



Whitehills School Association

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2023 • 6:00pm
Whitehills Library

1. Call to order

- a. Introductions around the room
 - i. In Attendance: Crystal Eustice, Sara Boles, Paul Donahue, Molly Williams, Ms. Little, Ms. Beasyl, Mr. Montgomery, Kelly Strouse, Trisha Donahue, Jessica Eyde (on zoom), Diane Tubbs (Kiwanis), Norm Kerr (Kiwanis)
- b. Additions to the agenda: no additions

2. **Approval of November 2023 WSA meeting minutes:** Paul moved to approve minutes; Trisha second.

3. Principal and staff reports, news, questions

- a. Molly Williams – Principal report: thank you for successful STEM night, very positive feedback. Shared with the board of education about the Together Tree, which will take an evolution soon (snowflakes being added next week).
- b. Staff Report: Second grade did Impression 5- will visit three times and then the students will visit the center in May. There's a second-grade grant that covers costs for all second grade in the district!

Mr. Montgomery: Wanted to say thank you for all the help/support for Wharton Center. For 5th grade end of year t-shirts- still covered (yes, we've budgeted for this); End of year 5th grade breakfast will be seeking volunteers in the future; Also, need help paying for end of year 5th grade transportation (Paul: transportation is in the budget as well; will pay for this online). Could possibly raise funds for this trip/transportation by working MSU games to lower cost for students.

Ms. Beasyl: we did diorama's on the topic of indigenous groups; these will be displayed in the library. Students love this!

4. Officer reports

- a. **Sara Haller – President:** Kona Cocoa earned ~\$124 from sales; Got a Marcos Pizza check, still missing some funds and Sara will follow-up on this.
- b. **Jessica Eyde - Vice President & District Parent Council Report** from Dec. 1st – Claudia Burton (director of DEI) spoke about her role in the district and that their recent focus has been on non-Christian holiday's; created a calendar around this with the goal of bringing awareness to diversity (also to not schedule exams on these holiday's). Glencairn collects photos from students to display and support multi-cultural holiday's; Will be a walk/roll event to keep students active.
- c. **Paul Donahue – Treasurer:** balance of ~18k and still have pending deposits; Relief fund continues to earn 0.02 per month.

5. **Diane Tubles, Kiwanis Club** - Book Vending Machine Initiative: have them in schools in Charlevoix. Holds 360 books; over 40 schools in MI have these machines. Researching these from existing schools and they reported no cons associated with the vending machines. *Diane provided handout with all this research and feedback to board.

Met with Jill, Dori, and Glen as well. Cost about 7k each (a one-time purchase). Funds need to be raised for this. Already raised funds and purchased machine for Donnelly School. Takes about 4-6 weeks for delivery. They don't come with books, but Kiwanis provided funding to purchase books.

The kids earn a token and use it to get a book from vending machine; they get to keep the book. Found that it has motivated the students to read more. Examples are National Geographic books, books on MI, etc. Hooked Café will promote customer purchase of books to supply in machine. Can always provide sponsor space on the book vending machine for sponsors that donate funds/books.

Diane sent letter to gain support to promote this venture. Kiwanis will provide \$500 seed money and seek sponsors. Lots of grant opportunities to utilize to fund this project.

Literacy coalition has 30k books- possible supplier? The coalition also has free teacher resources. Parents can also donate books (one school received over 500 books doing this). Kiwanis will not select/order or stock the machine. But Kiwanis will provide a stamp/sticker to differentiate from library books (as some students think they must return to library).

Kiwanis requests ambassadors from schools to create a bridge between school and Kiwanis to identify more school/student needs. We don't see this as a 1–2-year project but want to champion this so every school gets a book vending machine.

Ms. Little: one initiative is the diverse books committee- maybe this could become a part of this initiative to help pick out books. Ms. Little can maybe liaison to help with this. Maybe check out the website: First Book Marketplace. They also have a sale section. \$2,500-3,000 for initial vending machine fill; ~\$1,500 per year to restock.

Sara: is there a timeline to raise the funds? Diane- no, there is no timeline/deadline, we are just working to raise the money!

Trisha: we could possibly use the book fair to stock the vending machine. Molly has creative ideas to raise funds!

Molly will send information to parents to inform families and seek support.

6. **Robotics Club:** one of the volunteers from STEM fest is interested in creating a club at the elementary level. Is there a teacher or parent interested in running this club? They provide an education kit to start the club. Mr. Smith and a parent manage the club.

Molly: has some experience with this; Ordering supplies took months, but this could have been covid related. To create equity among the six schools, we could offer it across schools and create a group. Maybe contact MSU robotics club. Molly will propose this to central office because it is a big task/on-taking.

7. **Movie Night - January 26, 6:00-8:00 pm;** Sara: will communicate this to families soon! Top two votes are for Super Mario Bros. (1 hours 32 mins) and Elemental (1 hour 41 mins). Sara will get in touch with Marcos to set up the food. Need sound for these. Crystal will check with Dan Laird about sources. Paul will check with other sources.
8. **Embrace the World - February 26:** sara will cover in Jan.
9. **Science Fair - March 14** – no updates from Jessica for now; will also connect with teachers more about this. Maybe utilize posters or flyers to promote this.
10. **Spring Carnival -April 19th 6-8pm** - Meetings: Jan 25, Feb 21, Mar 14; all 8:00 pm (all on Zoom)
11. **Whitehills 5k** - possible changes based on feedback. Considering 1.) Funrun, color run, etc.,- a more kids focused event that better utilizes social media for fundraising; 2.) Copy/paste: do 5k/funrun again; 3.) Coordinating with mileage club (Alison Kiefer) and do a race in the spring as a fundraiser.

Molly: liked keeping community members involved; maybe we could do a follow up with students during school. Mr. Montgomery – school/kid focused even was great focus for school but didn't involve the community as much. Example: Get moving crew.

Questions: What was the attendance for the 5k event? Attendance vs. registered. Crystal will find that out. Can we have it after school starts? Move to a Sunday? Crystal will gather more information about these options and discuss in Jan./Feb.

12. Other business, questions, announcements, etc.

13. Adjournment