

9.10.2013 PTA Notes

General Meeting

See sign sheet in form for attendance

Heather's welcome

Minutes from last time (omit since this is the first meeting)

; \$1,000 membership checks; ahead of pace at this time. ∅ Treasure report – Tracey \$700+ Direct donations so far

Administration Report – Principal, Peggy DiCrispino; community meeting 10 year plan over summer; also we have another upcoming meeting as well planned for 9/17; a reminder to the group that Mr. Levine passed away this past summer and the school is collecting donations for his memorial fund Mrs. Ruppert will coordinate the efforts for the school; a plaque in his honor; lighting / sound in auditorium is the plan at this time.

IDENTAKID tomorrow. ∅ Last year Megan Kight family won the bike in past; you too can win

We will be having fire drills, lockdown drills, 3 rally points; and such. In addition an "ACTIVE SCENARIO" Drill will replace 1 fire drill this year.

Parent Tech series coming this year (see flyer);

Mrs. Thompson added that there will be Sept and Feb Bus Evacuation day.

Teachers Report: Ms. Beth Allen; this is a great place to work; reminder to parents please remember that we have a large case load / new curriculum, 2 day email edict for return emails is the normal response time.

parents must be trained to be a volunteer – they can't come on the field trips without that training;

Ms. Allen will take over black saga this year for 4th & 5th graders; also she will be doing Student Council for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Student council is TBD date and time. More to come.

If you have any challenges, questions, or concerns please contact the teacher first rather than going to the administration; as a professional courtesy to the teacher.

Presidents Report:

SEXUAL PREDATOR ALERT reported that a man in his mid 40s in a Black Audi in a gray Under Armor sweatshirt has been creeping up on little middle school girls.

Gina Jones of "Citizens on Patrol" is a good resource for information like this.

Have you all signed up for the PTA star newsletter?

2 web sites: facebook and weebly web site (also the school has a web site)

Movie night "Wreck it Ralph" Sept 20th 7pm.
Special Dress day this Friday "Crazy Hat Day"

Chair people/ board members are welcome to attend a training seminar on Oct 17th there are some sessions to learn how to run a PTA committee, Treasurer training, and such. PTA will pay for you to go if you will chair something.

BCPS overcrowding 10 year plan:

There have been meetings over the summer to gather information.

Please go onto BCPL web site – you are encouraged to email directly to the attention of the Board of Ed directly Mike Boller (Board of Ed is making decisions not BCPS – they are separate groups of government)

We need voices to be heard individually as well as from the PTA as a whole.

Kara our PTA liaison volunteer –

She shared that she had been told this summer that the need is for 1200 new elementary school seats in the WHOLE south east region of Balto County; 700 seats elementary in the Catonsville area (Westtown, Catonsville Elementary, Hillcrest, and Westchester) and 500 in the SSW area (Halethorpe, Arbutus, Relay, and that region). The money is not in the

budget for any talk of middle school changes. This money is for ELEMENTARY SCHOOL funding ONLY at this time. This cannot change. 13 potential sites and/or solutions were on the list to begin the process. The short list is now being created; there will be a pro / con list on the short list this fall 2013.

The 10 year plan ties into a 40 year plan. No band aid fixes. No one wants trailers.

4th & 5th graders will be grandfathered in to their current school should there be any new schools opening and/or redistricting.

We should not hear much more redistricting talk until fall 2014 – this will be a public hearing and all can be heard. Board of Ed makes this decision / NOT BCPS.

The letter that was sent to principals from the county executive outlined a MINIMUM of 500 seats.

WES PTA is not going to join up with other elementary PTAs. We need to focus on the needs of the students of WES.

For our public statement it is the opinion of the Westchester Elementary #1 We do not want the Middle School to move. We want the focus to remain on the elementary school overcrowding that is currently funded.

We do not want a supergiant MEGA middle school. With these large mega middle schools there come more safety and security issues; and we like the smaller more intimate environment that our kids currently receive at our beloved Catonsville Middle School. We understand that the Catonsville Middle will not face overcrowding if we do not allow kids from outside of the district into the school and that Arbutus Middle School is underutilized / under capacity so until those middle schools are projected to be at capacity we should keep the focus on the elementary school overcrowding issue at hand. We do not want more trailers.

#2 If and/or when they redistrict we want the districts to keep in mind local neighborhoods communities; we do not like the idea of using the Howard County Model for bussing kids out of their neighborhoods.

#3 We look forward to more information from the School Board and BCPS

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jenn Taylor & Christina Jimenez

Online registration is GREAT

5 clubs have met min enrollment already.

Thurs is KIDS CLUB Showcase – parents and students welcome – we have prizes!

Book Fair – will be in May 5th – 13th Jenn Taylor We need a lot of volunteers.

to show your WES Pride Spirit Wear – Patty; report forms are coming home next week via email to buy SPIRIT WEAR

Bernie Mosher – Box Top Chair – Same basic concept again this year. Box tops and labels for Education. Top 3 classes will get a prize in fall and again in the spring. Checks are cut in December and April.

School is still doing Giant and Target (per Peggy)

Yvette Belt is chairing the food nights. Sweet Frog was about \$2,000 top line for the store which is a really good night for them; we will see about \$200 for WES PTA; a huge success. Chipotle is offering 50%; This is odd; normally you see about 20% from restaurants; more to come on adding them for this school year.

Applebees Flapjack Fundraiser is coming up soon. We earn \$4.50 from the \$7 tickets. We need volunteers from 8am-10am. (Show up at 7:30am for flap jack training)

“5 Below” is now doing a school fundraisers – jessicalucas@verizon.net cell (410) 404-9490 will find out more. If we hurry we may be able to do it for this school year / maybe in December.

Building Bridges assembly / anti bullying – Christina Jimenez.

Green school / overhauling butterfly garden in the spring / increasing recycling efforts.

Beautification was in April – accepting donations of yard tools. More to come.

Yearbook committee – Cheryl; we need parent volunteers to take pictures for the year book. Need these grades: 4th and 5th. We want to make a goal to get every student in at least one candid shot. It makes it so special for the kids. Price TBD.

Staff Appreciation committee – Deb Pulone– this is her last year at WES. Kara & Trish are going to take over in future years. (Teacher')s note: the LOVE the kureg coffee pods

Membership – Kimberly Huff – please send in your \$10 per person for your membership

Jessica Lucas – 500 students in the school but only 188 responses for directory deadline coming up. We will need to extend this and send a reminder for more folks to follow up.

Beach night – last Friday in January. ∅Steel Drum band and all

Math night – the school is doing it this year – Thurs Oct 24th at GIANT 6:30pm

We will also have December “Holiday” movie night TBD info on that coming soon.

Parents Night out – March – more info to come. Will be at the Phoenix.

“Picture Parent” – an Art program based on the BMA 5 artists; power point; activity like splashing like Pollock; you go into the class 30 min presentation then project. Loads of fun.

Boo grams to help pay for 5th grade to volunteer please contact pattips@verizon.net

Parent asked why we moved back to school night to the week prior to school start – Peggy addressed this; we did it because parents asked for it and other schools had had success with this; also we were able to get volunteer training done prior to the start of school; and we were coordinating it with middle school and high school. Parent requested that we have that date in advance in future and 4pm-6pm time frame made it difficult to attend. Another parent asked that we do not make the parents choose between volunteer training and 4th grade intro. Peggy says that we will continue to split it up to be a part of the population to 2 nights.

Another parent asked that we do not cram all of the parents (couples) into 1 kindergarten classroom. Mrs. Thompson will make sure that this does not happen again next year that this was not meant to happen and gave apologies for that small space.