

Whitehills School Association

November 11, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Angie Smith-President, Joy Campbell-Vice President, Nicolas Gisholt,-Treasurer, Erin Weishar, Erin Hagen, David McConnell, Elizabeth Ivkovich, Bruce Greenway, Nicole Greenway, Nell Kuhnmuensch-School Board member, Debbie Walton, Mary Wever, Stephanie Krumbach, Wenona Sengel, Arlone Hudson, Jamie Fitzgerald, Andy Wells, Lynne Clyma, Kathy Delgado

~21 people in attendance

1. President Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
 - a. October minutes were not available, will wait until next month to approve.
2. Teacher Report: Mary Wever and Stephanie Krumbach attended as teacher representatives, both third grade teachers.
 - a. The Big Zoo Lesson will take place December 8-12, 8:55-2:30 each day at Potter Park Zoo. Cross-curricular program is for all third graders, 54 children total. The cost is \$35-40 (includes bus) per child. Teachers will ask for donations in letter sent home to parents, and will also suggest that families may wish to sponsor another child to attend. WSA will cover up to \$1200 as necessary after donations. They will need lots of volunteers (mostly third grade parents, but others OK as well).
 - b. Teacher representatives were encouraged to talk to colleagues and enlist WSA aid in paying for field trips (e.g., one parent's son's class went to planetarium but WSA was not approached for funding help).
 - c. At Mr. Well's request, Mary Wever discussed her Veteran's Day lesson plan. She introduced the children to Remembrance Day, Veteran's Day, Armistice Day, history, and led a discussion of what veterans do, and what they may have to give up. Children did Google search on artifacts from various wars a child had brought in. Kids made cards for veterans (e.g., took home to grandparents), including teacher Mr. Dye.
 - d. Book room update: Lynne Clyma's rep that she'd been working with took another position and new rep is farther away in Chicago, but she is still working on it. \$400 was approved and books have been ordered; they should be delivered early next week. Mrs. Clyma also applied for two small grants for the book room.
3. Principal Report
 - a. Mr. Wells thanked WSA for its continued support.
 - b. He reported on the new "bucket filler" program starting at Whitehills, which the Behavior team and staff will kick off Nov. 12. Staff will have "tickets" they can present to students for safe, responsible, or otherwise positive behavior. Tickets will be posted on a bulletin board, then "winning" students can take

their tickets home at the end of the week. An assembly after Thanksgiving break will honor all students for their efforts, and kids will sing a "Bucket Filler" song written by Mrs. Sigh. This campaign promotes community spirit and a "family" atmosphere at Whitehills.

- c. The end of the marking period is Nov. 18. Report cards will be sent home the week of Nov. 24, prior to Thanksgiving Break.
 - d. On Thursday, Nov. 13, second, fourth, and fifth graders will go to Wharton Center for a field trip.
 - e. Math Festival will be held Thursday, Nov. 13. It is co-chaired by Debbie Walton and Kyle Enger, and run by Ashley Ahlin from MSU, who runs the Julia Robinson Math Festival.
 - f. There is no word on the school's Title I status yet.
 - g. Interschool mailboxes were purchased and will be placed in the office after the art teacher decorates them. Mr. Wells will send an eblast explaining the program, which allows kids to write to friends and former teachers at other ELPS elementary schools. Kids must remember to write their names on their letters, and will need to know addressee's name, grade, and current school.
 - h. Secretary Linda Lord's last day will be November 25 (possibly December 1?). Mr. Wells has been working with a committee and they have interviewed numerous candidates. They have narrowed down to about four finalists, and that person will overlap a bit with Linda so she can help train the new person.
 - i. Parents will be notified soon via eblast.
 - ii. There will be a gathering at Jimmy's Pub, Nov. 21 4:30-7:00pm in Linda's honor. Basket in Stephanie Krumbach's room for anyone wanting to drop off a card or small gift.
 - i. There will be a coat drive for students who don't have warm clothes or who forget them. Mr. Wells will send this eblast.
4. Board Representative Report
- a. Nell Kuhnmuench reports that there was a nice article in the *Lansing State Journal* on Nov. 11 about the show of support teachers received at the School Board meeting on Nov. 10. Over 100 people came, 35 who spoke, about lack of contract, from elementary school students to high school students and teachers. She is not able to discuss anything about union negotiations as the Board has not received further reports since mediation began.
 - b. The Board also discussed technology yesterday and Nell says technology team is working very hard.
 - c. Safe Routes to School – Nell received a memo this morning on this topic, she hopes they can look at information again and make a decision, but this may take another couple of months.
5. Officers' Report
- a. Treasurer Nico Gisholt reported there are some unpaid expenses that are encumbered but not yet paid out. He asked that teacher reps remind colleagues of \$100 teacher grants. (WSA confirms librarian also allowed to

get \$100 grant for supplies.) Other encumbered expenses include kindergarten cubbies and books for the Book Room, and WSA still has a balance of \$11,000. We have not yet received Fun Run profits, so that will be another \$6000 or so.

