

Whitehills School Association Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018 • 6:00pm



1. Call to order with welcome and introductions, circulate sign-in sheet
 - a. This will be a quick meeting, since the Community Forum on the new building begins at 7:00pm.

2. Approval of agenda, approval of previous month's minutes
 - a. Agenda approved.

3. Principal report and opportunity for questions
 - a. Donley purchased apples and Goldfish crackers for all students on the two late start days this fall. Breakfast is especially important for students who rely on school breakfast, which was not offered on late start days. What breakfast plans, if any, are being made for the two late start days in the spring? Superintendent Dori Leyko indicated online that the district and schools would work on this. Mr. Johnson confirmed that this would indeed be handled by the district.
 - i. A suggestion was made to possibly give the breakfast items the night before the half-day, so children can eat earlier than 10:45am.
 - b. 5th graders went to "Takin' it to the Streets" at the Wharton Center. 4th graders went to "Mexico Beyond Mariachi" at the Wharton Center.
 - c. The students continue to successfully earn bucket fillers and earned a "Hat Day" last week as a reward.
 - d. Mr. Johnson has been working with staff in reminding parents and children to bring snow gear. He encouraged parents to bring/donate any winter clothing items (snow boots, coats, snow pants, etc.) for the school to have on reserve. WSA will post request on Facebook as well.
 - e. Next Tuesday the school will be having a ukulele club demonstration. There will also be a Jump Rope Club assembly.
 - f. Mr. Johnson reported that Mia Gougeon-Adarkwa came to a staff meeting to discuss logistics and other details about the Jan's Closet program.
 - g. Mr. Johnson also shared some blueprints drafts of the new school buildings.
 - h. Questions:
 - i. Will there be additional forums or meetings to give feedback regarding the new school plans? Mr. Johnson was confident this will happen.

4. Teachers' report(s) and opportunity for questions
 - a. There was general consensus that teachers would appreciate Sara Cunningham's idea to coordinate "teacher favorites" lists. Sara has a draft ready and is thinking through the logistics of distributing the initial list and sharing results with families.
 - b. Questions:
 - i. Would hard copy or electronic format be preferred for teachers to share their preferences?
 - ii. Joy will survey a few teachers to get insights in terms of preference, since no teachers were present this month.

5. District Parent Council report and opportunity for questions
 - a. Whitehills parent Angela Michael is serving as the DPC co-president this year, with Lisa Rutkowski from Glencairn/ELHS. Angela gave the following report:

- i. DPC aims to be more active this year, will try to serve as proactive body rather than simply a venue for parent council reports.
 - ii. One plan is to invite different school board committees to give reports. A representative from the Sexual Education Advisory Board gave a report at their last meeting; current discussions focus on the eighth grade curriculum.
 - iii. The Mental Health Advisory Committee will attend the next DPC meeting on Friday. Are there any questions to relay to that committee? Already asked Angela to ask a question from prior WSA meetings – what steps are being taken to minimize and manage student and staff anxiety and stress about the school moves? Angela will report back.
 - 1. No other questions were raised to pass on to the committee.

- 6. Officers' reports, announcements, and opportunity for questions
 - a. President Joy Campbell
 - i. Apparent winners from last week's school board election are: Kate Powers (returning), Terah Chambers (returning), Chris Martin (new), and Kath Edsall (new, but has served before).
 - ii. Box Tops updates:
 - 1. \$405 for the main fall submission. Thanks to Mark Weishar, Loretta Singel, and Vanessa McConnell for their work on this! The next main submission is on December 7.
 - 2. Is there interest in a district-wide Box Tops competition, perhaps toward a common goal for a shared Reading Month author for next academic year?
 - a. It was decided that Vanessa, Loretta, and Mark should decide whether this would be a desirable idea to pursue.
 - iii. Is there still interest in an online option for Spirit Wear? There was no long-sleeved option this year because coordinator Kirsten Borgstrom proposed an on-demand online option. She is looking at RokkitWear.com, with 400+ items available, no minimum purchase required, and orders produced and shipped directly to the customer within 5 days. The WSA would earn 15% of the total purchase for all items sold.
 - 1. Meeting attendees agreed that Kirsten should move on with the plan.
 - iv. Safe Routes to School group is working with MSU to do a Walking/Biking Audit on November 28 at 3:45pm. Group (MSU, SRTS, families, neighbors) will examine streets and sidewalks around school to note issues and places for improvement. Results will be used to apply for up to \$200,000 in federal transportation funds for infrastructure improvements. This process has begun at Marble/MMS; Whitehills and Pinecrest are in the next wave.
 - 1. Joy has created a Facebook event for this.
 - v. Still seeking yearbook coordinator(s) to put together yearbook using Lifetouch templates.
 - b. Vice President Jen Gorchow
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - c. Treasurer Jeff Hicks
 - i. Current balance of accounts, outstanding/upcoming bills.
 - 1. \$25,341.18 balance on WSA general account fund, which doesn't include Jan's Closet.

