

Whitehills School Association
Meeting Minutes-March 16, 2015

Meeting called order at 7:06 p.m.

February Meeting Minutes: To be reviewed/accepted during April meeting

March Reading Month

- Thank you to Mrs. Wever and Ms. Talaski for organizing reading month. The teachers are requesting financial support to provide lunch for reading month guest author (Mr. VanDyke); **President Smith moved that the WSA provide up to \$50 for lunch; the motion was seconded and affirmed by the members to spend up to \$50 on lunch for the guest author and hosting teachers.**

Principal's Report

- Mr. Wells plans to bring the Zoo-Zoo acrobatic group to perform for the school on March 24, 2015. The group will be touring all of the elementary schools and the 45 minute assembly fee is \$175 per school. Financial support is requested from the WSA. **President Smith moved that the WSA pay the \$175 fee; the motion was seconded and affirmed by the members to pay the Zoo-Zoo acrobatic group \$175 fee.**
- The new statewide testing program is the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (MSTEP)-it replaces MEAP permanently; testing will begin in April; paper and pencil version will be given for Whitehills: 3rd & 6th grade English Language Arts on April 19 & Math on April 27; 4th grade April 28 & April 29; 5th grade-English Language Arts on April 14 & Math on April 21; make-ups will take place through end of the school year; Principal Wells will attend training on 3/18 on the new assessment process.
- Field Trips-Mission to Mars (Kalamazoo) on May 7 for 5th grade; 2nd & 3rd going to MSU Planetarium on 4/15; 4th grade going to Meijer Gardens and Sand Dunes on 5/22;
- Mileage club: Begins on April 13 at lunch recess through end of school year; Mrs. Volovsek & Debbie Walton (Whitehills parent) to organize. Volunteers will be requested through WSA Sign-up Genius system.
- Rep. Sam Singh read to 2nd graders on March 16 for reading month.
- Vision screening for all kids on 3/23
- Lock-down discussion on types of lock-downs that could occur in the school; soft (teacher keep teaching and close blinds); hard lock down police are called; doors locked by teachers and police check perimeter for drill practice, ensure blinds are closed; other types of lock downs exist to keep kids safe; the district, school, and police are all in communication and have procedures in place to keep kids and staff safe

School Board Representative Report-Nathaniel Lake, Vice-President of School Board

- Reported on discussion at 3/9 school board meeting regarding the future of Red Cedar Elementary School and the entire district-essentially much further discussion is needed regarding reconfiguration and planning for the district—the district strategic plan is through the end of 2017; needs to be expanded through 2020 to be thoughtful in the planning.

- New board members and new leadership adds to challenges to ongoing discussion/implementation/reconfiguration of Red Cedar.
- Board is committed to considering various options and working in the best interest of all children in the district.
- Improved school board website for locating information about meeting dates/times, board discussions/decisions and other important information.

District Parent Council Rep-Next DPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Science & Engineering Festival

- March 19; free to all-14 stations/activities for the kids. Special thanks to Debbie Walton and Kyle Enger for organizing this event!

Science Club

- Sign up available at Festival-April 17 is the kick off and 2 meetings in May to be held after school Fridays for two hour on specific days; free for kids to attend; potential to work with “We love Kids & Dogs” store in Meridian mall-Angie Smith to connect with Kyle Enger to get information.

Whitehills Spring Carnival

- May 1st- Need for volunteers and game chairs; Mr. Wells will participate in an event during carnival; Co-chairs Erin Weishar and Lynsey Clayton will create a needs and planning list; \$1,000 needed (approximately) for start-up costs; classroom baskets for sale; potential “live” auction of work created by kids
- WSA to look into pricing for popcorn machine for monthly popcorn Friday-Elizabeth I. to check.

Earth Day Event

- Amy Zaagman to lead the event planning. Scheduled date is April 22 to include some grounds clean-up, planting flowers, etc.
- Ongoing concern about the stump in front of school- it needs to be ground up; Amy/Mr. Wells to contact district to discuss removal
- Fundraiser with Christian’s Greenhouse in Haslett and Williamston-Amy to head communications for this event.

Brick paver fundraiser-Angie Smith to gather and distribute information

Fifth grade breakfast:

WSA to sponsor breakfast-more details to follow

Miscellaneous

Make a plate project-Elizabeth Ivkovich to contact with art teacher to discuss and possibly have plates made in time for carnival

Playground Improvement Project

- Committee to be formed at a later date to work on improvement plan
- **Fundraising/planning**
 - Girl Scout events-follow on twitter @troop30288
 - Cookie Booths at Tom's Grocery Store in Okemos:
 - March 29th 3-6 p.m.
 - April 10th 4-7
 - April 11th 4-7:30
 - April 12th 3-6 p.m.
 - April 9th Jumpin' Jax event

Potential to organize a 5k as a fundraiser-more details to follow

Treasurer's Report:

- Approximately \$18,000 in account
- Amazon Smile-5% of proceeds come to Whitehills

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.