

## **West Woods Elementary**

### **General Meeting**

**November 20, 2014**

**Call to Order:** Kim Johnson President, called the general meeting of the West Woods Elementary PTSA to order at 6:34 pm. Mary Walker, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

#### **Attendance:**

16 PTSA members attended the meeting.

#### **Principal's Report: Jason Smith**

Student based budgeting will be occurring next year. This will give more autonomy to the school as to where funds will be spent next year. The needs of the school as far as teachers will be discussed at the Advisory Council meeting on January 13, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

#### **Secretary's Report: Mary Walker**

Jenn Berger moved that the minutes be approved from the October meeting and Doug Hays seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Yearbook sales started today on the Life Touch website. The yearbooks will be sold for \$18.00 each. There will also be personalization options available for an additional fee. The chairperson is working on the announcement for the upcoming Wolf Tracks. Flyers will go home in the Friday folders this week.

Katie Meeks presented an update on EduKits for 2015-2016. We need to decide how EduKits will be delivered to students. We can either agree to an additional fee of \$7.95 per kit to have kits delivered to each individual student home. Or, we can continue to have the kits delivered to the school. If we have the kits delivered to the school we would like to have the kits delivered directly to the classrooms. Kristin Pung moved that we continue to have EduKits delivered to the school and Doug Hays seconded the motion. We will try having the kits delivered directly to the classrooms next fall.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Doug Hays**

Doug presented the bank reports for the two PTSA bank accounts. The total profit for the Run with the Wolves was \$9,100. The budgeted figure was \$11,500.

We had a PTSA membership report due on November 1, 2014. We are low on parent members but have a lot of student members who have joined this year. We had 25 business members join which is what we usually expect. The PSTA will file another membership report in February. We continue to add members throughout the school year.

## **President's Report : Kim Johnson**

Jason Smith spoke about the Grant to School requests.

There is a \$3,000 grant request for assessments for grades K through 3. The district purchased one kit per grade level. The school is requesting PTSA augments this and purchase 10 additional kits so that each teacher has a kit.

There is a \$2,000 grant request for first grade science kits. This will provide more hands on experience for the students. Two additional kits costing \$1,000 each are requested. The kits will be able to be used year after year.

Jenn Berger moved and Erin Wulfhorst seconded the motion to approve these two grants. The grants were unanimously approved.

We have been talking about several other pending needs for the school. Technology is at the forefront for the needs of the school. The computer lab is occupied for most of the year with assessments and therefore not readily available for specific class lessons. It has been suggested that each grade level has access to a cart of Chromebooks. A cart of 25 Chromebooks for each grade level will cost approximately \$50,000. (Kim, is this number correct)

With the new assessment tools that are being used, there is a greater influence on non-fiction reading material. The current resources are outdated because they are more than six years old. We are looking into supplementing the current resource. We are not looking at replacing the entire resource. It will be approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 to augment the current resources.

Math Expressions was paid for by the county this year. In order to get consumables for all of our students next year it will cost approximately \$20,000. What we will do moving forward needs to be discussed. The expense will be a school expense moving forward.

Kim Johnson talked about the allocation of funds from Carnival. The Carnival makes \$6,000 to \$7,000 annually. We need to discuss whether to spend the playground funds on technology given what Jason Smith has presented or whether to continue to use the Carnival funds to update the playground. The current playground equipment is 18 years old. When the decision was made to replace the equipment, we agreed that it would be a multi-year process to replace the equipment. The Golf Tournament proceeds are already earmarked to go to the remainder of the computer lab.

We are proposing that we do a Read-a-Thon as a potential additional fundraiser this year. We think a Read-a-Thon could create a more community feel at the school. The Read-a-Thon will take place during a ten day period in April of 2015. Each classroom would be an individual team. The reading would be tracked by minutes of reading. The entire fundraiser would be managed online by the Executive Board Members. It would be a purely sponsorship based event. We propose that children who participate in the event would receive prizes which would be school logo items. The purpose of the fundraiser is to get a more "elementary feel" within the school. Mary Walker moved to proceed with the Read-a-Thon

and Hayley Hovis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. We will determine where the proceeds from the event will be contributed at a future meeting.

Hayley Hovis moved and Kristin Pung seconded the motion that the Carnival proceeds will be earmarked for the playground. The motion was unanimously approved. Lowes and Home Depot both have grants that are available to schools for playground enhancements. We should add to our list of chair positions that we need a playground committee. Julie Gabler may be interested in chairing this committee next year.

The Hour of Code will start December 8, 2014. Each class will do an hour of code in honor of Computer Science Education week. The learning is meant to be done in student pairs. The students work together because Computer Science is a collaborative industry. There are 3 X's the number of lessons available this to choose from this year. Doug Hays is reviewing the possibilities for each grade level.

We need to encourage another volunteer to join the PTSA Board as a President-Elect. This is Kim Johnson's last year as the PTSA President. We need someone who is willing to take on the role next year to start attending the Executive Board Meetings this year to learn more about the role. Please refer any interested parents to Kim Johnson.

## **Committee Reports**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Cary Stiever presented by Kim Johnson**

The Talent Show/Open Mic Night went well. We have determined that we need to add a rehearsal next year. There were 22 acts presented this year.

We have a spring event called SPEAKTACULAR which is a public speaking event. The students are encouraged to memorize what they present. We continue to do the public speaking events because it is so good for the children who participate. We need to figure out a way to get more participation among the students in these events. We need to create a more community feel within the school.

Penny Harvest is a non-profit organization. We are planning to collect pennies and the students are involved in identifying the charity that will receive the money collected.

Megan Herald is the scholarship committee chair. She has received one application for this years' scholarship. The application deadline is December 1, 2014. We have shared the scholarship opportunity on Facebook. We decided that we would not extend the deadline this year.

The room has been reserved for the Parenting Safe Children program in March.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Jenn Berger**

Katie Meeks presented the status of the student directory. The directory is almost to the printing stage. We hope to have it out by Winter Break. Randall's Photography is printing the directory as a donation to the school. The directory is going to be great! It is just taking quite a bit of time because it is stuck at the printer.

The budgets will be distributed to the CPP's for the remainder of the budget available for the Winter party and Valentines' Day party.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President –Erin Wulfhorst**

The next Spirit Night will be at Buffalo Wild Wings.

The Box Tops/Soup Labels contest collected approximately \$1,300 for the collection in October. This money becomes part of the general fund for the PTSA. The soup labels collection goes to items that you can order with available points. We talked about donating the soup label points to another school in Jefferson County that might have a greater need than West Woods does. Allendale Elementary is our sister school and we may want to donate the points to them. The chair will gather more information and we will vote at our next meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. Next Executive Board Meeting – pending based on The Hour of Code week; Next General Meeting will be held on December 18, 2014 at 6:30 pm.**