



Whitehills School Association Meeting Minutes September 10, 2019 • 7:00pm

1. President Jen Gorchow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and began with introductions. All shared name and children enrolled in ELPS. There were no additions to the agenda.
2. The August 13, 2019 WSA meeting minutes were approved.
3. Principal and staff reports:
 - a. Principal Shane Johnson and some parents attended the Safe Routes to School meeting just prior to WSA. Discussion around additional sidewalks, and flashing signs for some crosswalks. Majority of the Whitehills sites in the proposed plan were sidewalks and painting crosswalks. There will be follow-up and continual engagement around this long process as they work to apply for federal grants.
 - b. Traffic in the parking lot has been moving well. Having the larger parking lot is helpful. There are several buses arriving from all over and at different times but it is getting better. They are working on new systems which includes Mr. Johnson greeting buses and making sure all students get to where they need to be. Donley Principal Tracey Barton and Mr. Johnson have been working together to ensure equity and access.
 - c. The addition of Young 5s and GSRP classrooms has been fun; some children under 5 who need more assistance when arriving in the morning but overall seamless transition.
 - d. Staff has been very positive with the move and Coni has worked hard to make people feel welcome and that this is their home.
 - e. A bit short-staffed with lunch monitors and we are sharing a few with Donley. They have been working with Mr. Montgomery to incorporate a few of the 5th grader Safeties to help with escorting the younger children to lunch/playground. This has been working well.
 - f. Staff has really stepped up and been helpful with pick up and drop off with the children. This has been voluntary and extremely helpful and positive.
4. Officer reports:

Current balance of WSA account: \$22,593.87
No other officer news.
5. District Parent Council report:

Sarah Cunningham shared minutes from their meeting. Superintendent Dori Leyko was in attendance; work on the new school buildings (Whitehills and Pinecrest) is in progress and on schedule. Donley and Glencairn are being finished now and only can be worked on from 4-7pm and weekends. Some inside work to be done but is minimal. Phase 2 at Red Cedar will be completed in one summer. This will not

happen until November when decisions about which building will house Marble students during construction is determined. Some parents expressed safety concerns in the new glass surrounded rooms, that children may be exposed. There are safety plans in place.

6. 2019-2020 budget

- a. Members discussed the budget, including corrections to the projected income and additions to expenses, including adding capacity for Google Docs (estimated \$20/year). A corrected 2019-2020 budget will be voted on at the October meeting.
- b. The check for Wharton tickets for the year has been sent.
- c. Jen reminded the group to tell teachers to submit receipts for their \$100 reimbursement as well as any additional requests they may have.
- d. Members discussed the Boopalooza event. Potential for having a smaller-scale event but still include a silent auction and dance. The Friday before Halloween was proposed. Shane suggested not doing a Friday to increase attendance but noted that Halloween events can be challenging in general given the stress this holiday sometimes can cause in a classroom. Members discussed moving the event back to the winter months (January or February) and possibly changing it to a silent auction and movie night. An online auction also was suggested.
- e. Shane shared that T-shirts for all staff create a community feel that makes people feel special and that they appreciate them – everyone gets one. For staff shirts this year- Shane will take care of this if he has a budget
- f. Shane asked how the online store was going and Jen said she would follow up on this. It is a rokkitwear store. There will also be a second round of selling the student shirts.

7. Recap of recent WSA events

- a. Whitehills 5K: went well with a large turnout. That is one event that we want to recruit for and this year we will need support and help as the current main organizers are not going to do this again.
- b. Parent first day breakfast: went well but that there was too much food and we want to note this for next year.
- c. Welcome back night: strong spirit wear sales that night. Ice cream distribution went well; notes made already on changing the ice cream order for next year. Turnout overall was good and no parking issues.
- d. Launch of new online store

8. Upcoming events and volunteer opportunities

- a. Science Club, September 18 and 25: Eblast was sent out today
- b. Walk to School Day, October 2: Shane felt that there can be an all school walk around the building. Members discussed options for a few remote spots to gather and walk together. Trisha suggested that a meeting point in the Towar neighborhood could be the Community Center. Paul suggested that

- Spartan Dance Studio could be a second meeting point for more families.
There will be flags instead of balloons for this if Jen is able to locate some.
- c. Staff lunches on half-days: Let Jen know if anyone has ideas or suggestions for this
 - d. Winter book fair: Seeking a new chair/co-chairs.
9. Parent Bridget Seitz noted concerns with rust in the 5th grade lockers; portions were sharp enough to cut her son's hand. Shane will follow up on trying to address lockers with extensive damage.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

In attendance:

Megan Chumbley
Sara Cunningham
Paul Donahue
Trisha Donahue
Jen Gorchow
Jeff Hicks
Shane Johnson
Bridget Seitz
Manuel Vasquez