**PTA Meeting April 10th 2012:**

Motion by Amy Breznak to accept the March meeting minutes. Motion made. Seconded. Minutes accepted.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Kathy is out sick. Copy of the report is here for anyone who wants a copy. Variety brought in $3004.54. Budget was $3000. Great job Kim!

**Administration Report:**

* National Library week is this week. They will be recognized tomorrow, both Ms. B and Ms. Flint (who is part time for 5th grade).
* Thurs April 19th is when 3rd quarter report cards come home. We’ve already started the 4th quarter.
* Ms. Belt has offered to volunteer for the secretaries during Admin. Appreciation week. The secretaries will be going to the Phoenix Emporium on April 25th.
* Stem fair is also that same day. 6:30-7:30 4th grade is judged. 7:30-8:30 5th is judged. If you have 3rd graders you are welcome to bring them to let them see what they’ll be doing next year.
* Connect Ed went out today re: Mr. Torrington is leaving WES – for Cambodia to join his wife. Kate Flint will be covering Tech till the end of the year. Mr. Pendelton will take over as long term sub for the rest of the year for Ms. Flint’s position. Plans are in the work sto establish a sister school with Mr. Torrington’s new school.
* 5th grade has one more MSA, science. From the 16th-22nd. We are hoping to have it done the first 4 days (one hour each day). It’s online. Makeups will be afterwards.

**Teacher’s Report:**

* Volunteer Breakfast is 4/20. There will be performances by Ms. Allens’ class. Invitations went out and there was a general email sent in the event anyone was missed. Please come – there will be varieties of food & entertainment. The children are making things for the school. Many local restaurants are donating food for the event (Panera, Sam’s Bagels) – so there will be a nice assortment.
* Third annual Int’l Fair on 4/9. Parents are welcome. Each grade level will learn about, and creating, something related to their assigned country.
* Field Day form went home today. 5/16th is K-2, 5/17th 3-5th. Mr. B needs LOTS of volunteers for Field Day, especially for 3-5th. That’s where Mr. B REALLY needs the help! More volunteer training will be offered if needed.

**President’s Report:**

* We have been discussing fundraisers for next year. The board has come up with changes aimed at reducing the fundraiser burden. We will repeat Joe Corbi’s and Lavender’s b/c they do really well. Those will be the only ones we do, and as a result we plan to raise the PTA dues from $7 to $10 b/c the State PTA raised their fees. We will add a silent auction for parents during the same time period of the Variety Show, modeled after the Hillcrest Hedgie-palooza.
* If there is a parent who would like to take over the Variety show it can continue, but those who have been in charge are ready for a break (parents and sponsoring teacher).
* PTA is completing necessary papers to maintain our status.

1. Parent: Can there be more clarity between school vs PTA fundraisers, b/c there is very little clarification. Amy will work with the Admin on that for next year.

Parent: If it is for WES – can they please specify what the funds are being delegated/raised for.

Parent: PTA Membership at the Middle school is $8. Amy took an informal poll - … many parents expressed a desire to pay a little more and have less fundraisers. One parent said they’d pay $100 ;-). Amy reiterated the PTA wouldl like to reduce fundraising and exploring other ways to raise money, and also reduce the need to tax/tire volunteers.

Parent: This is happening at Hillcrest and it’s working.

**Committee Reports:**

**Nominating Comm:**

Two postions were open, Treasurer and Comm Sec.

Tracy Gellerman will be nominated for Treasurer

Rebecca Geipe will be nominated for Comm Sec.

We need 25 people at the next meeting for the vote. Attendance has been good this year, so hopefully it won’t be a problem.

School Supply (done in August) is open.

**Fundraisers:**

**Spirit Wear:**

* Right now Patty has 2 orders.?!! One parent said they never got a form – Patty reminded us that we are a Green School and paper forms do not come home. Links to the ordering form are always sent in the PTA email newsletter. Special email will be sent to call attention to the order form.
* Remember – LOTS of cute baby stuff is available!

**4th of July Parade Float:**

* This years theme is the War of 1812. Not to thrilled with that – so the committee came up with Fireworks as a theme. *We need a trailer – if anyone has a trailer we can borrow, please let PTA know!*

**Box Tops:**

* Will be collecting the Box Tops soon. There is a parent who will be taking over Box Tops for next year.

**Cultural & Movie Night:**

* This Thursday there will be an Environmental puppet show. 2 shows for the grade levels. Blue Sky Puppets – several commented they have a great reputation.

**Food Nights:**

* Amber is not here, but we had El Nayar last month. The amount is forthcoming.
* Amber will be moving out of WES district so we need a parent to coordinate this next year. At the meeting Ms. Belt volunteered to take over for next year. ☺
* Sweet Frog: Discussed their desire to not do a Food Night, but a gift card fundraiser instead. Parents discussed the kids enjoy seeing their friends all on one night – so collectively the parents decided to skip selling their gift cards.

