



Whitehills School Association

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023 • 6:00pm
Whitehills Library & by Zoom

1. Call to order at 6:01 p.m.
 - a. Introductions around the room-
Online: Sara Cunningham, Ginger Oglivie
In person: Sara Haller, Paul Donahue, Trisha Donahue, Mr. Johnson, Crystal Eustice, Rochelle Hosler
 - b. Additions to the agenda- Teacher Appreciation Week
2. Approval of January 2023 WSA meeting minutes- Motion by Paul and second by Trisha, Minutes approved.
3. Principal and staff reports, news, questions
 - a. **Shane Johnson- Principal-**
 - i. Discussed assessments undergoing with teachers and testing
 - ii. "I Promise Book" by Lebron James activity
 - iii. 4th and 5th grade classrooms are going to Wharton Center to see Black Violin next week. Trip still going forward despite MSU shooting
 - iv. Spartan Sunday- Mrs. Kemsley organized cards and gift cards from WH families for that event to pass out to MSU students.
 - v. Hired new staff member in ASD classroom- Veronica Marr- very excited to have her in that role
 - vi. Frodo continuing training and more accessible to other classrooms and in the office. Very valuable. Once passed training, will be really positive and helpful.
4. **Officer reports**
 - a. Sara Haller - President-
 - i. Movie Night was really popular. Estimate had about 287 people attend. Total sales \$2,970, earned \$2,145. Leaned that should protect cords, barricade cords in future. Concerned about tape damage to the floor. Maybe a carpet runner would be a good idea in future. Have a lot of leftover concessions. Those items that will not expire could be used for carnival. Paul knows that caused the sound problems, so he'll be prepared to handle it next time.
 - ii. March is reading month. Sara was contacted by Mrs. Kemsley about whether funding for an author to have a ½ day visit- Denise Brennan Nelson (Busby book and others). WSA funded.
 - iii. Parent approached as to a fundraising activity. Parents' night out. Drop kids off for a babysitting night at the school. Open gym, crafts in cafeteria. Just passing on the idea for future. Would have to have a max so we could staff. Babysitters would need background checks.
 - b. Jessica Eyde - Vice President- popcorn Friday is this coming Friday.
 - c. Paul Donahue – Treasurer
 - i. Current balance is \$15,343.56 with \$551.35 in Relief Fund. Report discussed.
5. **DSC Update-** Will email the minutes.

6. **Safe routes to School update-** Ginger Ogilive- worked with Safe Routes to School for several years. Team since Nov 2019 have been working on a proposal for a Major Grant- Federal transportation dollars. It is a community wide process. It allows for up to \$300,000 per school for infrastructure improvements for around the school (not school grounds). Started the process going 2 schools at a time. Already got the grant for Marble and McDonald and will see some changes on Burcham starting this Summer. Started with WH and Green as the next 2 schools. Pandemic slowed the process somewhat. Have decided to combine into 4 schools at same time- WH, Green, GC, and RC- 1.2 M if awarded. Spent quite a while looking at the walkable areas around Whitehills Elementary and have reached out to the neighborhood association. Have some ideas. Going to share them with the public soon, application hopefully will be submitted in October. For WH specifically, looking at potentially 3 projects. Heard a lot about Woodland Pass and Hitching Post- but can't afford a sidewalk there but have talked about a traffic calming installation there at the T intersection there. A triangular piece in the intersection. Also looking at Northgate, there is a sidewalk gap on the North side- Claytons home and neighbors- looking at adding sidewalk there. Sidewalk gap also at Applegate where meets at Old Mill. 4 properties involved there. IN process of contacting homeowners to see if they'd like those added at no cost to them. What want to hear from people moving forward is feedback before application is submitted. And if you think they have missed something important, please raise it to the group. Note that area North of Lake Lansing near the school is Meridian Twp- not EL and the group is partnering with City of EL for this stage. There is a website for Safe Routes for further information. Group meets monthly and others are welcome to attend these meetings.
Question about whether speed bumps looked at for long streets. City doesn't love those for snow plow equipment. There are speed tables- more like a raised plateau.
Know Hitching Post is a problem for people speeding. But are limited in funds.

7. **Spring Carnival Update-** Rochelle- Tomorrow night taking inventory of all stuff have at 7 pm. Lindsay Clayton is bringing stuff to school. End of Feb, early March sending out volunteer genius to volunteer to work event. Crystal may also attend and will inventory 5k stuff. After inventory done, will be able to ask for help and volunteers.

8. **Whitehills 5k update-** Made good progress. Updated the weebly page and have some updates there and will be adding the course map soon. Meeting next Wednesday. The Race sign up is live now but haven't advertised it yet. Waiting on set up for promo code for donors and for those whose fee will be waived. Once that promo code is figured out, information will be sent out by Coni. Have sponsorship solicitation updated and started process of making full list. Changed sponsorship levels and updated them in hope to encourage more donations. We have goal of getting insurance, because that has to occur before get permit. Was planning to use the same insurer used in the past but if others have alternatives, let Crystal know. Will also be a free kids fun run (no t shirt for the fun run). Currently looking for a t shirt provider, and price shopping. Registration will start at \$20 and go up as the event gets closer.

9. **Staff lunches for Spring Conferences-** coming up 3/7, 3/9, and 3/14. Heard rumor that teachers liked the potlucks. Liked the taco bar. Keep in mind that the last day may be fewer people in attendance because conference are done or need grab and go. Jessica is willing to head up this effort. Other ideas is soup bar, baked potato bars. Need to think about quantities this time more closely to avoid food waste.

10. **Embrace the World-** Parent expressed a concern that although the intent of the Embrace the World was certainly good, but now it could feel like we are putting responsibility on "diverse" people to educate the rest of the community as to who they are. Unintentionally might be putting pressure on our families (without intending to). Claudia Burton, DEI lead in ELPS, indicated that these type of events are starting to go by the wayside as not the best way to handle educating diverse backgrounds. Right now we have 6 tables only and set for 3/23. School District isn't saying we can't have it just might want to think about it. The view of these type of events have evolved since we

started this event several years ago. May be a better way to honor the cultures in our school community.

Also, the MSU community is still reeling after the shooting and relying on the school groups to staff our events seems difficult to ask right now, and not much time left. Maybe in the future would be better to do if organized and staffed by MSU groups.

Red Cedar used to have a really cool event.

Not sure if any elementary schools are still having an international night.

Decided to cancel and look ahead to the Fall maybe.

11. Spring Book Fair- tentatively scheduled 4/21- 4/28. It is a BOGO fair. Probably only 1 evening again like last time. Kona Ice truck maybe could attend again.
12. Kindergarten round up at WH not scheduled yet
13. 5th grade teachers and balloon arch. \$150- \$175. Need to order 5th grade shirts sooner and not use Retro Duck. Sara Cunningham will lead on t-shirts.
14. Next year's board- Sara Cunningham will be done on Board, Jessica and Paul will need to decide whether to serve next year
15. Teacher appreciation week- 5/8-5/12. Angie Sprecher lead it last year, will ask if she is willing to do again this year.
16. Adjournment at 7:06.