

Whitehills School Association Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2017 • 7:00pm



1. Call to order, approval of agenda, approval of previous month's minutes, circulate sign-in sheet
 - a. This month's agenda approved.
 - b. January and February minutes have been approved.

2. Safe Routes to School update from Thomas Baumann
 - a. They want to build a proposal for next year.
 - b. This year they got new vests for all of the crossing guards.
 - c. They have been talking to Officer Whelan about what it will look like next year.
 - d. They plan to start a walking school bus on Wednesdays each week – they want to find one parent from each school to help head up that for each school – "Walking Wednesdays"
 - i. Stefani Wagner is coordinating for the whole district – for Whitehills Lynsey Clayton is the designated parent for Whitehills.
 - ii. This gives an option to kids who may live close enough to walk but parents can't walk them to school because of one reason or another.
 - iii. They want to find teachers at each school that could do safety activities.
 - iv. Walk and Roll Safety Event – there was a thunderstorm this summer and it had to end early. The spring event will be 12-2pm on April 30; kids can bring their bikes and they will be inspected, kids can ride around the block, and practice crossing the street.
 - v. There will be another event at the end of summer
 1. Will keep the date of the Whitehills 5K in mind when setting the date.

3. Principal's report
 - a. There will be a practice "Lock in Place" drill tomorrow.
 - b. Senator Hertel will be here as reading celebrity.
 - c. Irish Dancers will perform as part of Reading month assembly
 - d. M Step testing shouldn't impact Book Fair but may be the same week.
 - e. Date for Whitehills kindergarten round-up has not been decided yet.
 - i. 41 students are already registered.
 - ii. K teachers have a proposal (August) ready and there will be a counter-proposal for the round-up date.
 - f. Bucket Filler Program
 - i. March 21 there will be an extended recess b/c they met their goal.
 - g. There was a staff meeting earlier today and summer school options were discussed to offer here at Whitehills.

- i. The option looked at was to offer four weeks
 - ii. Program will be open to current Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders and will be funded by a literacy grant.
 - iii. No buses will be provided but there will be a coordinator on site
 - 1. Primarily focusing on reading
 - h. There have been internet issues at Whitehills and around the district due to the outage last week.
 - i. Report Cards will be distributed at conferences this year.
 - j. Christian Palasty
 - i. Americans with Disabilities Act – all district sites need to be in compliance with ADA
 - 1. This would apply to links online, photos and other things.
- 4. Teachers' report(s) and activities (Mrs. Pike and Mrs. V)
 - a. Spring Music Showcase tentative plans (April 20, book fair week); this event is optional and kids will not be required to come
 - b. Joy will add to the Book Fair sign-up genius for parents to sign up to help watch kids during the two performances.
 - c. There are teachers that have already offered to come and help watch over the students that aren't singing at the time (and hopefully parents could help make sure the kids that are sitting are doing well).
 - i. K-2 program 6:30pm
 - ii. Refreshments/book fair shopping in between
 - iii. 3-5 program 7:15pm
 - iv. Discussion of inviting author Julian VanDyke to do book signing at event? His book is called "The Music We Call Jazz."
 - 1. Angie said it sounds like a good idea but that we would need to set up the signing in another area to make sure that they sales are kept separate.
 - d. Mrs. V will come the Sunday before Mileage Club starts to walk to route and spray it with spray paint
 - e. Starting in May there will be "Fitness Fridays" and to hopefully do it outside with as many children as possible.
 - i. There are different ideas to touch on like martial arts, dance, and someone from the MAC to come – if anyone has any ideas please let us know!
 - 1. There will also be "casual Fridays" which will be encouraged so kids are dressed appropriately for these activities.
 - f. There is going to be a March Madness bracket in the gym this month.
 - g. Field Day
 - i. We need parent volunteers to help it run more smoothly; they will start with preliminaries this year
 - ii. May 24th is 5th grade
 - iii. May 25th is 4th grade

- iv. Rain day of May 26th
 - h. Fourth Grade Foresters program
 - i. (<http://www.fourthgradeforestersusa.com/michigan/>)
 - ii. WSA received an email form a parent asking if we would be interested in sponsoring the purchase of trees (12" evergreen seedlings) for our fourth graders for Arbor Day. The cost including shipping is \$1.79 per tree. Total cost for 50 fourth graders: \$89.50.
 - iii. Does this fit with any curricular goals? Would fourth grade teachers be interested?
 - 1. We will talk to Kevin Sayers about possibly taking charge of this.
 - iv. It might be a good idea to get the teachers on board before we agree to it and make sure it fits into their teaching.
 - v. It might make sense to even do a couple trees per class and plant them at school instead of taking them home.
 - i. Adding author visit to next year's WSA budget.
 - i. Librarian wanted to bring author Leslie Helakoski (*Woolbur*, *The Smushy Bus*, etc.) to do three presentations for Reading Month in March. The cost would have been \$900 plus travel expenses from the Kalamazoo area.
 - ii. Principal Wells said that it used to be a line item from the parent council to contribute to something like this each year – and we have not contributed to reading month yet.
 - 1. Angie mentioned having all the elementary schools team up and get an author to come and visit all of the schools each year – this might lower the cost for each school to have an author come.
5. Officers' reports
- a. President Joy Campbell – N/A
 - b. Vice President Jen Gorchow
 - i. Update on Donley's Fun Run plan
 - 1. Donley reported that Playmakers will come at no charge to do music etc.
 - a. They are happy to help but book up quickly
 - 2. They set aside \$300 to pay for upfront advertising, cones, and popsicles
 - 3. Razoo website is used to gather the funds.
 - 4. A few years ago High School athletes came and helped lead it and kids were excited.
 - 5. Maybe Becky Newcombe would do warm-ups
 - 6. Other suggestions:
 - a. Sparty
 - b. MSU cheer

