Minutes - Wescott School PTO
March 16, 2016

- CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Meeting called to order at 9:06am.

- INTRODUCTIONS
• All those present
Joanna Kaplan, Zivit Blonder, Cissy Furusho, Jackie Schimel, Patrick Dunbar, Jenny Klein, Shae Kelsen, Beth Cohen, Sparling Mark, Michelle King, Ilene Weil, Sonia Rizki, Tracey Becker, Chris Brown, Caryn Fliegler

- APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES
Shae motions to approve. Michelle seconds. Vote taken. January minutes approved.

- PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Chris Brown
-Report cards are coming home today. There should be no surprises. I hope there is a lot of communication between teachers and parents. Let me know if there are any concerns.
-This is the last week of our mindfulness program. Thanks to the PTO for sponsoring this. It was hard this year to do it during indoor recess because of the nice weather. I hope that some of it is coming home to you and you notice some things at home.
-Next month starts our PARCC exam. This is the second year. It was done in March and May last year. This year it will be given only once. The majority of testing will be done the first 2 weeks of April. It is a longitudinal look. We think the students will do really well on it.
-On Tuesday our team of 3 teachers, myself and Andy Kohl are going to Batavia to meet with a designer who has designed our classroom in his warehouse. We hope to have it done by the end of the year.
-Jeans week - is our Make-A-Wish fundraiser for school, so far we are up to $1000 from the faculty. Cathy Molitor heads this up for us.
-Thank you to all the parents for yesterday's half day institute day. All the District 30 elementary teachers were together discussing revising our report cards. We were looking at whether they are they up to date with what we teach in the classroom and that our assessments are appropriate. It is probably be a couple year process, but you will see some real change. There are a lot of moving pieces but we really want it to be a thoughtful process.

- PTO CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Zivit and Ilene
• Approval of bylaw changes
Review of changes which are on the website.
-nominating committee
-expense over amount
-slate reporting before March meeting
-PTO calendar will be set at beginning of year
Beth motions to approve, Michelle seconds, all are in favor. By law changes are approved.

• Website
-We are working on making the site more user friendly and clear. We are working with Tim Wolney and Olivia Lydon. We are making it easier to find things, register for programs, and making it more friendly to use. If you have suggestions, please let us know. We will also be including pictures now for people who have given permission. If you have pictures please send them in.

- VICE-PRESIDENTS' REPORTS
Treasurer - Michelle
-We need an invoice for artist in residence. Chris will check into it.
-We still have money left in our cultural arts budget, checking to see if there are other events we will need to pay for.
-Are we paying for t shirts for Camp Duncan - PTO usually pays, but maybe school will be paying so PTO can use money elsewhere.
-5th grade track meet - need a bus to GBS - will PTO be responsible? Chris is checking.
-Birthday signs has been fantastic. We need new stakes, and we have $200 budgeted for expenses.
-Wescott Madness- Thanks to the community for the overwhelming response. We will probably come out to almost $9000 in revenue. There might be $1300 in expenses instead of the $1000 we budgeted. Overall this leaves us $5000 over our budget. So this was really successful.
-Our Target Take Charge of Education check came in for $2019; it may be our last one or we might get one more. They are changing the program, so we are not sure what will happen in the future.
-We paid the library expense $1600 gift to the library for subscriptions and library expenses.

Technology - Sparling
We are starting to work on registration for 2016-17.

Food - Beth
Special lunch today. Last month no special sandwiches needed to be made!

Fundraising - Shae
Thank you to Jackie Schimel, Jodi Oldani, Amy Gottstein, Stacie Cohen, and the presidents for all their hard work and effort on the Wescott Madness raffles and parties.