- d. Secretary Lorely Polanco
 - i. Nothing to report.
7. Updates on bond, construction, and transition to Donley building
- a. Any updates from members of building committee?
 - b. Any new questions to bring to building committee?
 - i. Carried from past meetings (until building committee meets and can provide responses)
 - 1. Question raised by a parent: Could the blue Whitehills lockers be salvaged and sold as a fundraiser? People might want lockers for a mudroom, basement, etc.
 - 2. Is there a possibility of a bus running from the Whitehills neighborhood next year?
 - 3. Will there be an opportunity to salvage framed art/tiles from the building?
8. Recent WSA event recap
- a. Walk to School Day — Wednesday, October 10
 - i. Went well! Good weather and lots of parent volunteers.
 - ii. The WSA distributed reflective bracelets to promote safety.
 - iii. Feedback for next year?
 - 1. Jen suggested flags instead of balloons.
 - 2. More direction for students who don't typically walk to school in terms of safety and organization.
 - 3. Shift times 5 minutes earlier for some farther groups.
 - 4. Maybe remove the Northgate/Northgate intersection as its own meeting point, since kids there can be "picked up" by other groups passing that intersection.
 - b. Jan's Closet Launch Party – Saturday, October 13
 - i. Very successful. Over \$6,500 has been raised for this initiative.
 - ii. Mia met with teachers today to determine the next steps.
 - iii. Mr. Anderson, teachers, and Mr. Johnson will determine how funds will be allocated, not the WSA.
 - c. Teacher Appreciation Lunches – Tuesday and Thursday, October 16 and 18
 - i. Teachers say thank you!
 - d. Whole Foods Market 5% Day — Thursday, October 18
 - i. The WSA received \$2,808 from this promotion! This is even more than the anticipated \$2,500.
 - e. BooPalooza (formerly PawPalooza) — Friday, October 26
 - i. Great turnout, and successful fundraiser. Estimate is 175-200 kids attended, so over half the school turned out!
 - ii. Admission, coffee, and the on-site auction for class baskets brought in \$2,830 at the event. The online auction totaled \$4,262. Gross BooPalooza income was \$6,667, with net profit of about \$5,600. This easily covers our goals of purchasing Wharton Center tickets for all students and bringing in the Reading Month author.
 - iii. Ms. Beasley's class won for highest basket bid, so they will receive \$251 to use in their classroom.

- iv. Many thanks to Elizabeth Ivkovich, Mia Gougeon-Adarkwa, Cheri Kreft, and Karen Tynan-Spencer for their work on this, as well as to all of the donors, volunteers, and dance and auction participants.
 - v. Feedback for next year?
 - 1. Move Science Club date if they fall on the same day again next year. Too busy with school Halloween activities, Science Club, and BooPalooza.
 - 2. Online and onsite auction options worked well.
 - f. Science Club — Wednesday, October 24 and Friday, October 26
 - i. October's topic was sugar; both age groups were well attended.
 - g. STEM Festival — Thursday, November 8
 - i. This was the largest STEM Festival ever in terms of the number of demonstrations – 27 groups came to share!
 - ii. Thank you to Kyle Enger for organizing this event, and to all the volunteers who helped with logistics or came to share.
9. Upcoming WSA events and volunteer opportunities
- a. Science Club — Wednesday, November 28 and Friday, November 30
 - i. Chair Kyle Enger is still seeking a co-chair for the grade 2-5 group.
 - ii. Sign-up is posted for session leaders and assistants.
 - b. Walking/Biking Audit — Wednesday, November 28
 - i. Discussed above
 - c. "Enchanted Forest" Scholastic Book Fair — Monday-Friday, December 3-7
 - i. Report from co-chairs Erica Dziedzic and Qadirya Dolqun
 - 1. They are working on organizing a visit from the LCC Youth Program where student would see a demo about live animals, tied to the "Enchanted Forest" theme. Evening event would allow for extended shopping hours.
 - 2. All for Books Partner organization this year is EVE, a local nonprofit supporting survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
 - 3. The goal is to raise \$500 to donate books to the EVE's library.
 - a. A suggestion was made to have a "book list" specifically for EVE, like the teacher wish list slips, so people can donate a book instead of cash if they prefer.
 - 4. Letters with fair hours and more information will be going home with students soon (possibly before Thanksgiving).
 - 5. The hope is to meet or raise funds over the \$7,000 obtained in the past.
 - ii. Sign Up Genius is posted on website.

10. Any other business?

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

- Thurs. 11/15 – Marco's Pizza Night
- Wed.-Fri. 11/21-23 - NO SCHOOL
- **Wed. 11/28 – Walking/Biking Audit, 3:45pm**
- **Wed. 11/28 - Science Club - Grades 2-5, 3:40-5:00pm**
- **Fri. 11/30 - Science Club - Grades K-1, 3:40-5:00pm**
- **Fri. 11/30 - Book Fair Set-Up**
- **Mon.-Fri. 12/3-7 – Enchanted Forest Book Fair**

12. Adjournment

In attendance:

Joy Campbell
Paul Donahue
Trisha Donahue
Erica Dziedzic
Jen Gorchow
Jeff Hicks

Shane Johnson
Gina Mudrey
Mike Mudrey
Lorely Polanco
Angie Smith