

Whitehills School Association Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2018 • 6:00pm



1. Call to order with welcome and introductions, circulate sign-in sheet
2. Approval of agenda, approval of previous month's minutes
 - a. Minutes from November meeting; no meeting was held in December
 - b. Jen Gorchow moves to approve. Seconded and passed.
3. Principal's report
 - a. Students are very excited to be back from break and be able to go outside for recess.
 - b. We are entering the AIMSweb benchmark testing period.
 - c. Positive behavior incentive program for students – assembly will be held next week.
 - d. A lot of teachers have “buddy” classrooms. One recent project was Mrs. Brenner and Mrs. Olsen's classes teaming up to make fleece blankets for Sparrow Hospital.
 - e. Lower Elementary Winter Musical
 - i. It went very well and most of the teachers showed up to help; Mrs. Pike and Ms. Beasley did a great job. Mrs. Pike encouraged parents to keep their phones away and just enjoy the moment, which was refreshing.
 - ii. Amy Sayers asked about the possibility of the gym in the new building including a stage for performances.
 1. Trustee Martin made a note of this question and encouraged people to attend bond meetings, which are open to the public.
 - f. Updates from Safe Routes to School meeting
 - i. Mr. Johnson attended. Meeting involved a lot of community stakeholders (e.g., MSU representatives, ELPD, Meridian Twp. Police, district representatives) and there was a lot of discussion of how SRTS efforts have been going and what future efforts might look like.
 - ii. There is the potential to apply for more grant money (up to \$200K per school) but there was no definite decision made today; we are looking to coordinate “boosting” SRTS initiatives with the school construction that will be coming.
 - iii. SRTS coordinator took video on a very snowy day to see how many kids are walking and how the traffic is. With Whitehills it gets hard because there are some traffic patterns that can't be avoided due to the roads. One goal would be to make a video showing parents the safest practices for drop off and pick up.
 - iv. Thanks to Mr. Rosas, a grandfather who has been coming every day to assist with parking lot traffic control after school.
4. Teachers' report(s) and activities
 - a. Thank you to Mrs. Pike for a fantastic Winter Musical!
 - b. Kindergarten and first grade students will be going to the Wharton Center to see “Dragons Love Tacos” in a couple of weeks.
 - c. Kids have done really well in coming back after break, and they are just having a refresher on what they should be doing in the lunchroom and at recess.
 - d. There is an MSU home basketball game the night of PawPalooza, so some people may have tickets to go to the game; was there a reason that date was selected?

5. School Board representative report – Nichole Martin
 - a. There is a new slate of Board of Education officer positions; Kate Powers, President; Erin Graham, Vice President; Hillary Henderson, Treasurer; Karen Hoene, Secretary; Nichole Martin, Nell Kuhnmeunch, and Terah Chambers, Trustees.
 - b. Trustee Martin announced a mobile Black History museum that will be at ELPL on with over 7,000 historic artifacts. This was funded through some local East Lansing and MSU clubs, as well as ELPL.
 - c. The Board wants to remind people that the bond meetings are open and are at 10:30am every other Thursday. In the next couple months they will be discussing which schools will be renovated in what order.
 - d. School start time is a teacher contract negotiation item, so there isn't information at this time.
 - i. The middle school debate team came to a recent Board meeting and talked about why there needed to be later start times for older children. The time and effort they spent preparing was really great to see.
 - e. Trustee Martin requested that information on the PawPalooza results be sent to her after the event for her to report to the Board.
 - i. Joy will take care of this.
 - f. Trustee Martin requested that the Wolf Pack Wire to the Board each month.
 - i. We will institute this immediately.

6. Officers' reports

- a. President Joy Campbell
 - i. Request from Tali Faris-Hylen for \$50 from WSA (request sent to all parent councils; license is \$299 total) in support of a ELHS and MMS screening of the documentary *The Mask You Live In*, a documentary about notions of masculinity in America. Post-screening discussion will be led by ELHS's SGE group, our district's Mental Health Committee, someone from MSU Gender Studies and perhaps a representative from the Firecracker Foundation. More information can be found at: <http://therepresentationproject.org/film/the-mask-you-live-in/>
 1. Discussion and vote.
 - a. Nichole is on the Mental Health Committee and hasn't heard anything about this yet. She is meeting with Andy Wells tonight and will address this and let the WSA board know.
 - b. There was some confusion on where the money was coming from or what it would cover or if it pays for the rights for it.
 - c. The final outcome is that we will tell Tali that we are going to discuss it further and find out some more information and then get back to her; the WSA board will decide once more information is received.
 - ii. Proposed WSA non-discrimination policy (carried over from November meeting)
 1. There is no formal policy written into the bylaws that date back to 2005.
 2. The full policy from the District, on which the proposed WSA policy is based, can be found here: https://eastlansingpublicschools-my.sharepoint.com/:o:r/personal/gail_gillengerten_elps_us/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B0c92e640-b6ba-4160-993c-90be655b25d3%7D&action=view
 - a. Following up on a question raised in the November meeting, we clarified with Superintendent Leyko that any complaints would be

brought before the WSA, as opposed to the superintendent or district, as the WSA is a separate legal entity.

