

MINUTES - Wescott School PTO
September 6, 2017

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:07 PM

INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Brian Wegley, District 30 Superintendent

Chris Brown, Wescott Principal

Upper Board:

Christie Hartbarger, Michelle King, Sonia Riszki, Shreyas Shaw, Annie Porthan, Nikol Sotos

All those present:

Marla Morgen, Meg Shore, Francesca Petruno, Mary Ann Diaz, Cissy Furusho, Kevin Hartbarger, Jennifer Pasternak, Susan Akpolat, Edina Kim, Jim Tain, Jin Wen, Michaela Ward, Zoe Navak, Janelle Duthie, Catherine Caparusso, Hussein Din, Ilene Weil, Zivit Blonder, Marci Carl, Mia Seo, Amy Brennan, Hyejin Won, Attila Demokos, Anjali Nangia, Joanna Kaplan, Casella Okulaja, Russ Fliegler, Shetal Pandet, Nancy Finder, Mehmet Akpolat, Brad Hartman, Tracey Becker.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2017 MINUTES

Michelle King motions to approve. Christie Hartbarger seconds. Minutes are approved.

FACILITY PLAN UPDATE – Dr. Brian Wegley, District 30 Superintendent

Dr. Wegley begins by giving a slideshow of the Master Facilities Plan for the new Maple School.

First and foremost, we exist to create a community that values learning and builds a relationship between the community and our students. We value child centric learning. When you look at Maple school, we right now have constant interruptions to learning just based on our crumbling building. Luckily, the community came out and gave tremendous support for building our new middle school – 76% voted yes to the referendum passed this past spring. The work started last summer with a master facility planning process. From there we are moving on to schematic design, design development, construction documents, bidding, and finally with construction to begin in the spring of 2018 and a new Maple school completed for the fall of 2019. We want to create spaces that facilitate learning for our children, and we know that with the new Maple school, we will be able to provide exactly that.

Please visit www.District30Facilities.org for up to date projections of building design and planning and development.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Chris Brown

- Well, I can't top a brand-new building, that is pretty exciting, but we do have a lot of exciting things going on here at Wescott though as well! Maple will be a fantastic addition to this school district, and we are looking forward to seeing it come to life.
- Update at Wescott, we have 421 students at Wescott school, which is the most kids we have had in anyone's recollection, and more than 40 students more than we had last year. We are off to a fantastic start and the new gaga pit has brought lots of excitement! We are in the midst of MAP testing, and you will see information about that. We have two to three weeks of MAP testing including make-up exams as well. We strive to get down to the individual child with our instruction, and this exam helps us determine those things quite a bit.
- This year is the 60th anniversary at Wescott school and is quite a milestone! There will be some exciting events to celebrate this milestone as well, with more information about that to come throughout the year.
- School pictures are September 14th, 2017 - information will be coming up in our Friday Flyer.
- First Half Day of school is September 29th, 2017 – school ends at 11:45 a.m. on that day. Half days are really work days for teachers, and we really thank all the parents in planning for them.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are planned for October 5th, 12th, and 13th as well.
- First off, the character counts poster and video contest is going on again this year. This contest is for K – 4th grade kids in the poster category and the 5th graders can make a video for the video category. They can make a short commercial video espousing the realm of character counts – this is a new addition this year and has been great and looks to be lots of fun for the kids!
- Last, but not least, thank you to everyone that is here and we believe this school is blessed by all of the amazing parents and volunteers to help support this school. The PTO has donated so many great gifts

over the last few years. We have been redesigning some classrooms over the last few years, and have been redefining some of the learning spaces for kids, and multiple classrooms will be the next part of it. More information will be coming about this. Thank you again for all your support as it really makes a difference to our school and especially our students.

PTO CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michelle King – thank you for everyone who came out today. Thank you to everyone for their patience with the registration and we thank everyone who has registered for the PTO as well. Please let us know if you have any questions about any of our e-blasts or any other PTO information.

Christie Hartbarger – over the years, we have donated a lot of hard goods to this school, but one of the conversations we had was reinvesting in the community as well, and that will be something that we as the PTO will focus on this year. We are looking into having a speaker series and creating a social club for the parents as well.

We also have a bunch of clipboards set up on the front tables, so please help yourself to sign up for any of the committees that are available.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

Food Days – Kim Pollak

Our first special lunch is on September 20th and next week is the first ice cream day.

Technology – Shreyas Shaw

Not too much to report here today. Please let us know if you have any issues with registration or anything further, as we are happy to help.

Fundraising - Annie Porthan

Our first two big fundraising events are Walk for Wescott, which is on Wednesday, October 4th and which will coincide with International Walk to School Day as well. Forms will be coming out for both of these events on September 11th, 2017.

Wescott's Monster Mash is also being planned for Friday, October 27th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. We have lots of fun things planned for this, so please plan on joining us for this event.

Treasurer – Sonia Riszki

Last year, our donation to the school was \$29,000. Last year, we had 284 families registered for the PTO and this year we have 310 so far. Please spread the word to sign up for the PTO. We are doing better than we did last year so far, but would still like to see more families join.

