**DRAFT Westbrook PTA Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

1. **Welcome**

* Call to order – 7:30pm
* Motion to approve February Minutes – seconded – passed

1. **Approval of February minutes**

**3. Co-Treasurers’ Report**

* Summary of accounts: $74K in savings, $3300 in checking. Funds from the Scholastic book sale ($2,600) have been forecasted for the budget, although we have not received the amount yet.
* There have not been many receipts submitted for reimbursement from class budgets. Generally though, class budgets are spent towards the end of the year (shaved ice, t-shirts, etc.)
* Next year, the PTA will plan to allocate funds by teacher and class for tracking purposes.
* The 5th grade has a separate bank account from the PTA account. Funds from fifth grade fundraisers go in this separate account. If there are funds left from 5th grade end-of-year festivities, the money goes back to the PTA budget. PTA recently moved $1900 from the 5th grade account back to the PTA account; this is the amount left over from last year.
* Board agreed to add $250 to buildings/ground budget for spring flowers, etc.

**4. Co-Presidents’ Report**

* Co-Vice President search
  + Still looking for a co-VP to join the PTA Executive Board this year. Typically, the PTA has two VPs; this year there is only one.
  + Please reach out to co-Presidents if you have any questions.
* Thank Yous
  + Maureen Kramer & Erin Harcourt – Make Up Science Assembly
  + Deborah Eichhorn & Debra Ladner – Bingo Night (NOTE: The PTA bought the bingo cards this year so they are part of the PTA’s supply inventory. Please reach out if class parents want to use them, etc.)
  + Meredith Wade, Meredith Hammond, Rachel Hirschberg Light & Meghan O’Connell – Talent Show
  + Kerry Moore – Box Top Collection for the year
    - Kerry Moore is a 5th grade parent; we will need someone to take over for next year. Kerry has noted to others that it is not much of a time commitment.
    - Money goes directly to school (not to PTA). Westbrook earns money each year from this collection. (Someone noted there is a school in Midwest that gets $100K annually from box tops!)
  + Room Parents for Valentine’s Day Parties
  + Amy Fox and Missy Crawford for organizing recognition for Mrs. Pickle during National Counselor’s week.

**5. Principal’s Update: Karen Cox**

* March is very busy month—we get staffing numbers for next year, allocations and movements, etc.
* She will share staffing news she knows with staff on Thursday and then she will share the information with the Westbrook community. Mrs. Cox did let everyone know that we get to keep our Assistant Principal position.
* Lots of flu and strep throat—take proper precautions at home. A couple of lice incidents but not enough for epidemic memo. But be aware of it and check your kids.
* K orientation is 4/23—day we come back from spring break.
* Projected to have 62 incoming kindergarteners—good for staffing and having three classrooms. The front office posted about K orientation on our website; if anyone wants to volunteer to post signs in the Giant parking lot, etc., we’d love help with that.
* 5th and K providing staff lunch on Thursday—thank you!
* Be aware of MCPS calendar—school is now going to Friday 6/14. 6/5 was a professional day, but now it’s an instructional day in school.

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

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| **Kindergarten** | The Kindergarten classes are excited to go on their field trip this Wednesday to see Henry and Mudge at the Lisner Auditorium!  Students are learning about the different jobs in their community and whether they provide a good or a service. They will select a job to research as they prepare for Kindergarten Career Day on March 29. |
| **First** | First graders are learning to write with adjectives and prepositions to describe a place in the US with their table group to write a six section book.  They will soon move on to countries and the beloved World Fair!   In Math, they are using the relationship between addition and subtraction to solve equations. |
| **Second** | In Reading, Writing, and Social Studies, students have been learning about technology and opinions on the topic.  In Math, they are learning to measure to the nearest inch and centimeter. They are excited to have a Mad Science In House Field Trip this month on the topic of Solids, Liquids and Gases. |
| **Third** | In math they are working on fractions. Students have represented fractions with pictures and number lines. Now they are identifying equivalent fractions and then will move into comparing fractions.  In writing students are beginning to write realistic fiction picture book stories. They will use StoryBoard That to create images that help to tell the stories.  In science students tested different “bird beaks” to learn about how birds differ based on the type of food they eat. |
| **Fourth** | 1. Students are currently studying fantasy novels, using a notice and note strategy to help with thinking deeply about books and overall comprehension. 2. In writing, students are in the editing and revising process on original myths, which are due on Friday. 3. Social Studies is highly integrated with the non-fiction reading as students are researching the early European settlements of North America.  This includes why people came, the success of the early colonies, challenges faced and interactions among people. 4. Grade 4 math is focusing on fractions, and the compacted math has begun the 5th grade curriculum, with the standard algorithm for multiplication. 5. Finally, in science, students are working collaboratively to design an investigation related to erosion and weathering. |
| **Fifth** | 1. Students are working on geography in Social Studies and understanding impacts of geographic movement in the United States.  This work is supported by non-fiction studies in Reading class. 2. In Science, students are completing cube sat designs and studies and beginning work on planets.  They will incorporate these studies in informational writing projects for Writing, and will be making Google Slideshows and Prezi’s to enhance research findings.  Studies will also include an in-house planetarium visit. |
| **Mrs. Pickle** | * Continuing Mindful minutes on Eagle Eye News * Working with grades 3-5 on Commons sense media lessons in coordination with Mrs. Stoll; * Looking forward to doing career awareness lessons in all grades this spring; * Will be rolling out “Spring is blooming with Kindness” initiative….students will receive acknowledgment for demonstrating acts of kindness throughout WB * Lastly, a HUGE THANK YOU to the Westbrook Community for making National Counselor Week a week I will NEVER forget! |
| **Media Center** | * Enthusiasm for MakerSpace continues unabated. * We are seeing students for book exchange, read aloud, inquiry project research, and digital citizenship lessons. The library is a well-used, well-loved space. |

