

**Whitehills School Association Meeting Minutes**  
February 13, 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. Motion to approve, seconded, and approved.
3. Principal report and questions
  - a. Testing was completed in January and grade levels had a chance to work together on data review in February.
  - b. In accordance with the state's Third Grade Reading Law, based on screening, students who fall below grade level for reading need to have an Individual Reading Plan (IRP). This entails meeting with parents at an additional conference. All teachers have completed this already.
  - c. The school received a K-3 literacy grant; there will be after-school tutoring offered up to Spring Break to students needing extra assistance. At that point, we will assess how well it is helping the students.
  - d. Amy Sayers has created a mentor program with her high school pre-calculus students. They come to Whitehills on Thursdays and meet with 4<sup>th</sup> graders. The students receive extra help on math, but also socio-emotional mentoring from their high school "buddy."
    - i. This was a pilot but was presented to the board last night and was passed. The hope is that it will be rolled out to all the elementary schools.
  - e. Data
    - i. Are we at the point where we find out if we get more interventionist hours yet?
      1. This is unknown at this point.
  - f. Number of sections next year
    - i. Central office is looking at boundaries closely; new school buildings will be at about 290 students for full capacity.
  - g. Kindergarten Parent Information Night
    - i. March 21 is the Kindergarten Parent Information Night; Round Up date has not been set.
  - h. "Let Me Run" program for 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade boys
    - i. It was brought up to the teachers, but it remains undecided if Whitehills will have a program this year.
  - i. We have received questions about the number and purpose of reserved spots. Could this be clarified in an email from the school? (Whitehills Word reiterated parking lot courtesy, but reserved spots were not mentioned.)
    - i. Please direct people who have issues come to Principal Johnson and he will talk to them. It is simply a safety issue and they need to prevent people from parking on the grass. There is a lot of congestion and traffic. There are 39 marked parking spots, 25 staff members, and 5-6 B&A teachers who all have to be able to park.

- ii. Possibly we could do a spotlight in the Wolf Pack Wire on the parking lot volunteer so his face will be more familiar and people will be more positive about his volunteer position.
  - iii. There are slight differences in times that students are released (e.g., some go to lockers before bells rings, others have to do classroom tasks before going to lockers after bell rings), so that staggers the time students are getting out of the building, which can be tricky for parents.
- 4. Teachers' report(s) and activities
  - a. The WSA will be funding Michigan author Joseph "Paleo Joe" Kchodl to speak at two assemblies during March is Reading Month.
  - b. About half of the teachers/staff members have submitted reimbursement claims for their \$100 classroom grants. We are still missing a number of them, so please remind colleagues that funds are still available.
  - c. Mrs. Clyma remarked that the days for the teacher lunches have been noted and are much appreciated; thank you!
  - d. Questions were raised about Girls on the Run, specifically 1) why there is a lottery instead of letting all interested girls join, and 2) where the fees go? Principal Johnson will ask Katie Pike, the head coach.
- 5. School Board representative report and questions
  - a. Terah Chambers could not make it because she is at another school for their bond forum.
    - i. Hillary Henderson will try to come after the High School meeting, but can also answer questions we have via text.
  - b. A community forum for the rebuilding of Donley will be held February 22 from 6:00 – 7:30pm in the Donley Elementary Library. This could be of interest for those curious about the bond and community feedback on the building process.
    - i. This is the same night as Embrace the World but if you wanted to attend, you could make it to both.
  - c. Looking ahead, have plans been drafted for how the Donley and Whitehills populations will share the site for their overlap year (e.g., parking, traffic flow, playground usage)?
    - i. Maybe there could be a time lapse with staggering start and end times. (Example was given of a school system in Grand Rapids area that did this.)
    - ii. Terah responded to this question via email and wanted to let us know that they are carefully considering the drop off and pick up situation for when both schools are going to be on the same grounds and they are continually reassessing.
- 6. Officers' reports
  - a. President Joy Campbell
    - i. Follow up on "The Mask You Live In" film: the WSA did not contribute any funds toward the license, but we did promote the event on social media, in an eblast, and on our website.
      - 1. The event went great and was well attended.

- ii. The WSA has been asked to compile photos from this academic year for the school yearbook. We will be putting out a call for photo submission via Lifetouch's website, as well as providing event photos.
  - 1. There is no art contest this year but maybe we can do that again next year.
- b. Vice President Jen Gorchow
- c. Treasurer Jeff Hicks
  - i. Current balance of accounts \$22,658.09
- d. Secretary Elizabeth Ivkovich

## 7. Recent WSA events

### a. PawPalooza Dance & Silent Auction

- i. PawPalooza was a huge success! The total income from the auction, ticket sales, and coffee sales was just over \$6,000. Expenses were approximately \$850 (DJ, coffee/cocoa, supplies, decorations, Square fees, etc.).
- ii. The highest class basket bid was \$160 for Mrs. Kemsley, so her classroom will receive that amount to purchase something special.
- iii. Remaining profits (once all expenses are reconciled) are 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. The WSA will work with Mr. Johnson on distribution of funds.
- iv. Thanks again to chair Elizabeth Ivkovich and committee members Mia Gougeon-Adarkwa and Cheri Kreft for their work on this event!
- v. There was a parent concerned with how busy the gym was with loosely supervised kids running around, so maybe next year we will do more to encourage parents to make sure to chaperone their children.
- vi. Next school year, we would like to consider having the event in the fall as opposed to after winter break. This would also hopefully have parts or all of the auction online, which might help with parent supervision at the dance, since on-site bidding will be minimized.
- vii. Elizabeth will contact Marble art teacher (and possibly parent volunteers) to see how their auction art pieces worked (pottery) for a change of pace from the Garden Rocks.

## 8. Upcoming WSA events and volunteer opportunities

### a. Embrace the World (February 22, 6:30-8:00pm)

- i. Celebration of diversity in the Whitehills community. We have over 15 tables so far, representing four continents plus Black History Month.
- ii. Sign Up Genius is posted – seeking families to host tables and help with event set-up and logistics.
  - i. We need passport stampers and other volunteers.

### b. Teacher appreciation luncheons coming up in March

- i. Sign Up Genius is posted and plenty of spots remain.

### c. Science Fair (March 28, 6:00-7:30pm)

- i. Open to all grades

- ii. You must sign up by March 16; the form is linked on our website and on the Science Club website, and a hard copy will be sent home in early March.
- iii. Science Club is this Friday, February 16 (Battle Bots) if anyone has questions for Kyle ahead of time.
- iv. WSA has purchased tri-folds for children who would like one at no cost. They will be available in the office by March 1.
- d. Mileage Club monitors
  - i. Program dates are April 9 through May 25, 2:15-3:00pm each day.
  - ii. Marianne Flynn is coordinating for the second year – thank you!
    - i. 102 already registered. All grades are welcome to participate.
  - iii. Sign Up Genius is posted.
- e. "Paws for Books" BOGO Book Fair (April 16-20)
  - i. Erica Dziedzic and Zaje Harrell will co-chair again – thank you!
  - ii. Wednesday of Book Fair week will be the 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade Spring Music Showcase that evening.
  - iii. Sign Up Genius is posted.

## 9. Upcoming events (**bold = need volunteers!**)

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| ○ Thurs. 2/15 - Marco's Pizza Night                        | ○ <b>Wed. 3/14 - <u>Teacher Appreciation Lunch</u></b>  |
| ○ Fri. 2/16 – 100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School celebrations | ○ Thurs. 3/15 - Marco's Pizza Night                     |
| ○ <b>Fri. 2/16 - <u>Science Club</u></b>                   | ○ <b>Fri. 3/16 - <u>Science Club</u></b>                |
| ○ Topic: Battlebots  | ○ Tues. 3/20 - HALF DAY (conferences)                   |
| ○ Mon. 2/19 - NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day)                  | ○ <b>Tues. 3/20 - <u>Teacher Appreciation Lunch</u></b> |
| ○ <b>Thurs. 2/22 - <u>Embrace the World</u>: A</b>         | ○ Thurs. 3/22 - HALF DAY (conferences)                  |
| ○ Celebration of Diversity, 6:30-8:00pm                    | ○ Fri. 3/23 - NO SCHOOL                                 |
| ○ Fri. 3/2 - Popcorn Friday                                | ○ <b>Wed. 3/28 - <u>Science Fair</u></b>                |
| ○ Tues. 3/13 - WSA meeting, 6:00pm                         | ○ Fri. 3/30 - NO SCHOOL (first day of spring break)     |
| ○ Wed. 3/14 - HALF DAY (conferences)                       |   |

## 10. Adjournment

### In attendance:

Joy Campbell	Jen Gorchow
Lynne Clyma	Jeff Hicks
Trisha Donahue	Elizabeth Ivkovich
Paul Donahue	Shane Johnson