- COMMITTEE REPORTS
• Nominating Committee
Jenny announces the slate for 2016-18 PTO Upper Board:
Treasurer - Sonia Abbas (Rizki)
Secretary - Nikol Sotos
Food - Kim Pollak

• Book Fair - Pat
2 book fairs coming up. We are one of the first schools to have this book fair. Our numbers were up much more than last year. This year we will offer a summer reading book fair to encourage reading over the summer to keep the students' habits up. We will only offer books and bookmarks. Mostly paperback books and award winners. We are trying to keep the costs down to encourage more book purchases. We will be using an app that children can track their reading minutes. Any child that purchases a book and records any minutes will be awarded Scholastic dollars at the fall book fair. Some will also go to Burbank school. This is all in the effort to encourage more reading.

• Wescott madness - Shae
-Raffles
We had 45 teacher participants, thank you so much. We had 208 students participate for over 10,000 raffle tickets. We are so thankful for everyone's participation.
Zivit (via Stacie)
Hopefully move to an automated system to prevent any misunderstandings and save time. After we announce the winners, we need to confirm with the original file. Thank you so much to Amy and Stacie.

-Parties
Jackie
-We planned 22 parties. So far 3 have been held. Over 150 families signed up for parties. The parties filled up quickly right away so we feel there was a lot of excitement. Thank you to everyone for your participation and help. We are also so excited about the community outreach party response. Thanks to Michelle for working on the invoices. We also need to make sure the payment is convenient for parents to sign waivers and pay. The parties continue until May 27.

• Great Books
Ilene via Marina Bershadsky
-We had 5 groups. 4 3rd grade groups and 3 4th grade groups. It was a great success. They came, ate, read the stories, and participated well. We may add 2nd grade next year.

• Yearbook
Ilene via Lynne Nagel
-Yearbook is finished and sent to printer. There are more candid photos than ever. There are 314 orders which is a few more than last year. We really need volunteers for next year's 5th graders to take candid photos for the grade.

• 5th Grade Luncheon
Zivit via Marci Carl and Carol Nadler
The logo is ready and the theme is emojis. Our goal is to have everyone on the committees use this theme (food, decorations, activities). We have secured a green screen and large tricycle

which will be used for the games. We do not anticipate any issues with the construction in the park.

• Community Outreach
Zivit via Sung Park
-We will be making 60 blankets in the Wescott Madness party for a school in Africa.
-We are working on plans for an event at the Family Picnic.
-We will be recycling markers and used school supplies at end of year.

• School Supplies
Caryn
We will be using the same vendor as last year, School Tool Box. The contract is signed. We are finalizing the list now. We are getting the marketing material ready as well. The sale will probably run through the month of May and June. If you order over the summer it will come to your house. The PTO does not make any revenue from this program, it is a convenience for the families. We are also looking at the 8 pocket folder and making a better version. We also plan to keep some extras this year to keep in the office. We will also plan to have a communication to families about where to get more or different versions of the folder.

• Family Picnic
Zivit
This should not be affected by the construction. We are looking for ideas for activities this year. Please let us know if you have ideas. We are looking onto a few djs. The food will be provided by the PTO to say thanks to all our volunteers. It is a free event.

• Lew Blond 5K Run
Ilene via Tony Diaz
-The website is up for registration. If you register by April 15 you get a free shirt. It will be held on May 21 2016. They need volunteers for main corners or hand out waters, etc. This is a very popular event that draws runners from outside the district. Contact Michelle Rosen or Tony Diaz if you would like to volunteer.

- OTHER BUSINESS
-A GBN Grad Night donation will be made by our PTO. We are invited June 5 for a community walk through prior to the party. Time TBD.

Tracey Becker
Environmental Awareness Committee. April 22 is Earth Day. District 30 will be honoring it the week prior. There will be activities that week, challenges, and assembly. Thanks to the book fair to lessen the use of plastic bags. Northbrook Earth Day celebrations is April 16.

Girl Scouts. Cookies are being delivered now. Our troop earned about $600 so the girls will meet to decide what to do with the money they earned. You can join Girl Scouts anytime of year. We meet monthly.

Walk or Bike to School May 4. Go Green Northbrook is encouraging making this a village wide event.

- ADJOURN 10:02am