

**MINUTES** - Wescott School PTO  
January 9, 2018

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:05 AM**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chris Brown, Wescott Principal

Upper Board:

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

All those present:

Susan Akpolat, Amy Brennan, Tracey Becker, Liz Kim, Katherine Lee, Lauren Bauer, Denise Olsen, Joanna Kaplan

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 MINUTES**

Tracey Becker motions to approve and Annie Porthan seconds. Minutes are approved.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Chris Brown**

Happy New Year and thank you for coming today! A couple of things to share is this Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, we do have a half day of school. Thank you for picking up your kids at 11:45 am. Also, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, we have Wendy Anderson Halperin coming to visit our school. She is the author of the book "Peace" which we have been studying here at school and coincides with this year's school theme which is "Partners in Peace." Ms. Halperin is actually going to be working with our teachers and talking about her inspiration for the book and on the following day, she will be working with all the students at school. On Thursday evening, January 25<sup>th</sup>, she will be working with parents and students together in a workshop setting. It will be hosted in the gym and we will be having discussions about certain quotes that are in the book and working on various drawings and artistry as well. Lots more about this coming up in our Friday Flyer.

Next week is also sign up for parent teacher conferences which are in early February. On February 13<sup>th</sup> during the school day, we have our annual presentation in regard to Erins' law – which deals with prevention oriented sexual abuse education. We have used the speaker in the past and he presents everything in a very age appropriate way and he does a wonderful job of a very difficult topic. More information about this will come out too.

Looking further ahead to this spring and summer, the Village of Northbrook will be ripping up Western Avenue. The Village is basically planning a complete overhaul of Western Avenue. Right after spring break, they will start with construction further north on Western Avenue, and after the last day of school, June 7<sup>th</sup>, they will be working on the area directly in front of Wescott School. The impact is not on our property during the school year but will impact traffic and traffic patterns around the area. Also, we are having a meeting at Wescott on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 6:30 pm, which will discuss the project and have pictures and plans available to discuss with partners of the village to answer questions. The project will be completed in August and when it is finished, we will actually have a new crosswalk at Dehne Road, with an additional crossing guard to help the kids who cross in that area.

That's about it for now unless there are any questions.

We appreciate everyone being here and are thankful for all you do for our school. Thank you.

**PTO CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Michelle King & Christie Hartbarger**

Upper Board Structure – this year was the first year that we outsourced to Marla's Lunch for special lunch. It used to be completely handled by our Vice President of Food, but since Marla has taken over and has done a great job so far, we are most likely going to continue with Marla's in the future. Because

of this, we don't feel we need to have this position any longer, and we are looking to replace it with a VP of Communications position instead. Article 4 section 2 of our bylaws states this and we would like to replace the section with one VP which will handle all communications of the PTO.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

### **Treasurer – Sonia Riszki**

I have the budget here, but we are trending very positive for this year. Walk for Wescott raised around \$17 thousand dollars, and we have already donated 5% of that for the Houston Flood Relief. We also have positive results for our Monster Mash. We have already received around \$500 in revenue from Marla's Lunch as well. The taxes have already been filed for this year – and we donated \$400 towards Grad night at GBN, which we donate towards annually. It looks like Book Fair made a profit from what we budgeted as well.

### **Fundraising - Annie Porthan**

We thank all the families so much for being so involved and helping out this school year – it has been a really enjoyable year! The one thing we can review is about the donation to the Helping Hands Committee – which could be to donate more or less. More on that to come. Another thing is we do need co-chairs next year for Walk for Wescott and Monster Mash. For Monster Mash we had 595 people pay for the event which was up from last year. We have been working on March Madness and getting ready for all that excitement!

### **Secretary – Nikol Sotos**

We are looking for members to join the nominating committee which will help find parents to serve on the PTO Upper Board for the upcoming two-year term. The positions that need to be filled are Secretary, VP of Communications and Treasurer. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the committee!

