

Whitehills School Association

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2015

7:00 PM

- I. Call to order with welcome and introductions
- II. Approval of August minutes and today's agenda – We will wait on approving minutes until next month so everyone has a chance to look over the meeting minutes from last month. Today's agenda is approved.
- III. Teacher Report/Principal Report
 - a. Ms. Clyma
 1. We had an awesome beginning to this school year. We had some meetings before school started to lay the ground work. We hit the ground running, and it was one of the best “starts” we have had in awhile.
 2. We have three new teachers.
 3. Some teachers are wondering about allocation of funds for classroom use and for field trips, and how we will ask for funds and get that approved.
 4. Angie will try to attend the teachers staff meeting next week Tuesday from 4-5:30. We are doing the \$100 grants like last year, and have gotten quite a few volunteer sheets also.
 5. We are also already getting Box Tops in and those can be turned in right now; please group the Box Tops into groups of fifty if you aren't able to put them on the sheet provided. The first deadline is October 23 – official deadlines are on the WSA website.
 6. Will there be food for teachers during conferences this year? They are the 20th and 22nd of October; there will be no school on the 23rd. Yes, there will. We will organize potlucks.
 - b. Principal Wells
 1. The start of the school year was smooth; we met a couple times prior to the start of school and the staff worked hard at getting everything ready. This year teachers started with the students by teaching them the proper way to enter the building and went over the ancillary areas, but it is a work in process. We are going to continue to work on these since it can always be improved upon.
 2. Thank you to the WSA for helping and Amy Zaagman for being the landscaping point person.
 3. The 5K was really nice.
 4. This year's Curriculum night will be a little different with two sessions, and then ice cream being served a little before 7:00 so people attending the first session can get some ice cream.

5. There will be a 20 minute kickoff assembly for the Fun Run Thursday at 2:00. It will be run by the Fun Run group, the Get Movin' Crew.
6. We hired new lunch monitors, who are getting accustomed to the "Whitehills way."
7. Parking is going much better than last year so far; let's see what happens when the winter months come.
8. AIMSweb is an opportunity for the staff to test the students in Math; then we will be able to look at the student's data to help with our instruction. Teachers may appreciate help but there has to be a teacher in the room during the testing.
9. We will partner with MSU's TE301 class to have kids work with students one on one; the class will meet here every Wednesday in the cafeteria with their professor.
10. There was a little upheaval with the addition of a third Kindergarten teacher, but everyone has exhibited professionalism. We are in the process of making sure the third Kindergarten teacher has all of the technology she needs. Months ago there were discussions about school of choice and we took about 150 more students in; we have to weigh the benefits of accepting new students. The enrollment at some other schools was higher than they had thought also. We will be more cognizant of looking out for this in the future. We will take a closer look at the DK situation concerning where they will go next year when they can attend schools that they would otherwise be attending district-wise. Based on what's happened this year, people are vocal about their concerns on multiple levels. When parents voice their concern it helps because it is different coming from parents to the school board than from teachers and staff; that planning is helpful and important.

IV. Review of 1st week of school

- a. One bus was late today; they had to verify one of the students on the bus. Does the bus driver have a roster of the students? Transportation has a roster, and a new student had to be added to the roster list to ride the bus.
- b. Lunch is going better than last year; it's the process of allowing kids to talk but not yell.
 1. Has there been a thought of letting maybe the older kids sit with other classes?
 - I. There has been talk about allowing that after we have transitioned into the school year. Fifth grade now also eats alone, which helps reduce the noise.
- c. Are dogs allowed in the morning during line up? Principal Wells will bring that up tomorrow at the meeting. Marble had a dog free zone.
- d. A kindergartener mother was asking about the adult to kid ratio, and wondered if there are older kids on the playground at the same time as younger children. – It will be on the agenda also; what was done last year was that certain areas were designated for different ages, and younger kids

were allowed access to the playground. There are four adults out there at recess.

- e. Should we get vests for the playground “workers” to wear so that the kids can find them if they need them? We could improve on the separation of the younger and older children.
- f. Ms. Volovsek had an injury and will be out for a few weeks.
- g. Are the kids allowed to bring the balls out and use the GAGA pit? We are going to make some adjustments as necessary as we go. Angie passed out the rules of GAGA pit so we could read the rules; extra balls are in the office.

