

Whitehills School Association

Meeting Minutes

December 15th, 2015

7:00 PM

- I. Call to order with welcome and sign-in
- II. Approval of November minutes/Old Business
 - A. Motion to approve – seconded. Minutes approved.
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Approved.
- IV. Special guest, Karin Pfeiffer, regarding Safe Routes to School
 - A. There is a group of parents that have come together to decide safe routes to school
 - B. We know that it is healthier to actively get ourselves to school (i.e., walking, biking, etc.) and a large portion of traffic is bringing kids to school.
 - C. We are trying to get people together to talk about safe routes. There is an organization that is federally funded to help provide safe routes to school
 - D. Non-infrastructure grants are less money; infrastructure grants (e.g., for bike routes, racks) are more costly.
 - E. We can apply for mini grants, getting up to \$25,000 max to use for non-infrastructure items, like education.
 - i. This would get us “in line” for infrastructure funding
 - ii. These efforts would start in lower elementary
 - iii. These grants come out January 19, and we need help writing this grant and help from each school and different areas to help form the vision and steps necessary.
 - iv. The next step is to go to the Board in January, but wanted to first go to all of the schools and make sure they are all on board for this.
 - v. We need one representative from each school, the issues here at Whitehills so they can be added to the grant, and possibly a letter to show the Board in January.
 - F. Questions/Comments
 - i. Contact for Karin: kap@msu.edu
 - ii. Kids have to walk past the parking lot (where there is no crossing guard) to get to the sidewalks where there are crossing guards.
 - iii. Worries about biking when the sidewalks are relatively narrow; should there be a separate bike route? A walkability route needs to be done before submitting the grant, so all those things should be looked at first.

- iv. When you go to the Board, what will the approach be? Liability is definitely an issue. A new law says that school should be encouraging kids that can walk and ride bikes to school should be.
- v. Bicycle Education Class? The ELPD may come out and do a free class and helmet check for kids.
- vi. We don't get any Police support, like other schools get.

V. Teacher Report – Ms. Clyma

- A. Everyone is ready for Winter Break
- B. We had report cards sent out, and didn't have a grade level meeting this evening.
 - i. Teachers in different grades meet, go over the areas and discuss what the assessments will be. Teachers try not to give 4's unless they are beyond the end of the year mastery; there typically aren't any 4's given at the first report card.
- C. Other Elementary Schools have plays or musicals; is this something that Whitehills might do?
- D. Art
 - i. The teacher is doing awesome with the Artsonia and how accessible seeing the kids' art is.
 - ii. Art for Charlie is in the spring and they would love support in this.
 - 1. Ideas for raising money with pottery, and chairs, and possibly putting some pieces at the Carnival.
 - 2. Some schools have an art club run by the art teacher, where kids can pay a nominal fee and do cool art and crafts.
- E. Should teachers be thinking of doing things for the Carnival to auction off, like sundaes with a teacher?

VI. Book Fair Wrap Up

- A. We sold over \$7,000 in books, with a net profit of about \$3,700 in Scholastic Dollars. This is \$400 more than last year's winter book fair.
- B. We raised \$167.70 in extra change for the "All for Books" program.
 - i. We were able to order 15 sets of 6 books each for class reading; five sets were purchased with "All for Books" money, and ten with Scholastic Dollars.
- C. We weren't open as many hours during the day as last year, but we also didn't have as many trinkets "walk away"; we also didn't have as many volunteers.
- D. We are giving a portion to the library, some to the reading room, and also some for things like decorations for next year's Scholastic Book Fair.
- E. Thanks to book fair co-chairs Angie Smith, Joy Campbell, and Carol Ivkovich.
- F. Right now the Librarian and Ms. Clyma are trying to plan an Author's visit; he is willing to come for free and wants to encourage kids to go outside and be in nature.

- VII. Officer's Report/Treasurer's Report
 - A. Angie
 - 1. School Board Meeting Update
 - a. They want the board members from individual schools to come and be involved
 - b. They spoke about Red Cedar and also Donley – they recommended putting a STEAM program in Red Cedar; Donley would be using Title 1 funds.
 - c. In the fall of 2016, a preschool would be opened, with an elementary opened in 2017. They then said they would like to move this up to opening the entire thing in 2016.
 - B. Elizabeth
 - 1. I just got a number for a chair distributor and am going to call them for prices for the teacher's lounge.
 - 2. They would like a new microwave.
- VIII. Playground Committee Report
 - A. Based on the price of hill slide and work necessary to install one, we are no longer going to put in a hill slide..
 - i. The Lowe's grant, originally planned for a hill slide, will have to be used for another purpose.
 - B. We are now thinking of putting in a 60x80' padded area.
 - i. Keith Ivkovich showed a rough sketch of where we would put the pad, and then we can start talking about the next step.
 - A. Letter to go home next month to see what parents want to see in the end, and with fundraising ideas. We will need to get started with fundraising soon.
- IX. Thank you to Kirsten Borgstrom and Nico Gisholt for organizing shirt sales!
 - A. We did awesome! We sold 81 t-shirts and 54 sweatshirts; they will be in tomorrow and in teacher's hands Thursday so kids can take them home before break.
 - B. An idea for next year – we could pre-order and then sell what we have shortly after school starts; we could then have them out at school events to promote selling them.
- X. Upcoming Events
 - A. Marco's Night Thursday and Science Club Friday
 - i. If anyone can pass the word, attendance was great for the first Science Club but has dwindled since. They will be doing microscopes this Friday.
 - B. Date for International Night?
 - i. February 18, which will not conflict with the Daddy/Daughter Dance; it will also be the same night as Marco's Pizza Night.
 - ii. Maybe we could add some sort of food element to the evening, which might attract more people.

1. Principal Wells was concerned last year that if there was substantial food then we would have to separate the food into a different area. There is also some allergy concerns.
 2. Maybe we could add more music to the evening; even having kids sing something they learned in music class.
 3. We would need to get risers.
 4. Angie volunteered to contact the music teachers about a possible program.
 5. Joy will chair event.
- C. Science Fair – March 24
- i. Debbie Walton needs to talk some more to Kyle and revisit the idea.
 - ii. The idea of parents and kids working together is really cool, and doesn't need a lot of volunteer help because it's almost strictly parent driven.
 - iii. To get teacher involvement, it may be better to decide for next year, so teachers can begin to prepare.
 - iv. We would need to provide tri-folds to kids that couldn't afford them, so that would be an added cost to think about.
 - v. Heather Mueller is the contact for the High School STEM Program.
 - vi. We will put it in the January Wolf Pack Wire.
- D. Spring Book Fair – May 23-27
- i. We tried to spread it out with Carnival and encourage kids to get books to read over the summer.
- E. Carnival – May 6th
- F. Winter or Spring Dance
- i. Is anyone upset that there are no dances here at Whitehills?
 - ii. We could incorporate it into a fundraiser and have a dual purpose. We could even get a company to come and do free lessons.
 - iii. They had donated snacks, photo booth, face painting and maybe some other ideas.

Sign-In

Joy Campbell
 Elizabeth Ivkovich
 Nico Gisholt
 Angie Smith
 Karin Pfeiffer
 Amy Zaagman
 Debbie Walton
 Kirsten Borgstrom

Sarah Cole-Blankenship
 Keith Ivkovich
 Lynne Clyma
 Jen Gorchow
 Jamie Fitzgerald
 Amy Sayers
 Keith Ivkovich