

Westbrook PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, February 2, 2016

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35
2. Minutes from December 2015 Meeting were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report: Susan Higgins

Various sources of revenue have been added to the budget, including the revenue from our PTA Directory (\$1500) and the Scholastic Book Fair (\$2900). Also, we have currently spent \$10,000 as we plan for Carnival this spring. We also spent \$400 to have some snow plowed on Glen Cove. We have spent 700 on speakers. Our stipends for Artists in Residence will get paid out at the end of the year.

4. Co-President's Report: Orly Isaacson and Leyla Kenny

A. Thank you to our volunteers

- \* 4th Grade Families and Staff Appreciation Committee for hosting a delicious lunch in November.
- \* Trash Free Lunch Committee led by Chris Barone and Kelly Fraser for hosting two successful earth-friendly events in December and January.
- \* Kathleen McDermott for educating Westbrook about Lice and setting up a seminar with the Potomac Lice Lady
- \* 3rd Grade Families and Staff Appreciation Committee for hosting a delicious lunch in January.
- \* Erin Harcourt and Maureen Kramer for representing Westbrook in the BCC Cluster and for their efforts with the Middle School Boundary Study.
- \* Shaun Deschene for her efforts as Westbrook's NAACP rep and in keeping Westbrook informed about the boundary study.
- \* All the Westbrook Families for their efforts in emailing the Board of Education on behalf of Westbrook's campaign for an Assistant Principal.
- \* Jessica Deighton, Carin Levine, Amanda Miller, Erika Newell, Jesse Nickelson, Regina Reilly, & Janelle Wong for their presence at the Board of Education hearing on Thursday, January 14th in our campaign for an Assistant Principal.
- \* Kathleen McDermott for setting up and coordinating all the details for Westbrook's AU Basketball game- stay tuned for the rescheduled date due to the snow.

- \* Laura Kolton and Kathy Vanderhook-Gomez for the Science Committee's efforts in hosting another popular STEM event- unfortunately cancelled on Jan. 28th due to the snow.
- \* Rachel Hirschberg-Light and Laura Kolton for setting up the PTA's on-line auction which launches tonight- February 2nd.
- \* Bingo Committee Kim McManus, Marcy Berman, and Kenny Foster for another successful Bingo night filled with fun and prizes.
- \* Jesse Nickelson for handling all the room reservations for these amazing events.
- \* Liz Brown for rallying volunteers and keeping track of Westbrook's thousands of volunteer hours to make these events happen.
- \* Deborah Kalb for keeping Westbrook informed weekly of all these spirited and informative events.
- \* Nicole Schwenker for helping to run the front office
- \* Caryn Solomon for returning our lost and found items
- \* Diana Sherbacow, Leanne Lash, Maureen Kramer, and Davida Kales for working on 5th grade transition

5. VP for the remainder of 2016 - We are still in search of a VP who will assume the roll of Co-Presidents alongside Jesse Nickelson for 2016-2017. Please reach out to Orly or Leyla if you have any interest in this position.

#### 6. Discussion of PTA By-Laws

A. Our by-laws have a few clarifications to note before voting, including the clarification of the titles "President" and President-Elect."

B. A question raised from the audience: What happens if we do not get a co-VP according to the by-laws? The by-laws do not indicate what to do in the case that we do not get a co VP signed on this year, so we hope that that will not be an issue.

C. All were in favor of passing the by-laws

#### 7. Principal's Update: Jennifer Lane

A. Ms. