

Whitehills School Association Meeting Minutes

April 10, 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 approved
3. Principal report and questions – Mr. Johnson unable to attend
 - a. Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up. How can the WSA help?
 - i. Joy will ask Mr. Johnson about ideas.
 - ii. Elizabeth will get flowers and a treat for the teacher lounge.
 - b. Kindergarten Round-Up – May 22
 - i. Snacks out like last year – Elizabeth can do this.
 1. Maybe have sign by snacks and let people know that snacks are for everyone to enjoy. Maybe have WSA handouts near snacks?
 - ii. Per Jen, we might just want one WSA member there to talk to parents.
 - iii. We will let Mr. Johnson know what is planned and ask him if there is anything else the school would like from the WSA.
4. Teachers' report(s) and activities
 - a. In response to Katie Pike's request to have more time between spring break and a spring music event, next year's spring book fair will be held April 29-May 3, 2019.
 - b. Mrs. Volovsek
 - i. Thank you for the lunches during conferences.
 - ii. In P.E., the end of the year is always a busy time of year.
 1. The 3rd grade is doing a performance of a dance from Big Zoo – each class separate during P.E.
 - a. Kids will also demonstrate their dance at the spring showcase.
 2. On the first Wednesday of May, there will a fifteen minute exercise period with the whole school – this is a national celebration called ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously).
 3. At the end of May, there is a district-wide 4th and 5th grade track event at the High School.
 - a. May 30 is 5th Grade; May 31 is 4th grade; rain date for both grades is June 1.
 - b. Mrs. V needs a lot of help for these events. The more volunteers we have the more events the kids are able to choose and participate in. Jobs include:
 1. Counters for jump rope, measure softball throw, timers for multiple events, spotters to see who comes in first, second, and third if there are close finishes.
 - c. Mrs. V will let Joy know times so we can get a Sign Up Genius ready.
 4. Field Day
 - a. Volunteers needed, Sign Up Genius will go up soon.

- b. For the Sign Up Genius, can someone be designated to come and give teachers a bathroom break during Field Day? It's a long time for teachers to have no break.
 - a. Update: Parent volunteers can't replace teachers for breaks, but a system will be worked out with specials teachers stepping in as needed.
 - c. Are we able to add the DJ cost to the budget each year so we don't have to revisit getting the cost approved each year?
 - a. WSA agreed to this and approved of the cost again for this year.
 - 5. Kids are designing t-shirts for Jump Rope Club
 - 6. For the tunnel for the last day of school for the 5th graders
 - 7. This was popular and we will be doing this again.
 - c. Mrs. Clyma
 - i. Thank you again for the lunches – it is much appreciated.
 - ii. Science Fair was so great, thank you to everyone who participated.
 - iii. Kim Anderson is retiring and the fifth graders are the class she had the first year. Is there something we could do for her other than the tunnel?
5. School Board representative report and questions
 - a. The Board decided in last night's meeting to move to a rotation system where parent councils will be invited to come to speak to the Board in lieu of sending a representative to each council's monthly meeting.
 - b. School start date – this is something both parents and teachers would like to know so they can plan.
 - c. Public comment: With the mental health issues in our country right now why don't each of the schools have full-time interventionists and school social workers? If the money is in the budget, why cut those items. Rankings just came out and East Lansing didn't make it above the 90% mark, so why haven't the funds that are available been used for that?
 - i. It would also be prudent to have extra interventionist staff while the schools are transitioning to aid in mitigating stress among students and staff.
 - ii. Zaje Harrell sits on the mental health advisory board; she offered to bring this up and ask if there are plans related to the upcoming building transactions.
6. Officers' reports
 - a. President Joy Campbell
 - i. Ideas for new Little Free Library bookcase from Angie Smith (pass around photos and decide which to purchase).
 - 1. One was too tall (worried about tipping), another was not available nearby. The other two options are very similar.
 - 2. Consensus was to purchase the option that was close to the ground in brown to minimize dirt showing.
 - 3. We will try post the old cupboard on Freecycle or see if anyone wants to rehab it.
 - ii. From Safe Routes to School group: We are having an incentive program for the kids who participate. They will receive a Walking School Bus token each

week they “ride” the WSB. This incentive program runs for ten weeks, beginning tomorrow.

