

PTO Meeting September 5, 2017

Came to Order at 7:00

Participants: See sign in sheet.

Welcome and Introductions:

May 2017 Meeting Minutes

Minutes Approved

Principal's Welcome/Report - Jim Doyle

Mr. Doyle shared that he was happy to be at Whittier and discussed his experience. Students in K-2 are currently completing benchmark testing. The Back to School Picnic is on Thursday. Curriculum Night is scheduled for next Tuesday and will be run the same way as last year. Picture Day is Tuesday September 26. The administrators are making random calls to parents to gather feedback on how families' experiences are going at Whittier.

New Report Card - Nancy Hoehne and Anne Darley

Ms. Hoehne and Ms. Darley presented information on the new report card. The goal was to make a better report card that was user friendly, made it more of a teaching tool, and made it more meaningful to students, families, and teachers. There was a cross district committee that met over the summer. The new report card combines curriculum standards into reporting standards. It will be shorter, clearer, and utilize parent friendly language. There are new performance descriptors (Academic - Excels, Meets, Progressing, Not Yet) (Behavior 3, 2, 1) Effort (3/2/1) in content areas. Students will be informed of the report card. Parents will be informed at curriculum night that the report card will change. It is based on a spiraling complexity of expectations of mastery of the instructional content throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin provided copy of budget. Approved \$500 Diversity Line. \$500 for Parent Engagement Line. Student Grants \$500 line item refers to students being eligible for service projects. There may need to be a discussion at the next meeting on how to inform students of service project grants or send out information with information about service project grants with information about teacher grants. The group discussed Field trip money. Field Trip money is for one bus a year per grade level. The group voted on the budget and approved the 2017-2018 budget.

2017-18 Leadership Slate/Event Chairperson Review

A spread sheet on positions for PTO was sent around the table to check contact information and discuss open positions. There are openings for volunteer to produce copies for Tuesday packets, volunteer for yearbook with Sofia, and volunteers for Trivia Night committee. Trivia Night is Saturday January 20th.

Other

World Language - Lori provided a description of the program. Classes (French and German) are once a week during lunch and recess. The program is looking to lengthen by starting in November, offer American sign-language, and offer different levels of mastery. The program is also looking into adding a Spanish class. Lori is consulting with Senora Deaton for a complementary format to the Spanish school instruction. She wondered if PTO might offer scholarships. The group decided to consult administration this year and potentially offer scholarships next year. There are 20 sessions for \$120 November to April. Class size is a minimum of six and maximum of 12. Last year the classes were offered for second through fifth graders. (The group felt younger students needed recess). Lori is planning to send a flyer out at the end of September, have sign up due October 13, and start classes the week of November 6.

New building use fees - PTO presidents are to submit questions about the specifics of building use fees. If an event is after hours or on Saturday, there may be cost to pay custodians.

WISE needs volunteers for attendance and dismissal for WISE to happen.

Additionally, lunchroom volunteers are needed from 11:15 to 12:30 to support students.

Committee Updates

Parent Engagement - Chairs are looking for parent liaisons. The parent coffee was very successful. Moving forward the parent coffee will need a sign up for volunteers to set up. The coffee occurs the first Friday of every month with a goal to build community.

Fundraising - PTO puts out a letter at beginning of year for donations. This should go out shortly. Upcoming fundraising events include September 19 8 pm Hamburger Mary (Ham Bingo night), next month will be Thai Oak Park Food night, and multiple afterschool movie days this year (first will be in November).

Back to School Picnic needs more volunteers. There will be a DJ this year. There is need for more servers for multiple shifts.

Fun Run - Kicks off date is Wednesday September 20th. The actual date is October 4th. The Fun Run Committee is prepared.

Concluded at 8:25.

Next meeting will be October 3, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Harte

Secretary