to all the volunteers: classrooms, copies, teacher support, cafeteria
  - a. Requests further lunch line/cafe volunteer support
8. Continuing to support "frequent-flyer" students during known periods of increased poor student behavior
9. Pursuing options for increasing parking, especially given winter weather conditions
10. Drop Off
  - a. Pull up all the way, and drop off quickly
  - b. Do not leave children prior to 9:00 AM
11. Construction updates
  - a. Continued steady, rapidly-paced work
  - b. Aiming to have roof completed in February
  - c. To pull "Westowne School" sign off the current building to utilize in new building
  - d. Goal is to demolish current building in June
  - e. To identify storage for PTA in new building
12. ClassDojo app/website being implemented at gradual pace in classrooms

13. Incidents of teacher car vandalism in small parking lot

Teacher Liaison: Ms. Robey

1. Distributed Holiday Shoppe schedule form letter for teachers to use
2. Updated class contact lists were distributed again
  - a. Google Form for additional participants and corrections:  
<http://goo.gl/forms/VN5by2L9Ys>
  - b. Teachers have 90 day automatic email clear out
  - c. Thanks to teachers and parents for patience; still identifying best strategy for updating and sharing information

Meeting adjourned at 7:57