

Whitehills School Association
April 14, 2015
Meeting Minutes

1. 7:05-Meeting called to order by Pres. Smith
2. March minutes approval: motion to approve by Pres. Smith; seconded and passed
3. Brief WSA Introductions for new attendees
4. **Teacher Report:** Ms. Kemsley (2nd grade): Teachers appreciative of WSA help; general question about field trips and buses-thoughts of tweaking the process/information for teachers along with discussion on best way to get WSA information on field trips
 - Amy Z. made motion to for Board to make financial decisions on field trips as needed in between meetings. **Motion was seconded and passed.**
 - 2nd grade to MSU Gardens; 5th grade to Science Festival @ MSU and other grades on field trips as well.
5. **Principal's Report:**
 - School Improvement Team met – areas to address:
 - Positive behavior support to emphasize expectations for kids; reviewing expectations building wide, especially recess and recess line-up
 - Teachers need to greet students to be visible and meet them after recess
 - Lunchroom issues: lunch staff should be included in discussions on positive behavior; recommendation that all lunch monitors be trained on student-centered/positive approach to working with kids. Lunch has to be a balance of kids socializing and structure
 - Free play options for students: research shows some non-structured time for kids (especially lower grades) is important
 - Day of play was very successful and teachers feel it is important for kids to play and socialize with each other
 - MSTEP began on 4/14 with 5th grade reading – test is proving longer and more challenging than other tests
 - Birthday treats: beginning of the year staff agreed to not engage in food birthday treats; instead offer activities; some parents have raised concerns and process will be reviewed for next year. Many parents are in agreement that non-food treats are best (i.e. extended recess, free time in class)
 - Dean transportation donated busses for MSU Science Festival on Friday
 - 5th grade transition meeting (MacDonald principal) to visit Whitehills on April 23
 - Other activities under discussion (Aquatic center and end of year activities for kids)
6. **School Board Report:** Board Representative, Hillary Henderson
 - MSTEP concerns – new test and new way of learning; kids are in transition; District is working on keeping up with changes; MSTEP important for baseline measurement of where students are academically; this is the state test-no opt-out option for MSTEP; Whitehills is currently a FOCUS school based on last year assessment; some concern that because test is new scores may be lower,

potentially pushing Whitehills down to a “Priority” School which has implications for funding and state involvement.

- Meeting with City of East Lansing-strong partnership with EL Public Library – Library owns several 3D printers and they are available for teachers to use in their classrooms.
- April 27th: Listen and Learn tour results and school of choice numbers to be discussed at next Board meeting; responses from board members on previous issues available on board website
- Some research happening on Pre-K programming in the district

7. Upcoming Events:

- Earth Day (Saturday, April 25 – Amy Zaagman coordinating a spring clean-up event; will coordinate with Mr. Wells.
- Fundraising idea to raise money for plants, flowers with Christian’s Greenhouse; donate gift certificates or buy flowers-20-25% of proceeds to come back to WSA
- Brick paver fundraiser; \$25 per brick for 3 lines for brick-fundraiser will begin after May 1; **motion made for \$25 price; seconded and carried**
- Spring book fair: May 4-May 8; volunteers needed and hours will be based on volunteer availability – this one is buy one, get one free for all purchases. Delivery of set-up and books is Friday, May 1; 6 volunteers for set-up needed (3 pm-6pm); 6 teachers so far have offered raffle services for kids to bid on
- Spring Carnival – May 1; concessions: walking tacos, water, popcorn (can borrow Donley’s popcorn kettle), Kona Ice Truck; elephant ears
- Science Club starts April 17 from 4-6 p.m.; Kyle Enger and Debbie Walton; every 3rd Friday through end of May-all kids welcome K-5
- Marco’s pizza night Thursday, 4.16.15-orders seem to be declining
- Mileage Club: moving to afternoon recess; time change to 2:20-2:45 effective 4.15.15, but more people needed; K-2 run on inside/left side of cones; and 3-5 on right side of cones(outside); 4-6 volunteers everyday; will end on May 22; eblast for parents to send in information if they don’t want their child to participate; \$240 to purchase toe tokens and chains; **motion for WSA to cover the costs; motion made; seconded and carried**-Debbie Walton to order and organize; will be cancelled on rainy days

8. Officers Report:

President: Reported throughout meeting-playground updates

Vice-President: 5 week language series (German instruction-12 kids) just completed; kids grades 1-5 and some kindergarteners-very successful overall!

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: Not many expenses from March to April; approximately \$17,500 in budget but some bills need to be paid.

- Whitehills signed up to win an Independent Bank award of \$5,000; beginning April 29th vote once per day – we need to advertise and get families and community to vote
- Reminder: Amazon Smile program – WSA receives a portion (5%) of purchases if WSA is designated

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.