

Whitehills School Association

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016

7:00 PM

- I. Call to order with welcome and sign-in
 - II. Approval of December minutes/Old Business
 - A. Motion to approve– seconded. Minutes approved.
 - III. Approval of Agenda
 - A. Approved
 - IV. Menchie’s – Larissa Martins
 - A. She came and told us their business model is for a good guest experience and to partner with the community.
 - i. They like to give back to the local schools.
 - 1. They give 20% off to teachers.
 - 2. They have a reading program where students get free ice cream for reading books, and 20% discount to students.
 - 3. Frozen yogurt cakes are a new product that they have.
 - 4. They cater events, and can provide toppings.
 - 5. Great game certificates for coaches.
 - 6. Fundraising
 - a. Much like Marco’s Pizza Night, they give a percentage to the school and winning class gets a free ice cream cake.
 - 7. They have Girl Scout badges.
 - 8. 20% off cakes.
- V. Special guest – Dori Leyko – East Lansing Curriculum Director
 - A. There is a math curriculum committee that is looking over the curriculum and updating K-5; 14 teachers are on the committee doing the reviewing and evaluating
 - i. The next step is meeting with a researcher at MSU who analyzes different variables.
 - ii. We would like to have a recommendation to tell the board this Spring.
 - iii. Everyday Math is currently being used and is being reviewed as one of the five.
 - iv. K, 1st, and 2nd grades are using curriculum that has been created, but next year everyone will have a horizontally and vertically aligned program.
 - v. A lot of energy has been directed toward Red Cedar for the STEAM program, and things will have to get re-prioritized.

- vi. As we move into next year, we will focus on Science – you can only focus well on one curriculum per year.
- vii. Amy Zaagman said it is hard for parents to help with Everyday Math – Dori said that there are books and resource materials that can help parents know – extra books are in storage from when Red Cedar closed.

VI. Teacher Report – Allie Talaski

A. Yearbook Club

- i. At some of the after school events, could Miss Talaski set up a table for selling yearbooks?
 - 1. Yes.
- ii. If any parents are interested in coming to a meeting and help with crowd control, that would be welcomed; when we get into creating the pages is when more help is really needed.
- iii. We can put a list out of all of the proposed dates for yearbook meetings.

B. Message from Mrs. Clyma

- i. Is really excited about the funds they got from the book fair.
- ii. Wanted to send a reminder about Author, Buck Wilder coming to the school to talk at no cost to the school.
- iii. We got awesome thank you's from third graders for the Big Zoo Lesson.

VII. Principal Report

A. Silent Mentoring Program

- i. We started last year, which was more like a trial so this year should be much stronger.
- ii. There are students that don't feel like they fit in and may have difficulty establishing a relationship with peers.
 - 1. We are going to make it a priority for staff members to start relationships with those students.
 - 2. We have gotten 1,042 Bucket Fillers this year
 - a. To reward them we will do a mis-match day on January 22nd.
 - b. Later on we are going to have a "sweats day" where they can wear sweatpants, a crazy hair day, and Principal Wells will read during March.

B. Buck Wilder

- i. We are excited to have him coming to talk about being an author.

C. We started our winter round of assessments

- i. We will have another data analysis meeting in March and compare it to past screenings.

VIII. Officers' Reports

A. Nico

- i. The board approved \$4000 of Fun Run profit be moved to the playground fund.
- ii. We have two accounts
 1. Our operating expenses account has around \$11,000 right now.
 2. The playground account has around \$18,000, and we would like to get it to \$30,000.
- iii. Amazon Smile
 1. How often do we get notices to see how much we earned?
 - a. About quarterly.

IX. Playground Committee Report

- A. So far from the surveys it looks like people are more interested in family-related events like Impression 5 and Spaghetti Dinner.
- B. Monkey bars won by a landslide, balancing equipment and imaginary play were close seconds.

X. Upcoming Events

A. Marco's

- i. Next week is the next Marco's Night.

B. Science Club

- i. This Friday, and more adult help is always welcome.
- ii. This month's topic is brainstorming ideas for Science Fair.

C. Science and Engineering Festival

- i. March 24th
- ii. Labs are responding well and we have a lot of volunteers already
- iii. Could there be money in the budget to feed volunteers pizza, and misc. costs - \$300 approved.
- iv. Since March Madness is around the same time, so we are going to call it "March Mad Science-ness"
- v. We are going to possibly combine it with Pinecrest School because of other events so we aren't spreading volunteers thin and so we can collaborate.

1. One worry is that we won't have enough kids doing a Science Project

- a. Whitehills WSA will provide the poster tri-folds.
- b. Science Club website has lots of links for brainstorming so you can go here:

<http://whitehillsscienceclub.weebly.com/>

D. Embrace the World – February 18th

- i. We have some people hosting tables already but needs many more.
- ii. We have all different kinds of "cultures", not just countries

- iii. If anyone is interested in participating, there is a link on our webpage; we are looking for table hosts, setup, check-in, etc.
 - iv. We have some flyers if you want to learn more about it.
 - v. Kids might be doing a musical number; Angie emailed the music teachers.
 - vi. Is there a way to get risers from the district for better visibility?
 - vii. Joy – may I request \$100 for misc. items? Motion approved.
 - E. Mrs. Ward asked for \$100 for a cupboard – we approved.
 - F. Spring Book Fair
 - i. Last week of May, and will be a beach theme.
 - G. Carnival
 - i. Volunteers are needed!
 - ii. Looking to have a meeting next month
 - 1. Lynsey will send an email to form a committee.
 - iii. We will need money for things like concessions, but there are a lot of games we can use again, we have the popcorn machine, and we also have lots of prizes left over.
 - iv. Elephant Ears Company have already contacted us to see if we are still interested.
 - 1. Lots of people raved about having them so we will probably do it again
 - H. Mileage Club
 - i. We need a chair to help organize volunteers, and also to do the other tasks
 - 1. Three people would be ideal to chair it.
 - 2. Do we want to do it through Sparrow again or on our own? – we are already registered with Sparrow, so we should ask Mrs. V.
 - a. We buy our own toe tokens already, but Sparrow provides water bottles and we would have to get the software.
 - ii. Teachers contractually cannot participate in assisting in Mileage Club.
 - iii. We are looking at having it be during last recess with all students from 2:20-2:40pm, from the Monday, April 11th to May 27th.
 - iv. Could we mark the course, so cones don't have to be set out each day?
- XI. Jump Rope Club
 - A. Last year met once a week because of building availability and Hillary Henderson's availability.
 - B. A very minimal fee is charged, which gives each kids a jump ropes and kids get a t-shirt.
 - C. Hillary can come in once a week, but if Whitehill's interns may be able to help out and offer it more than once a week.

- D. Age requirement last year was grades 3-5; we might be able to do younger kids this year.
- E. How much work does it take to start other clubs like a chess club etc?
 - i. Some of our teachers agreed to volunteer their time and there will be a sign-up sheet; there used to be a knitting club and a chess club.
 - 1. This would be when students don't want to go outside and would rather be part of a club.

XII. Amy Zaagman

- A. Raised concerns about the school board's December vote to open a STEAM school in Red Cedar building by September 2016. She is formulating a letter to submit to the school board to express the current needs of our school. Interested parents can speak with her after WSA meeting.

Sign-In

Joy Campbell
Elizabeth Ivkovich
Nico Gisholt
Angie Smith
Dori Leyko
Debbie Walton
Jen Gorchow
Amy Zaagman

Sarah Cole-Blankenship
Andy Wells
Hillary Henderson
Lynsey Clayton
Allie Talaski
Marie Volosek
Ellen Marr