- c. Treasurer Jeff Hicks – N/A
 - d. Secretary Elizabeth Ivkovich
 - i. Glass top for teacher lunchroom table
 - ii. ~250.00–seconded and approved.
6. School Board representative report
- a. Guys and Dolls starts this weekend – there is a description on the school website.
 - b. Girls High School lost at regionals
 - c. Boys High School is still playing – the game is tomorrow at 6pm away
 - i. If they win that they will have quarter finals next week and then after that they would play at the Breslin.
 - d. The sex ed advisory board came and shared their information
 - i. The “Wonder Years” for puberty was approved last night
 - 1. Updated version
 - e. Another bond meeting is at Pinecrest tomorrow
 - i. If you haven’t been yet, it would be good to go and tell everyone to also attend.
 - ii. A second set of drawings will be coming out for each school from the architect
 - 1. Neither of the drawings represent what the schools will look like – they are just conceptual and show that everything will fit.
 - 2. As concerns are brought forth, the drawings are possibly changed to show how it could be altered or changed and still be in the budget.
 - 3. Short videos are being made and should come out for each school March 27th – they will most likely be disbursed in mass.
 - 4. The bond information page is very helpful and as soon as information is being found out that page is being updated.
7. District Parent Council report – Angela Michael provided these updates:
- a. A representative of the Michigan Education Savings Program came to explore the possibility of providing information at PTA meetings. Dori Leyko will look into this in terms of seeing if MESP can sponsor events at the schools.
 - b. A representative of the Edgewood Village Scholars program came to promote the program. It is for residents of the housing co-op only, most of whom go to Donley and wouldn’t affect many of our students.
 - c. PTOs are asked to inform public about school bond meeting dates.
 - i. (past) Monday, February 27, 9:00am at Marble
 - ii. Wednesday, March 15, 7:00pm at Pinecrest
 - iii. Tuesday, April 11, 4:00pm at Donley

- 8. Current/recent WSA projects
 - a. Time Capsule – January 20
 - i. March school display case features time capsule items.
 - ii. All time capsule items have been photographed or scanned and images are available on the WSA Facebook page.
 - b. Embrace the World – February 23
 - iii. Went well, 200-250 people visited 19 tables.
 - iv. Thank you to everyone who participated!
 - e. Teacher appreciation luncheons – March 21 and 23
 - i. Food sign-ups going well
 - ii. Still could use second helper for set-up and clean-up both days (have one person each day).
 - iii. Teachers have requested that we move next year's lunches to the prior Wednesday and the Tuesday of conference week, and also increase the food amounts to cover all staff.
 - f. Science Fair – March 29
 - i. Participation forms went home March 3 and are also available on the WSA and Science Club websites. Forms are due March 17.
 - ii. Seeking a handful of volunteers for help with set-up and logistics.
 - g. Happy Camper BOGO Book Fair – April 17-21
 - i. Update from Angie Smith – decorations are already in the WSA room.
 - ii. There won't be a breakfast this time
 - iii. Angie asked if she could have around \$50 to make a basket of her own to have the raffle again with different camper items.
 - 1. Approved.
 - iv. Sign Up Genius is posted.

- 9. Fundraising
 - a. Marco's Night in February brought in \$40.
 - a. Is there interest in the design-your-own box fundraiser again?
 - i. Joy will talk to Mrs. Ruttman about possibly doing something with them in class.
 - b. Christian's Greenhouse
 - a. Date confirmation from Amy Zaagman?
 - i. Before Mother's Day
 - 1. She would like to get them before Carnival and be able to sell them there.
 - 2. April 24-May 8
 - c. Front walk bricks
 - a. Angie Smith will coordinate, will post dates when we have info.

- b. She would like to get them out when there aren't a lot of other flyers going home.

10. Volunteer needs not mentioned elsewhere

- a. Mileage Club monitors
 - i. Program dates are April 10 to May 26, 2:15-3:00pm each day.
 - ii. Sign Up Genius is posted.
 - iii. Maybe NHS students could come and help out.
 - iv. We need one person (or a couple) to come and help with the "behind the scenes" work on the punch cards.
- b. Front display case artists needed for April, May, June
 - i. Sign Up Genius is posted.
- c. Fun Run coordinator(s)
 - i. Listed on volunteer needs page of website – start recruiting!

11. Upcoming events (**bold = need volunteers!**)

- Tues. 3/14 - WSA meeting, 7:00pm
- Wed. 3/15 - Half day
- Thurs. 3/16 - Marco's Pizza Night
- **Fri. 3/17 - Science Club and deadline for Science Fair participation form**
- Tues. 3/21 - Half day and **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon**
- Thurs. 3/23 - Half day and **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon**
- Fri. 3/24 - No school
- **Wed. 3/29 - Science Fair 6:00-7:30pm**
- Fri. 3/31 - Yearbook order deadline
- Mon.-Fri. 4/3-7 - Spring Break!!
- **Mon. 4/10 - Mileage Club begins (now through May 26)**
- Tues. 4/11 - WSA meeting, 7:00pm
- Fri. 4/14 - Popcorn Friday (moved due to Spring Break)
- **Mon.-Fri. 4/17-21 - Happy Camper BOGO Book Fair**
- Thurs. 4/20 - Marco's Pizza Night
- **Fri. 4/21 - Science Club**

12. Any other business?

13. Adjournment

In attendance:

Joy Campbell	Jen Gorchow	Jeff Hicks
Elizabeth Ivkovich	Katie Pike	Andy Wells
Thomas Baumann	Marie Volovsek	Erin Graham
Mia Gougeon-Adarkwa	Jamie Fitzgerald	Angie Smith