



Whitehills School Association

Meeting Agenda

February 20, 2024 • 6:00pm
Whitehills Library

1. Call to order
 - a. Introductions around the room: Sara Haller, Ben Haller, Crystal Eustice, Molly Williams, Daniel Smalley (4th grade), Amy Holbrook (4th grade), Paul Donahue, Trisha Donahue, Jessica Eyde
 - b. Additions to the agenda: Trisha: Teacher requested a FB post.
2. Approval of January 2024 WSA meeting minutes: Paul: correct Ms. Kemsley's name misspelling in Jan. minutes; Ben moved to approve; Trisha second; minutes approved.
3. Principal and staff reports, news, questions
 - a. Molly Williams – Principal: Conversation of bringing in some after school activities for students and met with robotics (discussed pricing); will move forward with how to support the program (Tinkr lab charges, will not utilize them).

Vending machines: we as WSA are not responsible for purchasing the book vending machines. Once Kiwanis purchases them, we will develop a relationship for managing them. We cannot do adverts as WSA board on vending machines, so will take a little longer to acquire them.

March is reading month; are doing an Olympic theme this year. Daniel: "go or read for the gold is theme" for the month. Teachers will get information soon. Need parent volunteers to decorate each classroom door. Will do an opening ceremony; each classroom will get a class flag they get to color and decorate. Each class will have goals and track progress; drawing each week if student(s) meet goals. Author visit at end of the month. MSU athlete's readers coming to read to classrooms. Closing ceremony: top 3 readers from each class gets to participate in a mini parade. Go teachers!

Jessica: Do audio books count as reading? Teachers: depends on the parent/teacher; typically, okay.

- b. Staff- Daniel: pre-covid WH participated in Girls on the Run (lead by teachers; heavy time commitment) and there is now interest in assisting in making this happen. Teachers can assist but cannot commit to full coaching responsibilities. Rochelle expressed interest in supporting. Can we send message out to parents to inquire about lead coaching and bringing the program back to WH? Practices were twice a week but can schedule them when suitable. Starts in March. Closes with a 5k.

Girls learn a life skill each week as they move through the program (social emotional learning occurs); scripted so do not need to know everything beforehand to coach. Right before the 5k the girls work on a community outreach program (about 2-3 weeks beforehand). Can WSA help put forward? Yes. Will start inquiry.

Molly: it is tuition based so there are concerns of equity.

Amy: it was about \$200 to join; great for self-esteem and community building- but is there a way to scholarship this cost to students?

Trisha: are there limited spots? Danielle: yes but can run multiple sessions if we have a lot of girls that want to participate. It's 3rd-5th grade. Payment is all done through the Girls on the Run program. Girls get shoes, t-shirts, bags, and covers fee for 5k; snacks included. About 1.5 hours long after school.

Molly: final 5k event is large; includes all schools/girls from all schools.

Danielle: Donnelly and Glencairn are participating again. Sara will communicate with parents/community about interest. Danielle will forward more information to Sara.

Amy: "thank you" for funding trips to Wharton Center; 4th grade went twice. Great socio-emotional lessons for the children!

Jessica questions: solar eclipse on April 8th activity? Occurs out of our visibility path. Also, could we have a musical or talent showcase assembly? Molly: I would need more information about who is organizing it; how to select participants, etc. It is not part of the music teach contract, but Molly will let board know if we can pursue this concept in the future. Jump rope club will also have their own presentation.

4. Officer reports

- a. Sara Haller – President: Marco's pizza night- Ms. Holbrook's class won the pizza party (will organize date and time for party). Mileage club- Allison Kiefer will be working on that scan cards for students; they have already been printed; it's gearing up! *Note- iPad's overheat during this process; be aware, maybe use phones.
- b. Jessica Eyde - Vice President
 - i. District Parent Council Report: had presentation by Chris Martin (in charge of facilities and grounds) to discuss landscaping at all the schools. Landscaping will be coming in the next couple of years. The exterior of the middle school is being prioritized due to maintenance needs. Chris requested that we post good things that are occurring each month for positive communication. Molly: this happens every month.

Donnelly is having "book bingo night" event where families will come and play bingo. Not a fundraiser but an engagement/community event; collecting book and teddy bear donations as prizes for winning a bingo game.

- c. Paul Donahue – Treasurer: we began cycle with ~ 17.5k in account; after several deposits/withdrawals we ended with ~19k; also started paying for carnival activities. Still have more deposits, and we earned our 2 cents interest for our relief fund.

Paul: read personal announcement that he will not seek reappointment for treasurer or other board appointments in the future. Resignation for June 1, 2024. Sara has received letter.

5. Movie Night Recap: Sara: cost \$707; total earnings: \$2289; our net earnings was \$1582.31. Thirty-one dinner & movie packages sold; concessions \$578; \$155 in donations. May only do one movie next year to prevent chaos, potential injury, etc. Molly: thank you, tech was much better!
6. Embrace the World - canceled. A few reasons: MSU and community groups just weren't available; Dewitt & Greene are already hosting similar events- resources over-tapped.
 - a. Alternative student outreach activity – CLACS could maybe do an activity (maybe even during the school day). Ideas included: Global Literature activity; Read-aloud with/to classes; Links to resources they can provide; resources for educators; Activity related to Cinco de Mayo. Hispanic heritage is a fall thing but could maybe connect with group around this. Sara will connect Danielle with CLACS group to coordinate efforts.
7. Spring Book Fair - Dates changed from March 4-6 to May 13-17; Lauren Gaines is running the fair this year. Lauren will coordinate with Molly on this (fair will take place during after school hours).

Amy: Allow teachers to sign up for preview hours instead of being assigned preview hours.

8. Science Fair - March 14: Jessica presented flyer and registration form for the fair for review. When approved Jessica will post poster/flyers in the school for this event; will also post registration on website as well. Can we send home a printed flyer, so parents know about this? WSA suggests we do both (print and electronic communications on this). Will send it out in black and white to students but will do posters in color. Deadline March 11th.

Amy: can possibly coordinate book reports with science fair projects in the future. Where students can do either a book report OR a science fair project to encourage student participation.

9. Mileage Club: already discussed.
10. Spring Carnival - Meetings: Feb 21, Mar 14; all 8:00 pm for the planning group. Volunteer request has been sent out to the National Honor Society. Danielle: teachers would like to volunteer but by the time we try to sign up they are full- can volunteer opportunities go to teachers first? WSA: yes! Sara will send this to Molly and Molly will share with teachers.

Paid for bounce houses and the raffle license.

11. Looking ahead to next year - board member interest in continuing?

12. Other business, questions, announcements, etc.

Trisha: Allie Brenner- can you send out FB post for parent volunteers for door decorating?
Sara: yes, we will do this.

13. Adjournment