



Whitehills School Association

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024 • 6:00pm
Whitehills Library

1. Call to order
 - a. Introductions around the room: Molly Williams, Sara Haller, Ben Haller, Trisha Donahue, Jessica Eyde, Katie Carey, Tessa Rayment-Gruber
 - b. Additions to the agenda: Trisha: talk about the (3/11) school board meeting.
2. Approval of February 2024 WSA meeting minutes: Ben- correct spelling of Danielle; Ben moves to approve minutes; Jessica seconds.
3. Principal and staff reports, news, questions
 - a. Molly Williams – Principal: Girls on the Run is up and operational. Rochelle Hosler is heading this up. March is reading month is in swing; Thank you to volunteers that decorated the doors! Kicked off with an assembly and will do a closing ceremony. Students are creating flags, fun activities, etc. Took emphasis away from “top reader” and instead focusing on students “meeting their own goals.”

High school orchestra are coming to visit. MSU percussion presentation and performance- will have some African Heritage pieces (K-2 and 3-5 presentations).

Author visit coming in this month. Teachers have been having guest readers coming in to read to students, they are loving this! Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hayes came to read and visit.

WSA provided meals for teachers/staff- thank you!
 - b. Staff: no staff attending; n/a
4. Officer reports
 - a. Sara Haller - President
 - i. Marco’s Pizza - Chef Marco: Can chef come on day of Marco’s pizza fundraiser days to promote this event? Molly will ask about this.
 - ii. March is Reading Month Author’s visit; Sara will drop off check for this.
 - iii. International Speakers Program’s suggestion for combined EL Schools International Night: Can we collaborate with all the elementary schools to ease demand on speakers. Molly will bring this up at the district meeting. Maybe at Hannah Community Center?
 - iv. Staff lunches for conference days: went great: Marco’s Pizza, Aladdin’s, Salad Bar

v. 5th grade T-shirts: Mr. Montgomery and has found a parent to take this over. WSA will just cover cost when needed.

b. Jessica Eyde - Vice President: no report
i. District Parent Council Report

c. Paul Donahue – Treasurer: Tessa has questions about budget/income for 5k (22/23 budget); will follow up with Paul.
i. Budget update: no report

5. Science Fair - March 14: We have 33 students signed up with a total of 22 displays. We'll put ½ in gym and ½ in cafeteria. Sara: do you need help/volunteers? Jessica: set up starts at 5:00 p.m. Sara will send reminder to participants arrive and set up at 5:30.

6. Mileage Club: Sara: the signup genius went out today for volunteers. Allison Kiefer is running this and is doing great. Are we doing an assembly to do a kick-off? Molly: yes; Sara will email Allison about the assembly.

Increasing the miles to earn t-shirts. There's more overlap- need less volunteers.

7. Spring Carnival - Meeting: Mar 14, 8:00 pm; Sara: bounce houses paid for. Tessa: feels like the auction sign-up got lost in announcement; can we send it individually? Sara: yes. Tessa: we have suggestions to increase sign-ups. We are putting together basket's- where are the baskets? If this is another expense, maybe we have volunteer's sign-up for a specific themed basket and then the basket is included.

Trisha: we used to do it themed like that; this would be a good idea and has been done before.

8. Teacher Appreciation Week: Sara: we need to start thinking about this and planning. Sara will reach out to parents that were interested in getting involved in this effort. Occurs May 6-10th.

9. Whitehills 5k/Fun Run - Katie Carey: starting planning for upcoming year (24/25 year); assessing time/money vs. ROI and there are a lot of big-ticket items associated with this event (e.g., shirts, timing, fees, etc.).

177 people signed up for the 5k; 80 children signed up for fun-run. Could we get more interest if we made this event a funrun and eliminate the 5k (to save on those big costs).

Tessa Rayment: We want to focus on this being a school event rather than a Whitehills community event. Participation among students could be much higher if we transition to a funrun. Transitioning to a funrun is what other EL schools are doing now, and some brought in significantly more funds doing this as well.

Tessa provided a proposal and evidence of other schools doing funruns that are utilizing student fundraising to assist in this event. This takes less time for volunteers as well. Katie: the balance that you want to examine- runners vs. families participating, we didn't get feedback on why WH families did not participate. More families may get involved if we focus on WH kids/families instead of 5k runners. Green and Glencairn are doing this. Not

much opportunity raising more funds from sponsors, but more opportunity to raise funds doing student led efforts. The ideal plan would be to have a foundation of sponsors (think temperature gauge of fundraising in the school) and then have students (if they want to engage and can) participate as well to raise funds.

Molly: just want to ensure families that don't raise funds are still participating/welcome.

Tessa: absolutely, and we can also talk incentives being classroom focused, not individual.

Molly: how far do they run? Katie: we will utilize the field behind the school instead of using city property (White Park).

Molly: we might be able to bus students to high school too. Katie: lots of options; willing to create map options. Tessa will inquire how Greene managed the color run portion of the funrun. Katie: we can build on this effort and add components moving forward.

Jessica and Trisha are in support of transitioning to a funrun. Katie: a funrun can help get the students invested and involved in this event.

We think moving the date to September instead of August will make it easier as well. Molly is comfortable with doing this during school hours.

10. Other business, questions, announcements, etc.

Trisha: I attended the board meeting last night and I recommend that everyone watch the board meeting. Marble is doing ALL the things! Spirit weeks are amazing, and they tie everything into themes. Let's start maybe expanding our efforts.

Molly- we are moving that direction. We are doing assemblies now, going to be doing monthly themes next year, etc. But we need to move toward this slowly and be intentional.

Jessica: we had a meeting about when we canceled Valentine's and Halloween and discussed other options. Tessa: there are information gaps about how to do this. Trisha: the board meeting before that discussed intervention programs as well. Katie: a lot of schools do silent auctions and post it online to raise funds.

Bond topic came up: Molly: the focus of the bond is safety and security. Renovation to add front office and ability to secure/locks doors at high school, middle school. Additionally, want to move central office to a new location to assist with security. Trisha: the community is concerned about the traffic in the neighborhood of the new central office location.

11. Adjournment: and done!