



# Whitehills School Association

## Meeting Minutes

**November 16, 2021 • 6:00pm**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://bit.ly/WSAZoom>

**Meeting ID: 934 9364 3386**

**Meeting Password: 2020**

1. Call to order
  - a. Introductions around the virtual room
    - i. Present: Paul Donahue, Sara Haller, Katie Hennessey, Jessica Eyde, Shane Johnson, Trisha Donahue, Megan Case, Charisse Blanks, Sara Cunningham, Chrystal Miller, Ginger Ogilvie, Monica Fink
  - b. Additions to the agenda - No additions
2. Approval of October 2021 WSA meeting minutes
  - a. After a motion to approve and a second, the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Principal and staff reports, news, questions
  - a. Shane Johnson - Principal
    - i. Sarah Moreno has been hired a new social worker, working Monday through Friday. She has over 10 years of experience. Previously sharing social workers among buildings.
    - ii. Brenda McKenzie - lunchroom and crossing guard has transitioned to a new role in charge of the kitchen. Looking for lunch and recess monitors.
    - iii. Cultural Awareness and Spirit Week
    - iv. Amy Sayers: Piloting project with 1st graders focused on outdoor learning and planted a tree recently and other projects focused on learning from nature.
    - v. Fourth grade classes finished last week "Because of Wynn Dixie." Superintendent Leyko was invited to class with her therapy dog.
    - vi. First COVID Vaccination Clinic. Great turn out and interest that another clinic is scheduled on Saturday. Principal Johnson will look into whether schools will be tracking vaccination percentages.
    - vii. Weekly COVID testing.
    - viii. Current DEI social justice team is made up of staff members. May be future opportunity for parents to participate in something similar.
    - ix. Open to looking into a community garden; there looks at though there is a spot for the garden.

- b. Social / Emotional / Learning check-in
  - i. Concern noted that there are many kids with emotional issues at least in part due to students being stuck at home for a year with COVID. Is this a concern at Whitehills?
    - 1. Issue was raised at the Parent Council in the context of middle school and high school; however, Marble rep indicated that it was trickling down to elementary school.
    - 2. Certainly certain kids are struggling and the school is thankful for Ms Moreno starting as a social worker. She has been busy in her first two weeks. Principal Johnson will think about what, if any, role WSA should have in supporting these efforts beyond continuing to support their own kids.
  - c. WSA In-Person Meeting: WSA may be able to host in-person meeting in library for future meeting.

#### 4. Officer reports

- a. Paul Donahue - President
  - i. Marco's Pizza Fundraiser - 3rd Thursday --
    - 1. This will be marketed through social media and e-blast.
  - ii. Box Tops - Still need a new coordinator
    - 1. Coordinator: Make people aware of the program and how to install the app.
  - iii. Amazon Smile - Awareness campaign?
- b. Jessica Eyde - Vice President
- c. Sara Haller - Treasurer
  - i. Checking Balance: \$15,243.37 Pending Deposit: \$50.00
  - ii. Jan's Closet Balance: \$9409.47 Pending Deposit: \$350.00 Pending Disbursements: \$550.00

#### 5. District Parent Council (DPC) Update - Sara Cunningham

- a. New Name: District School Council (to be more inclusive) (may be District Community Council)
- b. Idea about having children volunteer to pick up school grounds. Donnoley does this that kids check out during recess and pick up trash. In return, students are awarded bucket filler awards. Currently, there are no outside trash bins at school, which makes it more problematic.
- c. Donnoley: Wreath sale and Art Sale (Square One), similar to Artsonia.
- d. Marble: Spirit wear.

#### 6. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Update - Trisha Donahue

- a. SRTS Grant Update - Ginger Ogilvie
  - i. Update on Safe Routes Major Grant
  - ii. Purpose: Help city in partnership with school district to apply for funding for infrastructure improvement.
    - 1. Federal effort that uses federal transportation dollars to improve infrastructure

2. MDOT and Michigan Fitness Foundation → channels money to Michigan communities.
  3. Engagement; Education; Encouragement; Engineering; Evaluation; Equity
  - iii. Major Grant focused on Engineering to help ensure that children and families have a safe way to get to school, focused on making it possible for students to walk, bike, and roll safely to schools. (100k-200k).
    1. Look at walkable neighborhood around school and where sidewalks were missing in the Whitehills neighborhood. Neighborhood north of lake lansing is Meridian Township, so did not focus on this neighborhood (plus busing may be available to those families).
    2. Grant is meant to address the sidewalk gaps. Present this as an opportunity.
    3. Limitations with grant - if you put sidewalk on one side of street, then you have to put it on the other side of the street.
    4. The various areas in which the group is looking at installing projects and put in remote parking on the North side of the school.
    5. Comments - send to Ginger at [brightsky75@yahoo.com](mailto:brightsky75@yahoo.com).
  - iv. Mini Grant: Help fund a walking school bus program, incentive program, remote drop site, bike rodeos, etc. (10k-100k).
7. Budget subcommittee Update - Sara Haller / Paul Donahue
    - a. Will meet after the engagement & fundraising survey closes.
  8. Engagement and Fundraising - Katie Hennessey
    - a. Initial survey results
  9. Recent & Upcoming Events / Volunteer Needs
    - a. Fall Book Fair - In Person! - Sara C / Trisha D
      - i. Set up: 12/3 after school in room next to Library.
      - ii. Week of 12/6; teachers pick time class comes down. One parent volunteer (masked).
      - iii. Shipment will be in by 12/2.
      - iv. Katie will provide Sara and Trisha list of parents who indicated interest in volunteering.
    - b. Student Directory - Katie H
    - c. Stock the Staff Lounge
      - i. Trisha sent new one for this year that Gina put together.
    - d. Spirit Wear Sales / Storefront
    - e. Yearbook Cover Design Contest
    - f. Yearbook Assembly

10. Other business, questions, announcements, etc.

11. Adjournment