V. Officer Reports

a. Angie (President)

- 1. Our ultimate goal is to expand the playground but the GAGA pit was a “quick fix” to add to the playground.
- 2. We held a 5K this summer; the vision was to use the profits and run a community event. We had about 200 people pay for registration, and over 150 actually run or walk the 5K. All abilities ran, and it was very family friendly. Our profit was about \$3,450. We are planning to keep the date about the same, holding it the weekend before Labor Day. Thank you to Amy Sayers, Joy Campbell, and Susan Gisholt for all your hard work on this.
- 3. Moving forward we are going to have a “playground committee” meeting for thirty minutes before each WSA meeting for the remainder of the year; we will need \$30,000 to \$50,000 to do what we want with the playground equipment.

b. Elizabeth (Secretary)

- 1. We have the ice cream social coming up this week and are excited for that.

c. Joy (Vice President)

- 1. Asked if anyone has questions with the volunteer and information packets that went out, and communicated that if there are any questions, everyone should feel free to ask.
- 2. Marco’s Pizza Night is this Thursday; note that you are calling for Whitehills School and what teacher’s name to put the order under. The teacher with the highest number of orders gets a pizza party if over 50 orders come in.

d. Nico (Treasurer)

- 1. We started two years ago with \$10,000 and we are now at \$25,000, which shows the amount of participation we have. The big project we have had since transitioning to a K-5 school. We felt like the children needed to be able to play better in the playground; we always want to continue to earn more because of the cost of this. Our events have been great, and we have made a profit on every event. Thank you for your participation. You can also help by using Amazon Smile when you shop at Amazon, and they will give us 5% of the profit. We still

have some transportation and field trip bills to pay. We are in the process of getting the vision laid out, and the budget for it. We want to target things for all ages, and welcome parents who have opinions and want to help the vision come to fruition. We are planning on having a three-phase design that will slowly be rolled out.

VI. Recent Events

- a. Installation of GAGA pit

VII. Upcoming Events

- a. Curriculum night/Ice Cream Social – Sept 16th 6:00-7:30
- b. Marco's Night
 - 1. This Thursday; mentioned earlier.
- c. Science Club – Sept. 18 kick-off, 4:00-5:30pm
 - 1. They are looking for one leader each month and two or three assistants to help guide the kids through the leader's lesson.
 - 2. This month they will do a bug safari if the weather permits.
 - 3. Next month we will be having MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine come and do a health/science topic.
 - 4. We have a small budget but would love to have items donated. Whitehillsscienceclub.weebly.com. It's after school on Friday, and parents need to be sure to pick students up at 5:30.
 - 5. NHS may be able to come and volunteer some of their time; Anita Kelly is ELHS contact for NHS.
 - 6. Snack is not provided; parents should send snack for their children to eat before we begin at 4pm.
 - 7. There is no sign-up commitment; there is a four sentence "pledge" stating that the kids will help respect the equipment, and help clean up, etc. Parental contact should be left in case of emergency; maybe the parents will have to sign the children in.
- d. Fun Run – Oct 9th with kick-off Sept 17th
 - 1. We have Kona ice truck as the overall school reward again this year; it seemed to be well loved last year.
 - 2. The kids run to music and have a blast, and we make a larger profit than any other event.
 - 3. Rough estimate of expenses is around \$1,351 (around ten percent of the profit), and \$6 per student fee.
 - 4. The Get Movin' Crew will be coming Thursday for the big kick-off assembly.

e. Science and Math Festivals

1. Math Festival will be in the fall, with Science Festival in the spring. There is no plan this year for a kid-project Science Fair, but it may be done in the future.
2. Math Festival will be held on October 13 from 6-7:30pm. WSA meeting will run from 7:00-8:30pm.

f. Popcorn Fridays

1. First one Oct 2nd
2. Approve 8 oz vs 12 or 16 oz (~\$500 vs \$1000)
 - I. Originally we approved a smaller one, so should we get a bigger popcorn machine? The 12 to 16 oz. popcorn machine will be around \$1,000. In the long run, it is probably a wise investment.
 - II. Angie motioned to spend up to \$1,500 for popcorn machine – it was seconded and passed.

g. Book Fair

1. Need Chair or Co-chairs.
2. Training event Thursday, September 24, 10:00am-12:00pm.
 - I. Joy will attend and pass on information to chair(s).
3. We hold two book fairs each year that are both a week long. The first one is in December, and the second is scheduled for May but we are hoping to move that month. We will have it open as many hours as we have volunteers for; we need someone to coordinate with the Scholastic rep. and go through training, keep track of receipts, and organize the volunteers.
4. Nico or Angie will attend and help close up and double count money.
5. Multiple volunteers to chair would be ideal, so that the responsibility can be shared.
6. Last year we had a reading night, where kids could wear pj's and teachers and school board members read books to them in the gym.
7. We will put up slots online so whoever agrees to chair can just facilitate the volunteers, but WSA will actively be seeking volunteers to assist.

h. T-shirt sales

1. Kick-off in October.
2. Angie typically chairs with another parent.
3. If anyone is great with creative design we would welcome the help. Every year we sell a short sleeved and long sleeved option for "Spirit Wear". Nico offered to help out.

VIII. Miscellaneous

1. Culture and diversity board
2. Stay tuned for what the date is for next month's meeting.

- I. Will remain as scheduled, October 13.
3. Other fundraising ideas
 - I. Wrapping Paper Sales – maybe doing a wrapping station
 - II. Grand Traverse Pie – to do around Thanksgiving
 - III. Farm Raiser – it’s nice for organic food options – about 15 items – two or three times a year, possibly soon-ish?
 - IV. Matilda Jane – profit goes to our school – you can come and shop for clothes at the school.