

Whitehills School Association

Meeting Minutes

October 13th, 2015 – 7:00pm

- I. Call to order with welcome and introductions
- II. Approval of August minutes, September minutes and today's agenda
 - a. Approved, and Approved
- III. Teacher Report/Principal Report
 - a. Mrs. Clyma
 - A. We had great weather and a really successful Fun Run.
 - B. Conferences are coming up; a lot are doing sign-ups online, and teachers say they are having a decent turnout. Thank you for lunch – we are excited for that, and appreciate it!
 - C. Field trips are getting scheduled, including Wharton Center trips. Wharton tickets likely to cost around \$2500. WSA is budgeting to cover whatever cost is in excess of the school budget.
 - D. People are excited for the book fair in December. Can we get extra books by the authors whose books the kids sign out most from the library every week? And we need books that the younger kids can read, like early readers.
 - E. Popcorn Friday was awesome, and all teachers loved it. It was very organized and kids loved it also.
 - F. Was there money budgeted for the book room?
 1. We will try to utilize Scholastic dollars.
 - b. Principal Wells
 - A. I was out of town for a few days last but, and having been playing catch up a little.
 - B. Fun Run was a successful activity – still collecting money until Oct 16th [later extended until Oct. 30].
 - C. Today we had a data review meeting, where the Superintendent came. We took a look at our discipline data, and we are under the national average. In September we were at .8, and last year at this time we were much higher. We have realized that the various areas we need to re-teach is the playground. The Gaga Pit has made it interesting for us; a lot of students are very interested and we don't want too many students playing at the same time. We may lose one of our recess monitors, so we just need to reassess. AMES web data, and math data, and our lower elementary looks really good. Third grade and up we have some work to do. Research shows that at third grade is when the educational divide starts to show.
 - D. All of the teachers were asked to write an action plan for all of the "tiers" of students. We need to hopefully get 80% of all students into

the green tier. Teachers get a 'good fit block' of thirty minutes for either enrichment or support work depending on students' needs.

- E. We don't have the data for the free and reduced lunches yet; 21% was last year's data. We will get the data in the next couple of weeks. In order to address all students, the entire school has to be a building wide title school. Otherwise, the title money has to go only to those target children.
- F. The Halloween Parade; Friday, October 30th. We have a schedule, and tweaked our day because students are very excited. We have two afternoon recesses, and then the parade is at 2:30. Parties will be after the parade. The East Lansing Marching Band will be here at 11:00am. We are also going to send a note home so parents know not to let kids wear really scary costumes to school.

IV. Fun Run Report

a. Jen Gorchow

- A. Thanks to the chairs. We need to work on the incentives and little raffles, which was a lot of extra work. Money will keep trickling in, maybe even after the official deadline. The Fun Run people brought a great group this year. Pinecrest did their own race/run and we reached out to their organizers to see how it went, and where we end up this year. It might be a good change for us for next year. We will talk offline more about our options. We should look at the numbers of how many people "share" and pay online etc. Do we do the Kona Truck if they don't meet the goal? – No, but maybe something little.
 - 1. Later decided by board vote that since they reached over 94% of their goal and beat last year's amount, the Kona truck would be approved.

V. Officers' Report

a. Angie

- A. My main project had been the playground. We are still trying to do the hill slide. We have run into some problems with a person that the District contracts with. We are contemplating whether or not we can maybe still do it this fall. The Lowe's grant is supposed to be used within a year. A playground committee has been developed. Meets at 6:30 before WSA meetings each month.
- B. We think we need to do a second campaign where all of the proceeds go to the playground, because we want to, within the next couple months, have a goal and visuals for motivation.

b. Nico

- A. Instead of having all of our money in one account, we are now around \$19,200, we decided to divide the money so that people can see we are saving a specific amount for the playground. We are shifting

\$12,000 raised last year from Fun Run and this summer from the 5K in an account for the playground.

B. We need to see what the successful events were, and then see if we can build those events up.

C. **Go to approval of budget**

c. Elizabeth

A. Matilda Jane is coming up, and we are hoping we will get a good turnout. It could go either way, so hopefully it brings in a good amount.

d. Joy

A. We only had 33 Marco's orders last month, so hopefully this week it is better. We want to make sure that the orders are going to the school.

B. Check out the re-vamped WSA website.

VI. Approval of budget

a. We were trying to decide percentages we want to go to different expenses. We are hoping to pull in more from Carnival, but also add an auction. We need to maybe pull in more fundraisers for the playground, and use the Fun Run for operating expenses.

b. Motion to approve the budget, designating proceeds to specific line items. Motion seconded and approved.

c. How much should we ask parents to have to pay for the "Zoo Week". Also, they are wanting t-shirts for all of the kids. Maybe we could pay a little more toward the ticket prices rather than paying for another thing like t-shirts. What if we donate \$10 per child? (Yes).

VII. Upcoming Events

a. Thank you Debbie Walton for tonight's Math Night

A. It went well but the turnout was not as good as last year; less than half the turnout of last year. It may be because of the time of year (soccer still going on for many students). Kyle was amazing, and setup went awesome with the Girl Scouts helping out. Maybe we could look at a November date for next year.

B. Can we get a date for Science and Engineering Night, so we can get that all ready? March 24, 2016 is the tentative date from 6:30-8pm.

b. Marco's Pizza night is Thursday, October 15th

c. Science Club Friday October 16th – Any parent interested in leading a project/lesson, email WSA

A. The first one seemed to go really well. Kyle arranged the whole thing, and we went on the trails and looked for bugs. This Friday is a medical centered night, with the Dept. of Osteopathic Medicine.

B. A couple ideas would be "Kids and Dogs" and the library.

C. The next one November 20th.

d. Teacher Potluck

A. See sign-up genius

B. Tuesday Taco, and Thursday Soup

- C. We still need help – especially for setup both days.
- e. Popcorn Fridays – November 6th
 - A. We could use pictures for the website
- f. T-shirt sales coming soon
 - A. Pricing at Retro Duck is great, and we can offer maybe two options so people want to purchase again.
 - B. The second option is a blue hoodie, which will be \$16; maybe we can bump up the price to \$20 which will still be super affordable. Tie Dye t-shirts are ten dollars. Maybe we could have students vote on what designs they like the best. We will maybe get the orders in around November so we have them before Christmas.
- g. Matilda Jane Trunk Show Oct 27th
- h. Farmraiser
 - A. The brochures are going to go out next Friday, or the following Monday. We will get orders in and then everything gets collected and distributed right before Thanksgiving. If anyone wants to help that would be great (just 1 or 2 people the weekend of the 20th), and if we could store things in the WSA closet that would be great!
 - B. We have been given wholesale prices, and so it will be a great thing to have and give.
- i. Box Tops Deadline Oct 22nd
- j. Book Fair – December 7th-11th
 - A. 2 co-chairs named, Erica Letts and Carol Ivkovich
 - B. What time of year do we want to do for spring? Right before summer is looking like the best time with a “start to summer” theme.
- k. Pie Sales vs. other fundraising ideas?
 - A. If we are doing the Farmraiser this year, do we want to do the Grand Traverse Pie this year? Maybe we just do a couple new things each year, and build each year. Maybe we could do it for Pi Day!
- l. Directory
 - A. A lot of kids have not responded that did last year; some classes only have two kids listed. Maybe we need to send a reminder.