

Whitehills School Association Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2018 • 6:00pm



1. Call to order with welcome and introductions, circulate sign-in sheet
 - a. Note that there will be no WSA meeting in January.
2. Approval of agenda, approval of previous month's minutes
 - a. Agenda approved and previous month's minutes approved.
3. Principal report and opportunity for questions
 - a. The staff identified a few students who could benefit from the Jan's Closet initiative. Mrs. Ward has been coordinating efforts to provide winter items to those students. Students' reaction have been quite positive, as well as the families of the students.
4. Teachers' report(s) and opportunity for questions
 - a. The WSA board decided that some of the "windfall" funds from the Whole Foods 5% Day event would be used to double the teachers' classroom grants to \$200 this year. Teachers were notified the week of Thanksgiving.
 - b. Sara Cunningham circulated an online "favorites" survey for teachers and staff and got about 20 responses. A PDF of compiled responses was sent in an eblast on November 30. It will not be published online to protect teachers' privacy.
 - c. Mrs. Clyma's report:
 - i. Assemblies, including a ukulele showcase and Jump Rope Club demonstration, went quite well.
 - ii. Very positive feedback regarding Book Fair this year.
5. District Parent Council report and opportunity for questions
 - a. Angela Michael reports that the Mental Health Advisory Committee is working on steps to minimize and manage student and staff anxiety and stress about the school moves. One example (piloting at Pinecrest) is promoting a habit of students sharing something they felt good about from the day before, something positive about today, and what they are looking forward to for tomorrow. This puts students in the mindset of being grateful and gives them language and space to share. The hope is that this is something positive that can carry over from one school to the next.
 - b. The DPC will not meet in December, and the WSA will not meet in January, so the next DPC report will be in the February meeting.
6. Officers' reports, announcements, and opportunity for questions
 - a. President Joy Campbell
 - i. The Box Tops coordinators are interested in a district-wide Box Tops competition, perhaps toward a common goal. Joy will put them in touch with Marble contacts.

- ii. Online option for Spirit Wear – we will roll out an online option next year. Kirsten provided these links to general East Lansing/Trojan gear for anyone still wanting a long-sleeved option for this year:
 - 1. https://www.spiritshop.com/school/michigan/east-lansing/east-lansing-high-school?utm_source=vnn&utm_medium=partner&utm_campaign=link
 - 2. <https://www.rokkitwear.com/school/7617-east-lansing-high-school>
 - iii. Still seeking yearbook coordinator(s) to put together yearbook using Lifetouch templates
 - b. Vice President Jen Gorchow
 - i. No updates or reports.
 - c. Treasurer Jeff Hicks
 - i. Current balance of accounts, outstanding/upcoming bills
 - ii. Not in attendance.
 - d. Secretary Lorely Polanco
 - i. No updates or reports.
- 7. Updates on bond, construction, and transition to Donley building
 - a. No updates from members of building committee.
 - b. No new questions to bring to building committee.
- 8. Recent WSA event recap
 - a. Walking/Biking Audit — Wednesday, November 28
 - i. Audit was conducted at Whitehills and Pinecrest. There will be a community forum on January 16 at 6:00pm for parents to offer input. Preliminarily, info from the audit seems to indicate that Whitehills is in pretty good shape. Potential infrastructure improvements will take place in 2020.
 - ii. Joy will post a link to the SRTS survey online. They are trying to gather data from lots of families.
 - b. Science Club — Wednesday, November 28 and Friday, November 30
 - i. November's topic was aquatic biology; both age groups were well attended.
 - c. "Enchanted Forest" Scholastic Book Fair — Monday-Friday, December 3-7
 - i. The book fair went very well! Thank you to co-chairs Erica Dziedzic and Qadirya Dolqun, as well as all the volunteers.
 - ii. The special event with animal demonstrations was well-attended, with about two dozen children.
 - iii. The approximate gross profit was \$7,425, with about \$3,900 expected to come back to the school as Scholastic Dollars.
 - iv. A total of \$288 (\$250 from business donors, \$38 from donation box) was collected to purchase books for EVE's House, this year's All for Books nonprofit partner. The books will be delivered next week. Several families also purchased books directly, which were added to the delivery to EVE.
 - v. Books were purchased for 14 students through Part of the Pack.
 - vi. Upcoming fair is potentially scheduled for the week of April 29-May 3, though this date is not set in stone and could be changed, if needed.

1. Joy brought up the issue of the Spring music showcase plus carnival dates to ensure coordination of schedules for all the events.
2. Mr. Johnson suggested doing the book fair for the week of conferences in March since the school has half-days and the parents are already in the building.
 - a. Erica's concern regarding the idea is the coordination of volunteers during work hours.
 - b. Joy also brought up the potential issue of having the BOGO which is offered for a limited time. The priority would be to keep the BOGO offers. Erica will ask Scholastic rep about this possibility of having it in March.
- vii. For the Spring Book Fair Whitehills will receive additional Scholastic Dollars because of our continued support and scheduling of fairs.
- viii. Mrs. Clyma reported that the staff really enjoyed the Teacher's Preview Breakfast.
- ix. In terms of volunteers, there were fewer volunteers than needed on some shifts, so Jen suggested altering the shift duration to possibly ½ hour.

9. Upcoming WSA events and volunteer opportunities

- a. Science Club — will not be held in December
 - i. Discussion about changing enrollment system to Science Club in order to allow more students to attend. A new system could include punch cards, bringing in MSU students to have more supervisors, or a rolling sign up like the one used for PAWS enrollment.
 - ii. Joy will talk to Science Club leader Kyle Enger about different ideas.
- b. Embrace the World (February 21, 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.
 - ii. Third graders will give a musical performance.
 - iii. Seeking groups or individuals for short performances (past examples include Irish step dance and Indian classical dance)
 - iv. Sign Up Genius is posted – seeking families to host tables and help with event set-up and logistics.

10. Any other business?

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs. 12/20 - Marco's Pizza Night • NOTE: No Science Club in December • Mon. 12/24 through Fri. 1/4 - NO SCHOOL • Mon. 1/7 - School resumes • Tues. 1/8 - NO WSA meeting this month • Fri. 1/11 - Popcorn Friday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs. 1/17 - Marco's Pizza Night • Mon. 1/21 - NO SCHOOL (MLK Day) • Wed. 1/23 - Science Club - Grades 2-5, 3:40-5:00pm • Fri. 1/25 - Science Club - Grades K-1, 3:40-5:00pm |
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12. Adjournment

In attendance:

Joy Campbell
Lynne Clyma
Trisha Donahue
Erica Dzieczic
Jen Gorchow

Mia Gougeon-Adarkwa
Shane Johnson
Lorely Polanco
Sandy Sellers