- b. President Angie Smith reported that Spirit Wear t-shirts should about break even. Spirit wear absolute deadline Thursday so Angie can submit order. Shirts will be delivered to classrooms hopefully before Thanksgiving.
- c. Fun Run prizes were distributed today in some classes, other teachers waiting until Friday.
- d. Vice President Joy Campbell reported that Marco's brought in \$105 in October, but no one won a pizza party because we did not meet the 50 order minimum.

6. Other Business

- a. Box Tops Report
 - i. \$687.30 total
 - ii. Winner was Miss Talaski's class.
 - iii. Possible prizes include pencils, coupons for Zap Zone. Trophy will be presented to Miss Talaski's class. Still need to determine prizes.

7. Upcoming Events

- a. Math Night, Thursday Nov 13th 6:00-8:00pm
 - i. Next year cross check to make sure it doesn't conflict with Art for Charlie
- b. Book Fair (first week of December)
 - i. Open 8:00-9:00 each morning and 3:45-6:00pm each night. Also open during the week during the kids' library hour so they can preview books.
 - ii. One morning from 8:00-9:00 there will be a "Books & Bagels" event, where parents can mingle, have coffee, bagels, juice, and fruit.
 - iii. One evening there will be "PJs & Paperbacks" from 6:30-8:00 with storytelling and book pages projected on screen for kids to see. Everyone will receive a one-page handout stapled to the catalog to explain the hours for the week and the classroom donation program.
 - iv. Shifts for selling, set-up, clean-up are all needed for book fair itself and two special events. Books will be delivered to school the week before – set-up will be Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Wenona Singel and her committee are working with volunteer coordinator Kim Steed-Page to set up Sign-up Genius.
- c. Marco's Third Thursday (Nov 20th)
- d. International Night (February?)
 - i. International Bulletin board – Wenona Singel did fist month, with poster on indigenous peoples for Indigenous Peoples month (Nov.). She also donated some relevant books to the library. Wolf has special meaning in Ojibwe, Wenona could also do a board about that and its significance.

- e. DPC Thursday Nov 13th 6:30
 - f. Market Day \$65 last month – order for holidays!
8. Follow-up
- a. Playground equipment wish list – have received some things. Mr. Wells will follow up and make sure kids have access to the new stuff. In past winters kids have been able to sled (afternoon recess only) on small hill near pavilion. Mr. Wells will check the condition of existing sleds. WSA may want to put out a call for more donations.
 - b. Debbie Walton brought up the possibility of starting up Zero Hour. This involves a commitment from parents who would volunteer to tutor kids in math for an hour before school, starting in the new year. In past there was Title I funding to do this, now we would need parent volunteers. If anyone is interested, contact Debbie (who can in turn contact Tammy, who is the person willing to start this up). Program is for remediation, not enrichment.
 - c. School directory – Kirsten Borgstrom has gotten forms to Linda for copying and they will be going home this week.
 - d. Spring carnival – Maybe May 1? Trying to cross check dates. Committee organizers want one parent to be point person for each game. Some games will need to be created since we have a new school without the stored games. Some can also be purchased. The committee will work with volunteer coordinator Kim Steed-Page in spring to get volunteers via Signup Genius.
 - e. Volunteer needs
 - i. Crossing guard/lunch monitors
 - 1. Pebblebrook & Northgate crossing guard is no longer going to work there. New person will start Monday, paid for by PACE. WSA will send thank you note to Vicki Kitts.
 - 2. Other crossing guard (volunteer) in parking area, Lamar, also would like some relief. WSA will send out call for volunteers.
 - ii. Donations of games and so on for kids to use during indoor recess. Teachers were asked to ask colleagues to see what needs they have so WSA can get out a call for donations.

Meeting Adjourned 8:46 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Joy Campbell, WSA Vice President