**7. Committee Updates**

* MCPS rep: Leah Markowitz agreed to be a rep for MCCPTA “Safe Stops and Routes to School” subcommittee.
* Skate night: Purchase rental and skating tickets by tonight 3/5 if possible,
* International and Multicultural night: Please sign up, and if there is a country not on there that you would like to represent, just let us know. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094baca72da57-international>
* Carnival:
  + Making lots of progress
  + Happily Ever After carnival t-shirt winners announced this week. Hard deadline of 4/16 for carnival t-shifts (day before spring break).
  + Sponsorship has started to come in (Dana Rice donation for cups). KAH will continue to support us.
  + They will send out in short order a sign up genius—PTA asks that everyone who attends the carnival sign up to do a shift. Class parents may want to give a heads up to K parents and new parents to the school about this request.
* Trash free lunch: Had trash free lunch today; kids who are trash free get a wooden coin and can decide to give it to one of two organizations (Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Audubon Foundation). Then we give the associated percentage of money raised from collections to those organizations. Last year donated ~$100 to Chesapeake Bay and $75 to Audubon Foundation. We also have a raffle of reusable containers to kids who were trash free. We asked the SGA about making signs to put around DBH to advertise trash free lunch; they agreed.
* Shout out to Molly Woods for her work with SGA.

8. Upcoming Events

* Thursday, March 7 – Staff Appreciation Potluck (K & 5th Graders)
* Saturday, March 9 – Sisters Party (FOWS event) (Goes to help Viers Mill Elementary School PTA; our contribution has been 80% of their budget in the past)
* Sunday, March 10 – Skate Night
* Tuesday, March 12 – McDonald’s Night – 5th Grade Transition (Mrs. Cox will be serving again; Mrs. Cox wants to open it up to all the teachers to come to serve.)
* Sunday, March 24 – International and Multicultural Night
* Monday, April 1- Tuesday April 2 – Ledo Pizza Nights
* Wednesday, April 3 – Early Release from school
* Wednesday, April 3 – Staff Appreciation: Building Services & Paraprofessionals Day
* Tuesday, April 9 – Trash Free Lunch
  + Earth day is 4/27. The following week there will be several events (walk to school week, an extra trash free lunch).

9. Additional Issues from PTA Members

* Outside recess: Can we set time on next month’s agenda on where safety issues exist for ice/snow/wetness? What are safety issues? If it is wet fields, can we use PTA money or raise money to redo the drainage? Let’s move into solution space once we identify the problem. How many days out of the winter were kids inside?
* SGA update: It would be great to hear an SGA update at the PTA meeting. They raised $298 for recess equipment and got 38 balls. Talked with building services manager about leaving some balls outside for after school play and what would that look like—can we buy a weatherproof container to put them with some of the proceeds? Kids had another SGA meeting earlier today—starting to tackle issues at the school (most of which resolve around recess). Molly is doing good job on how to problem solve, bring info to class, etc. Can Ms. Woods give SGA update when teacher reps collect teacher updates?
  + Student had a hard time donating balls in the morning—can we make it more streamlined next year?
  + Should we specify the size of the ball for next year—some of the balls were small bouncy balls, etc.
  + Should we cap the number of balls a student can donate?
  + Tina Conroy is parent rep and she would likely be happy to give SGA update as well.
* Kindergarten metal structure on playground has peeling paint; this came up last month at PTA meeting. Mrs. Cox spoke to building services manager, and he is looking into it. Mike suggested that Mrs. Cox include this in her Sunday e-mail.
* June meeting will be moved because of 5th grade musical—Tuesday 6/4 and Thursday 6/6. PTA meeting is Monday 6/3.
* Next meeting is 4/9; we will discuss the PTA budget.
* NAACP committee chair Janelle Wong will do presentation for PTA—will set date.
* Motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm.

Next PTA Meeting: Tuesday, April 9th – PTA Budget Meeting