1. Stefani Wagner is coordinating this since she leads the weekly WSB, but if a parent volunteer wants to start a WSB from another area of the neighborhood, she can share the necklace/token supplies.
 - a. This “token” incentive will be starting tomorrow.
2. Walk and Roll Safety Day is also coming up – this is a free event from 1:00-3:00pm on Saturday at the Middle School.
- iii. Christian’s Greenhouse fundraiser
 1. Forms will be sent home next week.
- iv. Spring grounds clean-up – Saturday, April 21, 1:00-3:00pm
 1. Brownie troop plans to plant flowers in raised flower bed in May.
- v. Seeking board members for 2018-19 school year.
 1. According to our bylaws, the new board is elected at the May meeting. We are seeking a new board member. Please let us know if you are interested in running!
- b. Vice President Jen Gorchow
- c. Treasurer Jeff Hicks
 - i. Current balance of accounts, outstanding/upcoming bills
 1. Disbursements coming out for PawPalooza soon.
- d. Secretary Elizabeth Ivkovich

7. Recent WSA events

- a. Teacher appreciation luncheons – thank you to everyone who participated!
- b. Science Fair
 - i. Almost 40 students participated, with a variety of projects, posters, collections, and demonstrations. Thank you to co-chairs Kyle Enger and Pete White.

8. Upcoming WSA events and volunteer opportunities

- a. Mileage Club
 - i. Program began April 9 and runs through May 25, 2:15-3:00pm each day. Thanks to coordinators Marianne Flynn and Mary Lytle!
 - ii. Sign Up Genius is posted – a lot of volunteers are needed for this!
- b. “Paws for Books” BOGO Book Fair (April 16-20)
 - i. Co-chairs Erica Dziedzic and Zaje Harrell (thank you!!) need lots of volunteers helping with shifts to make it a successful book fair – please spread the word and sign up if you can!
 - ii. Ideas for this fair from Erica and Zaje:
 - i. Looking to get more donations for the All For Books (AFB) program so that they could have allow each child to be able to get a book for summer. It would come to over \$800, so that is a very lofty goal. In case that doesn’t happen, there are a couple other ideas.
 1. To help generate more donations, we will be placing AFB canisters in the front office, outside the library and maybe another location to make it more noticeable.
 2. If there isn’t enough money raised, maybe we could give a book to each 5th grader, finish teacher’s wish lists, or have the

WSA supplement the missing funds to be able to get each student a book.

- a. Maybe the reading interventionist could help identify kids who would benefit from taking books home?
 - i. This option was agreed on by the group. Erica and Zaje will contact reading interventionist Ashley Burg to arrange next steps.
- b. Maybe having kids collect money as a classroom or a large container to collect as a whole school.
- ii. Cozy reading corner – looking for floor pillows/blankets to borrow!
 1. There may be families that have floor pillows or other things they can bring.
- iii. “Read to a dog” with therapy dogs – in the works!
 1. It is lined up but we need a signature from Mr. Johnson to finalize this. The organization (Therapy Dogs International) insures its handlers and dogs. If this can get signed we will move very quickly after that. There is a no pets on policy but these are service dogs so that shouldn’t be a hindrance.
- iii. Wednesday of Book Fair week will be 3-5th grade Spring Music Showcase.
- c. Carnival (May 18)
 - i. Two wristband presale times will occur, after school on May 11 and May 16.
 - ii. Lynsey is looking for someone to help her create a Tunnel of Terror.
- d. PawPalooza (Fall)
 - i. No EL Trojans football schedule posted yet. Does anyone know when this usually comes out? What are other likely conflicts for a Friday in October?
 - i. We could check other schools in our conference to see if they have their schedules out yet.
 - ii. Should we lock in a tentative date now for PawPalooza (to be able to publish at-a-glance calendar for Kindergarten Round-Up)?
 - i. Possibly Friday, October 26 and make it BooPawlooza?? Or we can just keep it tentative and say “watch for more details this fall.”

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

- **Mon. 4/9 - Mileage Club begins, runs through May 25**
- Tues. 4/10 - WSA meeting, 6:00pm
- Fri. 4/13 - Popcorn Friday
- Sat. 4/14 - District-wide Walk and Roll Safety Day, 1:00-3:00pm at MacDonald Middle School
- **Mon. 4/16-Fri. 4/20 - Paws for Books BOGO Book Fair!**
- **Wed. 4/18 - Upper Elementary Spring Music Showcase, 6:30pm**
- Thurs. 4/19 - Marco's Pizza Night
- **Fri. 4/20 - Science Club, 3:30-5:30**
- Fri. 5/4 - Box Tops Spring deadline

10. Adjournment

In attendance:

Joy Campbell
Lynne Clyma
Trisha Donahue
Paul Donahue

Erica Dziedzic
Jen Gorchow
Zaje Harrell

Jeff Hicks
Elizabeth Ivkovich
Marie Volovsek