3. Proposed bylaws addition reads: "NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE: The Association will not discriminate against any person based on sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, handicap, age, sexual orientation, political beliefs, disability, or any other protected class that is added to the East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education Bylaws, Sections 2450, 5030, and 8015 in the future. Inquiries or complaints by students, parents, guardians, or school personnel should be directed to a member of the Board."
4. Discussion and vote.
 - a. Jen Gorchow moves to approve. Seconded and passed.
 - b. Nichole asked for clarification on the final word "Board" and who it referred to – it was clarified to refer to the WSA Board, not the ELPS Board of Education.

b. Vice President Jen Gorchow

c. Treasurer Jeff Hicks

- i. Current balance of accounts, outstanding/upcoming bills right around \$17,000.
- ii. The Book Fair total was only off by \$3.74 after reconciling.

d. Secretary Elizabeth Ivkovich

7. Recent WSA events

- a. "Winter Wonderland" Scholastic Book Fair, Monday-Friday, December 4-8
 - i. Very successful! First Book Fair to break \$7,000 in gross sales, with over \$3,400 coming back in Scholastic Dollars.
 - ii. Through donations to the All for Books program, Whitehills was able to provide \$325 worth of books to children served by Lansing's Refugee Development Center, and we were also able to purchase books from the wish lists of 12 of our own students in need.
 - iii. Many thanks to new co-chairs Erica Dziedzic and Zaje Harrell for their leadership and for agreeing to continue as chairs for the spring book fair.

8. Upcoming WSA events and volunteer opportunities

- a. PawPalooza Dance & Silent Auction (January 19, 6:00-8:00pm)
 - i. New this year: student-selected themes, staggered auction closing times, ticket system for refreshments
 - ii. Student-selected class basket themes were announced in a letter in November and are posted on the WSA website; we would like teachers to send reminders to their classrooms if possible so that parents can know there is still a need.
 - iii. Funds will be designated to grade level needs or grade-specific special events (e.g., Nature Discovery visit to first grade classrooms). Specials teachers will also receive a portion of the proceeds.
 - iv. Basket contents will be posted ahead of time so people can plan their bidding. People can sue proxies to vote if they are not able to attend.
 - v. Thank you to chair Elizabeth Ivkovich and committee members Mia Gougeon-Adarkwa and Cheri Kreft for their work on this event!
 - vi. Sign Up Genius is posted on website (includes event help and treat donations).

- b. Embrace the World (February 22, 6:30-8:00pm)
 - i. Celebration of diversity in the Whitehills community. "Culture" is broadly defined; tables welcome for countries and heritage, but also for other forms of diversity such as adoptive families, Black History Month, or differing abilities.
 - ii. Seeking groups or individuals for short performances (past examples include Irish step dance and Indian classical dance)
 - iii. Sign Up Genius is posted – seeking families to host tables and help with event set-up and logistics. You don't have to be from a country or fluent in another language to do a table. It can be as simple as the country where your grandfather came from, or a place you've travelled that you feel connected to and want to share.

9. Other leadership and volunteer opportunities

- a. This late winter/early spring, Marble Elementary is offering a running program for 4th and 5th grade boys called "Let Me Run," very similar to the Girls on the Run program; our district will be the first locally to offer this program.
 - i. Is there interest in starting up a team at Whitehills? More information is here: <http://www.letmerun.org/coaches/start-a-team-16>
 - ii. Joy will send information to Principal Johnson to send to staff to see if there is interest.
 - iii. Amy Sayers said she would see if her husband would like to possibly volunteer and there were a couple of other school dads named that may or may not have any interest.

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Tues. 1/9 - WSA meeting, 6:00pm o Wed. 1/10 - Walking School Bus o Fri. 1/12 - Popcorn Friday o Mon. 1/15 - NO SCHOOL (MLK Day) o Wed. 1/17 - Walking School Bus o Thurs. 1/18 – Marco's Pizza Night o Fri. 1/19 - Science Club o Fri. 1/19 - PawPalooza Dance & Silent Auction, 6:00-8:00pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Wed. 1/24 - Walking School Bus o Fri. 2/2 - Popcorn Friday o Fri. 2/9 - Box Tops Winter II deadline o Tues. 2/13 - WSA meeting, 6:00pm o Thurs. 2/15 - Marco's Pizza Night o Fri. 2/16 - Science Club o Mon. 2/19 - NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day) o Thurs. 2/22 - Embrace the World: A Celebration of Diversity, 6:00-8:00pm |
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11. Adjournment

In attendance:

Joy Campbell	Jeff Hicks
Lynne Clyma	Elizabeth Ivkovich
Trisha Donahue	Shane Johnson
Paul Donahue	Nichole Martin
Jen Gorchow	Amy Sayers