

West Woods Elementary

PTSA General Meeting

January 21st , 2016

Call to Order:

Dayna Morain, President.

Julie Gabler, 1st VP recorded the minutes.

Attendance:

12 PTSA members attended the meeting, plus 2 student council representatives.

Student Council Report: Vice President, Treasurer and teacher rep Ms. Mulvaney in attendance

Val-a-grams – February 4th, 5th and 8th. On sale before and after school in both north and south atriums. \$.25 each or \$7.00 per class set. Delivered on the 10th. Fundraiser for student council. Every child will get one. Teachers can buy class sets, \$7.

Upcoming event: Penny's for Patience. For Leukemia Society in Aurora. April 11th and 15th. Money or game. Like penny harvest (this replaces penny harvest). They will have someone to talk to students about the fundraiser as the date approaches..

Spirit days. Throwback Friday was changed to Bronco Day on January 22nd. Friday February 5th is also Bronco Day – super bowl week! Tuesday February 9th is Mardi Gras spirit day - Yellow, purple and green, beads, etc.

How can we better communicate and promote what student council is doing. Who do they communicate with? For now we will have all student council communication come through Dayna and she will disseminate to the appropriate PTSA Committee channels.

Principal's Report: Jason Smith

Results of the Survey to parents. 150 responses. As a whole the results were positive. 73% for welcoming – size of school can be the issue. Will work with social worker to see if we can have her meet with new students. Budget...reducing class size overwhelming 94%. More assistance in the classroom. 22% playground. Technology 48%. Assistance in classroom 55%. Additional resources 40%.

CMAS 3-6 grades. Colorado uses PARC (they are the same). Scores went down for West Woods (as expected due to this new test). But we were still in alignment with other area schools.

Overview of budget. This is the time of the year Mr. Smith does the budget for next year. They base funding on student count back in October – we were at 740 students; this number has already gone up 14 students. 29 students on free and reduced. Highest kindergarten enrollment ever. Already filled all 3 full day classes, half day is almost full (he caps the classes at 24). Enrollment increase is at 35. We will probably be over 800 students to start next year. \$3.8 million to work with.

Temps outside are almost done. District decided where the temps went; school had no say. Hope to have them complete by mid-February. Will be used by small groups this year. Unsure which grade will

be in the temps in 2016/17 school year. There is no more land space for more temporary buildings for the future – we will have to squeeze into what we have.

2016/17 projection: 5 teachers in every grade level. Kindergarten will need to have maybe 5 classes... but we don't have space. Majority of funding goes to staff. 4 amps. \$2.9 million goes to licensed staff and front office. Schools are responsible for paying for subs...plan for 10 subs per teacher per year. Paras...\$170,000 dedicated to paras last year....\$210,000 for next year. Unsure of additional paras next year...2-3 max . PLC trip \$20-25,000. Each grade level gets \$300...increased that to \$1000. Instructional technology – our school does not have a replacement program set up for technology. Chrome books, etc. last about 3 years. All Ipads in kinder won't work next year with testing. Have to have a yearly replacement program. This is his first draft of the budget. He will next go over with the school accountability committee and improvement committee.

21 students in a class is the goal for 2016/17 school year – 5 classes/grade.

New Jeffco school board did vote to have Candelas school be k-8. To open in 2017. Soft boundary change vs hard boundary change was discussed. Soft boundary change will not help us for the next couple years. Teachers kids and siblings come. No choice enrollment available anymore with current capacity. Specials will stay the same (AMPS – 4) just have to disperse the 5 class into one of the other special each day.

Current needs: 20 teachers going over the summer to the PLC conference. \$10,000 expense. Technology...chrome books.

Secretary's Report: Michalla Elder – NA (not in attendance)

Treasurer's Report: Doug Hays

Current reserve \$19,000

Playground fund \$11,000.

Excel program \$450 per grade, and each Special. Need teachers to know about this. Only have used/expensed \$40 total.