### **Food Days – Kim Pollak**

Everything with Marla's Lunch is going very well so far this year. The deadline to order for next week's special lunch is today or tomorrow.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Junior Great Books** – we ran Junior Great Books for 4<sup>th</sup> grade before winter break and it went really well. We will run it for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders coming up soon, with forms to register coming home shortly. Junior Great Books takes place during lunch recess break once a week where the students discuss a short story or book.

**Dinner Out** – Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> we have a dinner planned at Elly's. It is a community event which is a fun night out and is a community builder. Please bring your children and come with your family for a dinner at Elly's! This year we are inviting the Wescott staff to dine with us. We are going to be asking dad's to be the servers at Elly's that night, please get your dad ready to take a shift! It is a really fun event with a lot more information to come! We will really encourage everyone to sign up in advance.

### **Read to Succeed – Amy Brennan**

I hope everyone received the emails about it, and the flyer in the school backpack. Children who read and log 6 hours receive a free ticket to Six Flags. If you have any questions, please let me know.

**Helping Hands** – a couple of things are coming up for our committee that we are really excited about. We wanted to coordinate a couple events where we physically volunteer in a space so our kids can actually see the help that is needed. Cradles to Crayons is an organization that we are looking to work with – they have a factory in Logan Square in which organizations and individuals can volunteer for shifts from 1:30 – 3:30 pm on February 15<sup>th</sup>. It is a family volunteer opportunity in which parents must come along with their children. Basically, we are organizing the event where we will go there and have a presentation and then volunteer at their giving factory in which we would sort through the toys and items

which they are giving to needy kids. A lot of information will be coming out about this and registering for this event.

We are also thinking about doing another volunteer event for the kids for March Madness – potentially with Feed my Starving Children. We are still working out the details about this and will get more information to come in the near future.

**Speaker Series** – Joanna Kaplan. This year on March 6<sup>th</sup> in the evening, we are going to have a parent only event with a speaker names John Sanchez. John is a former navy seal and is now a motivational speaker and speaks all over the country. The times are TBD – we are still crafting the topic but it will be something about parenting and recharging ourselves as parents. Also asking the question of what kind of legacy do we want to leave for our kids?

**March Madness** – this event happens every year at Wescott in March and one of the main things of this are the big parties that the parents and PTO host. This year some of our parties will be Hot Ground Gym, YMCA, Ice Skating, Athletico Center in addition to a lot of other parties and events that will take place with parents and parent parties. We especially need some parent volunteers for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and all grades in general! We would like to have all parties planned with dates by the middle of February. Last thing, we will only have 3 days of sign ups with the list of parties coming out the week before so you know what to look out for.

**Book Fair** – Susan Akpolat. Our book fair from last November was up a little bit – our gross sales were around \$10,200.05. We took a cash profit of \$2,369.57, which is up from both the previous spring and fall, and we seem to be increasing with each fair. Our next fair is going to be April 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> for the Spring Book Fair.

**Yearbook** – we are working with Jostens again this year. More information to come.

**Fifth Grade Lunch** – the chairs will be forming sub committees soon to help plan this annual luncheon for graduating 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer and help plan this event.

**“One Big Family” Picnic** – no updates yet. It will take place on June 1<sup>st</sup> but more information to come.

**Birthday Signs** – Susan Akpolat. We are in good shape this year and have volunteers covered through June. If anyone is interested, please let me know. We can start scheduling for the summer and beyond.

**Cultural Arts** – we have had 2 cultural arts events already this year and coming up in the half day leading up to Presidents Day this year, we have Justin Roberts coming to speak and lead a demonstration in song writing and various projects with the different grades. He will be here on Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup> in the morning during school hours, as an assembly.

**Hospitality** – we will be reaching out to the baking committee and parents to help bake some sweets during parent teacher conferences which take place on Valentine’s Day this year.

**Room Parents** – no updates.

**School Supplies** – no updates.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting is adjourned at 10:19 am.