**Kids Club:**

* Tomorrow is the last one.
* Sherri said she has a problem with the PTA Rep being a Kids Club teacher.
* Christina has already been in touch with Nicole, the current teacher, who is willing to continue and take on more classes next year.
* Sherri reiterated there are lots of opportunities to have additional clubs, (American Girl, Drama, Green School integration with the kids, Student Council).

**Playground:**

* Raised close to $800 at the Variety Show, which puts us at around $4500 in the budget. We were aiming for $5000. The previous quote expired. Looking at 2 toss/scores or 1 toss/score and a buck-a-bout.
* Lots of red tape we have to go through to get this approved through BCPS. Ms. DeCrispino and Ms. Worthington are working together to get the money spent.

**Book Fair:**

* Book Fair is here. Wish lists will be going home with your children this week. They are told they do NOT have to buy anything. No one is obligated to buy books. She has a schedule here for volunteers (still needed). Money can be sent in via envelope or baggie; feel free to stipulate but you need to communicate that with the money. There is tax, at .06%. They will be buying next week.
* Book Fair is a fundraiser – the goal is to promote reading, as most of the book $ profit goes back to the teachers and staff to spend back in the book fair in books for the school.
* Reading contest – we need every student to read 20 mins a day/night (total). Tickets are on the Constant Contact newsletter … drawings will be started Thurs morning. Kathy G. organized the whole contest; coupons will be going to the teachers.

**Book Night:**

* Wed 4/18. 6:00-8:00
* Reading Relay will be back, as will Karma Dogs for the kids to sit and read to the dogs. Great for hesitant readers!
* Book Fair will be open during Book Night.
* Donation table will be set up for donating used books, as well as the book swap book. Bring used books and your kids can take one book for every book they bring.

**Yearbook:**

* Those order forms were emailed out. They are looking for pictures.

**Beautification:**

* A church youth group will be coming up to help with mulching.

**Green School:**

* Christina has been updating the website. There are several new videos added. Website discussed; Ms DeCrispino added it’s nice for new parents to explore.
* Christina wants to start a crayon recycling. Kids can bring their used crayons (nothing special – they prefer the paper NOT ripped off but you can send in if that’s already the case). Little pieces of crayons are fine. They do prefer no China made crayons.
* The dog waste collection stations will be up soon.
* Amy Kelly will be taking over Green School.

**Staff Appreciation:**

* April and May are really busy. We’ll be doing something for Ms. B, and the Administrative Assistants as well.
* The committee has met to plan the Teacher Appreciation, week of May 7th. Breakfast Monday morning, big luncheon on Wed (Italian themed), Friday dessert and drinks.
* We will be asking for donations for our breakfast and the desserts that would be wonderful. They can be homemade since it’s for faculty. Gift cards are also welcomed to local restaurants as Debby can use them to buy food for the events.
* Last year we did a grab bag of $5 gift cards for teachers. We will be asking for those donations again.
* We will be asking students to bring in a flower for their teacher, so the teachers can acquire a bunch of flowers all together from their students.

**New Business:**

Parent: Question re: technology integration at the school. Discussion ensued re: the role of the Technology Integration Teacher and that children are expected to know foundations of Power Point, Excel, MS Word. Ms. DeCrispino answered BCPS does not have a technology curriculum. It needs to be integrated in each individual classroom as the curriculum dictates. Parents with older children who children attended WES expressed that years ago, 5+ years ago, children were better prepared with a foundation when they got to Middle School. Ms. DeCrispino stated she

understands there are inequities yet it depends on the classroom and how much each teacher incorporates it.

Parent expressed we want our children to be fully prepared for middle school. WES is given .4 for technology. Next year it will not be full time, 1 point. Parents expressed the desire to have Technology as a special, but Ms. DeCrispino stated that BCPS does not allow it as part of the curriculum.

Parent: Milk in the cafeteria was spoiled today. School was aware, as the Ms. Costa advised them she was aware.

Parent: With regards to 2nd grade what will staffing be for 3rd. Ms. DeCrispino: There will be 5 3rd grades; Ms. Noppenberger will be moving up to 3rd. We are projected to gain 15 students (all grades total) next year. We are at 587 right now. We are projected to possibly hit 600. We are 116% capacity. At 115% K grade is normally annexed to the next available school, but we do not have one. BCPS is prepared to add more schools. Directive has been given that no exceptions can be given. Special Permissions will not be given. She has only accepted Feeder Systems and siblings, but she is being told to deny all. Feeder systems will win on appeal. Not in the Catonsville Feeder system will not win on appeal.

Parent: Idea to sell 200 tickets. They are $100 a ticket, can be shared by up to 5 people. Raises $20,000. $10,000 to the winner, $10,000 to the school. Ms. Belt’s church does this. List are kept by the committee by who is on each ticket (so there isn’t a McDonald’s situation). Possibility to have the drawing off the school property – at a food night or at B&N. This would be a school fundraiser.

Parent: Last day of school? Ms. DeCrispino: Usually established in May. She would guess that it’ll be sooner, but not established until after the May Board meeting.

Motion to dismiss.

Seconded.