**Westbrook PTA Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

1. Welcome

* Called to order at 7:40pm

1. Approval of Minutes from November 2018 Meeting

* Motion to approve; seconded.

1. Co-Treasurers’ Report – Neil Goradia, Gilles Stucker

* PTA Dues were previously mislabeled in our budget report. They’re now in the expense column. Class dues are a pass through item and now reflected in the budget. We added a program expense for the Science Committee to cover the media center, and replenished it with an extra $500. Though that expense hurts a little bit, the Book Fair and Carnival dollars should help. There is a lot of income coming in; we will spend it in the second half of year.
* Expenditures for class dues is $391 year to date, but it should be higher in light of Halloween parties. So, we should solicit room parents/volunteers to get reimbursements for what they spend.
* Profits from Book Fair were amazing; 65% over our target.

1. Co-Presidents’ Report

* End of Year Gift Collection
  + We centralized this and are doing it through Cheddar Up. The latest update on amount raised was over $4k. The Staff Appreciation Committee came up with rubric for all staff (full time; staff, professionals, facilities, etc.), with various categories: Full time staff, professionals, facilities are category A; Part time and paraeducators are category B; folks who put in a few hours a week at our school, who are otherwise County employees, but are part of our community still are category C. There will be plenty of reminders about the collection between now and Monday. At that last count, it would be roughly $130 per teacher, and we’d like that to grow a bit. We’ve typically collected more than we have now, so we expect to see it grow. This allows us to have people give more than $20/person that Montgomery County limits, without targeting a teacher to curry favor for a particular child.
  + Mrs. Cox: there are often full-time professional staffs (Miss Woods, reading intervention; Miss Boyd math intervention; Randy who problem solves with children) that support children on a regular basis who don’t have a room parent that collects to recognize them. This helps give them recognition.
* Thank Yous:
  + Iva Joseph & Tim Brennan – Book Fair
  + Natalie Atkinson, Colleen Dahlem, Lynn Palmer – Milk & Cookies Night Readers
  + Miss Chang – moderated Author Night during Book Fair.
  + Kerry Lawrence – Pie Day
  + Jessica Deighton & Caroline Smith – Staff Appreciation Coffee Cart
  + Natanya Alon – pitch hitting for November PTA notes
  + Chris Dixon Barone – first Artist in Residence program (3rd grade)
    - 1st grade performance will be end of January; they just kicked off getting ready.
  + Helene Krasnoff– for Chipotle fundraiser

1. Principal’s Update: Karen Cox

* Shout out to FOWS and PTA for this wonderful space in Media Center; a lot of hours of dedication went in to make this happen.
* Staff appreciation this year has been fabulous – Jessica and Caroline, thank you. It’s on school website and Mrs. Cox’s Twitter feed.
* Pie Day is always exciting and the teachers really appreciated the donated pies.
* School wide – MD report card came out and we are a 5-star school. Mrs. Cox was scared to get results because she’d been told not to expect anything big, as state reports are usually worse than county reports. She only saw 2 days before it hit the public, so she was pleased with results. She’s looking forward to next year with all of data pieces integrated.
* Quarter 1 survey was put out to parents; she’s been banking responses into common themes. She’ll give a presentation about that in January. Survey will stay open until beginning of winter break and then close it to prepare for Town Hall in January.

1. Teacher Liaison Reports: Nina Pattakos/Kim O’Connell

* Thank you for everything relating to staff appreciation.
* K – they’re learning about plants and have a field trip to Botanic Gardens; they’re learning about physical features of earth
* 1st – they’re learning about how culture meets people’s needs through live/work/play; foods/homes/clothes/holidays.
* 2nd – they’re learning about ecosystems and are using geography skills to learn land forms; they’re also learning about holiday traditions around world; in math, they’re learning single digit to 2 digit equations.
* 3rd – they’ve worked with the artist in residence; they’re working on poetry in reading/writing and narrative poems that tell a story; they’re now reading plays and looking forward to seeing a play at Imagination Stage; in math, they’re doing multiplication and division and using multiplication to solve rectangle area.
* 4th – they’re now working with the artist in residence.
* 5th – they’re writing tall tales and using the digital platform Storyboard to bring them to life; they’re engaging in information inquiry projects about civil rights; in social studies, they’re learning about the Declaration of Independence.
* Media Center is beautiful.

1. Committee Updates

* Jessica Deighton – tomorrow is the Potluck Lunch; we still need helpers to set up and work the lunches, so spread the word.
* Jeff Senne re Carnival – there’s a meeting next week to lock down a few things; we’re still looking for subcommittee chairs; in particular, if anyone has any experience with finding sponsorships and has interest in being the Carnival sponsorship chair, this would be helpful, particularly with just one Carnival chair this year. We also need a signage chair – doesn’t mean you make signs, you can purchase them, but helps to have someone in this role. It’s not so difficult because there are a lot of templates, but helps to have someone owning that task. Mike did signage a few years ago and inherited templates, but could use an upgrade. KAH folks made a lot of signs, and they can help make these signs.

1. Upcoming Events

* Wednesday, Dec. 12 – Staff Appreciation Potluck Lunch (Grades 1 & 3)
* MONDAY Dec. 17th – Jess Myrow secured DVD for newly released National Geographic movie called Science Fair. She sent an email with the trailer. It’s a 90 min movie, looks fun. It’s a screening for our children. It’s suggested for 3rd to 5th grade because of content.
* Saturday, Dec. 22 at 12pm – American Univ. Basketball – Westbrook Day
* Monday, Dec. 24-Tuesday, Jan. 1 – Winter break
* Tuesday, January 8 – Trash Free Lunch
* Sunday, Jan.13-Friday, Jan. 18 – Galleyfoods.com giveback nights
* Friday, Jan. 18 – STEM Day, Classroom Speakers
* Monday, Jan. 21 – MLK Jr. Day, No School
* Friday, Jan. 25 – Early Release Day
* Monday, Jan. 28 – Professional Day for Teachers, No School
* Tuesday, Jan. 29 – Science Assembly
* Sunday, Feb. 3 – Bingo Night

1. Additional Issues from PTA Members

* Kerry Lawrence – there are a couple FOWS mugs up for grabs in the room.

Next PTA Meeting: Tuesday, February 5th

Meeting Adjourned. 8:05pm.