Secretary - Nikol Sotos

This year, we are changing from a paper format directory to a new online directory from a company called Directory Spot. This is something that the district office is helping facilitate, and will be available soon for all PTO registrants. This will allow you to access the directory via an app through your smartphone and also computer. More information to follow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Popsicles in the Park – this is basically a giant play date for all first graders and is taking place on Monday, September 18th at Willowbrook park. This is to include all first graders from Wescott and Willowbrook schools.

Spirit Wear – we just closed out Spirit Wear last Monday, and we are at \$673 in profit for this year already. We will be sending out more information on water bottles to come as well, and there will be more to sell.

Walk for Wescott – this is the largest fundraiser of the year and helps promote a healthy lifestyle for our kids. This year, we would like to give back, so we have planned that 5% of the profits will be donated to the Houston Food Bank to help with Hurricane Harvey victims. There is also a shoe drive for Share Your Soles, that will be taking place simultaneously at the front of the school building. Please bring in any gently worn shoes and there will be collection bins in the front of the school on that day. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 – and we are hoping we will meet and beat that goal as well! We are adding two more prizes this year, so that kids from every grade

will be able to win a prize. There will be raffles with a popsicle party and team prizes given out similar to last year as well. Please try and spread the word and any amount of money is appreciated. Thank you!

International Walk to School Day – we are working with Walk for Wescott as well. This is a great event to promote a healthy lifestyle and kids love walking and biking to school. We are looking for volunteers to work as walking captains and we work with the Northbrook Police Department as well to have enough crossing guards for that day. We need 12 captains for the walking school bus. There will be more information sent home with the children for this event in the coming weeks. Thank you.

Monster Mash – Wescott's annual Halloween party. The parade will be on Halloween, not on Monster Mash evening which will be on Friday, October 27th. The DJ and photo booth will be back this year. We will have games in the MPR room and dessert (nut and gluten free areas as well). We will have mystery boxes, a karaoke station, and lots of fun and exciting things to come back again. Kids are really excited and we do need a lot of volunteers – and there will be a sign-up genius coming out as well. Also need help to decorate and clean up on that day. Thank you!

Birthday Signs – For \$25 you can sign up for birthday signs, and we have parent volunteers who help set up the signs the night before your child's birthday and take them down the night of your child's birthday. The kids love to wake up and see the sign's in their yard and this is a great fundraiser for the PTO as well. We are always looking for volunteers, so please consider helping if you can.

Helping Hands – we try to pair up with every event that the PTO runs. The first will be the shoe donation at Walk for Wescott, where there will be big bins at the front of the school on that day to collect old shoes. We are looking at different charitable events for thought-out this year. Please join and help in any way if you can. The food pantry is something that we need volunteers for as well.

Book Fair – in November and April we run two books fairs where we transform the library into a huge bookstore. We need lots of volunteers to help set up, clean up, and help during the events. Please consider it, as it is a great way to see your kids during the school day!

Room Parents – assignments have already been done and we thank everyone who has volunteered to be a room parent. It is a great way to be involved in your child's classroom, please encourage everyone to help sign up for next year as well.

School Supplies – we are using School Toolbox again for next year, and will continue working with them, as they seem to be working well for our families.

KAPO – Korean American Parents Organization - we help Korean American families and especially new families who come into the school. We get together for social and informative meetings once every other month and help to get Korean American parents involved in the PTO events.

Great Books – this is only for 3rd and 4th graders due to space constraints at our school. It is a volunteer reading program, which takes place during lunch and recess one day each week. We have parent volunteers who are trained in leading the discussions. We have a thought provoking discussion and help the students to think deeper into the books they are reading.

Cultural Arts – we are looking at a lot of different things and are looking into the schedule, as it is Mr. V's last year and are working around his schedule as well. We are focusing on an emphasis with dance this year and are looking at doing at least two events. Last year we had two different storytellers who came in and performed for the students. We are looking at different options and are working with the librarian as well in order to schedule them.

Read to Succeed – this was just approved to bring to Wescott this year. This is a reading program that is also at Willowbrook, where the children log their reading during the winter months and at the end of the year will receive a free Six Flags Great America ticket. More information about this to come.

Yearbook – we are looking for people to sign up and help our committee. We are looking for help taking pictures and commit a small portion of time to help organize some class photos for your grade. Thanks to everyone willing to be a part of this.

Welcome Back Lunch – we had our welcome back lunch catered by Portillo's, and it was planned for the same day as the solar eclipse which just took place. The theme of the lunch revolved around the solar eclipse and the district handed out eclipse glasses for everyone and we all enjoyed seeing the eclipse that day as well.

Baking – please sign up and we help with homemade and store-bought goods as well, as we appreciate both!

Speaker Series – we are looking to create a community for the parents and bring in different speakers at various time throughout the year. Please keep an eye out for more exciting news to follow about this.

Hospitality – our committee helps to bring goodies and host events for our teachers and students. Please consider volunteering for this event as well.

Thank you to everyone helping with the committees this year!

OTHER BUSINESS

Pam Kriska, the school nurse, will be conducting hearing and vision screenings for 1st through 3rd grade. The dates are planned for September 25th -27th and she needs some parent volunteers to help during the school day as well. Please reach out to her if you would like to volunteer.

ADJOURN

Meeting is adjourned at 7:13 p.m.