Any upcoming major expenses...not until carnival and golf.

President's Report: Dayna Morain

STEM grant request – Ms. Prater. Next meeting planning to ask about Lego and Robots for programming. Tonight she would like to ask for a replacement computer. \$648.72 for an additional computer for her classroom. She is only working with 29. As a group we unanimously approved this request.

Next year. Apparat, sponsponshrbip, spirit nights, edukits, carnival, box tops.

Need to find replacement for board member 2nd VP, Erin Wolfurst as she is moving to Illinois this spring. ☹.

The exec board has been discussing proposed changes for next year 2016/17 to help streamline our efforts and follow desires and needs of current students/families.

- Edukits – not an option have them sent to the school next year. Parents will have to pay for the shipping to go their house.
- Box tops – discussed having kids still collect, have contest for classes. Donate the actual cut out slips of paper to another school in the area in need as a donation. And their school uses the money. Ms. Mulvaney likes this program because it gets the students involved in fundraising but understand that it is very time consuming to count all the box tops.
- Apparel– One shirt for the year. Each grade have their own color of shirt– every grade can use it for field day, field trips, spirit days, etc.
- Discussed creating a greater benefit to being a PTSA member – only members get a directory, discount on events, etc .
- Try to have the pack is back include something like roundup – a one stop shop! Buy apparel, pay for yearbook, pay for classroom parties, etc.
- Gala fundraiser – starting to build a committee to begin planning this event to take place in winter 2017.
- Carnival – hype it up more as an end of year party! Cover expenses but don't treat it like a fundraiser.
- RWTW – Disusing idea of holding event closer to Halloween. Create more a fun, family event. Still a fundraiser but not the sole purpose.

Continuing to discuss next year's plans. If you have any ideas or suggestions please send them our way!

Committee Reports

1st Vice President: Julie Gabler

Talent Show – Working on rescheduled date –hoping for mid April, on a Wednesday or Thursday night. Ms. Prater is staff representative – she ran this event at her last school. They will be asking for volunteer help on try-out night, dress rehearsal and night of event. Student council reps discussed prize for the talent show – if we read X minutes or raise x\$ then a group of teachers/principal will perform at the talent show??. Also, discussed prize for winner of each category - gift card for book fair..

Playground Refurbishment – Have a meeting set for Monday February 1st with committee, Mr. Smith, rep from facilities at District level, City of Arvada and possibly Parks and Rec to discuss the design and implementing some of our plans for Phase 1 – organic/simple but something so that the students see progress – paint blacktop, outdoor classroom, balls/toys, etc. Working on City of Arvada \$5,000 grant for use this summer. Would also like to order new playground balls, hoops, etc. as part of phase 1 immediately after Pages with the Pack fundraiser (as 100% of proceeds will go to Playground fund) in early March. We would also like to send survey to students to find out wants, desires, etc. New bulletin board near cafeteria will be used to keep track of funding, ideas for design, student votes, etc.

School Wellness – Wellness Wednesday promotions are going well and WWE news is doing a fantastic job to help promote. Are working on a \$500 grant through Jeffco to pay for promotional materials and staff wellness planned for Teacher appreciation event in May.

2nd Vice President : Melanie Carpenter (not in attendance), Dayna Morain filled in for her.

Missoula Children's Theatre – Everything is going as planned. Event takes place the first week in February.

3rd Vice President –Erin Wulfhorst

Pages with the Pack – Kim is heading that up. February 19-28th. Need more people to help! Online – a few minor changes. If they want to give right away they can do that. Need ideas for school wide prizes – if we get a certain amount raised as a group....ie Jason colors his hair, performs at talent show?

Sports Clips- pursuing opportunity – spirit month – month of March – go in with student – give money back to our school. Details to follow.

Need someone to take over her VP role.

Open Floor

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Executive Board Meeting – Thursday 2/11 time TBD

Next General Meeting - Thursday 2/18 at 6:00 pm