

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

Westchester Elementary School

General Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from December Meeting passed.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance of \$10,404.95

Administration's Report: Mr. Byers-Catonsville Area Boundary Newsletter will be drafted to help ease transition for families. At BOE meeting in March, we will find out if the recommendation for redistricting in SW area is approved. Westchester will be planning a summer cookout to welcome all new families. February and long range events calendar was shared. This year, we will be blending STEM Night with Book Night to increase engagement with the community. STEM judging will be during the school day. Activities will include instrumental performances, safe racers demonstration, display of STEM boards, and book night reading activities. Book Fair sales will also be conducted.

Teacher's Report: Amanda Crabb present; nothing additional to share.

President's Report: Erica Russo-Nominating Committee has been formed. Morna McNulty is committee chair and Amanda Crabb and Heather Helm are on committee. A slate will be presented, along with nominations from the floor in April. Voting takes place in May.

Joe Corbi's: Jenn Taylor-Pick up will be in cafeteria 3:45-6 pm this Thursday.

Spirit Night: Feb 17 4-8 pm at Peace of Pizza. 20% of proceeds, just mention you're there for Westchester.

Cupid Grams: Patti Schwartz and Becky Albritton. Cupid Grams benefit 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Stickers instead of pencils will be included-saved us \$75 by swapping. Price will stay \$.50 teachers and staff can purchase for \$.25 apiece. Blank cupid grams have been sent home. Collecting and selling Friday until next Thursday morning, distributing Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. Need help staffing mornings Feb 9, 10, 11. 8:55 to 9:15 am. On Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup>, we will do sorting event at Patti's house. Patti can also get some to you ahead of time and do on your own. Becky suggested instead of coloring contest, poetry contest. Ask Ms. Adam to judge. One winner per grade. We will announce it soon so kids have time to write.

Boundary: Erica Russo discussed parent and student ambassador program. Pick a couple parents and children per grade to welcome and assist newcomers.

Beach Night: Kim Hynes trying to determine if we can reschedule for end of February. May not have steel drum band due to scheduling conflict. We will come up with a use for any supplies to use them for something else.

Book Fair: Jenn Taylor-Browsing begins on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and continues through Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Sales will begin with our evening STEM/Book Night event on April 19<sup>th</sup>. In school sales will be Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Next month we will begin recruiting volunteers to help students make wish lists and purchases.

Book Night: Laura Ratta reported that typically there are a lot of activities, but we'll be reformatting to accommodate our new plan to join with STEM Night. Karma dogs was very popular. Mrs. Crabb is STEM contact, so Book Night Committee will work with her.

Kids Club: Jenn Taylor-Registration ends Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Drama, Art and Club Sci Kidz are full. Still need more enrollments in Intro to Spanish (accepting kindergarten students now). Chess and Digital Photography still have a few spots each.

Movie Night-need a chair for next year

Membership-235 members. Drawing for Starbucks for recently joined PTA members. Ms. Kind, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, wins \$5 gift card.

Yearbook: Becky Albritton-going well, may need to change format a little as more students join the school. Mrs. Crabb is collecting all baby pictures of 5<sup>th</sup> grade for yearbook and fifth grade ceremony. Fifth grade parents should have received a note yesterday. Any photos already sent to wesbabypics5 have been received. Hard copy photos can be scanned and returned.

Staff appreciation: Continue to send in K-Cups for teachers' lounge

Sprit Wear: no update

BoxTops: Bernie Mosher-gave out prizes a couple weeks ago. About \$2,500 a year, but participation is low. 15-20% are participating. There is a Ziploc bag that each teacher has that kids should put their baggies of box tops in. Be sure child's name is on baggie to receive individual prizes. Each box top is worth \$.10. Maybe have kids make collection boxes that stay at home. Mr. Byers said school will support this effort.

Health and Wellness: Robin Mitchell-May 22<sup>nd</sup>, DJ coming and Relay foods coming back. Looking for more monetary sponsors. Patient First offered to come and provide a booth. Hoping to have some streets closed off, police presence. Erica-Maybe raffle off a new family registration to SuperStar Sprint. Melissa suggested an incoming kindergarten race start group.

Green School: Heather Helm is interim chair. She is waiting on materials from former chair. She will organize and pass on to new chair. Next year, Kim Wilhelm will take over. Mr. Byers reported that the roof top garden is natural grasses that won't need any upkeep, but there will be a walkway.

New Business: Jenn Taylor-Prizes awarded for Photo contest. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped bring more awareness to WES PTA Facebook page.

Motion to adjourn approved.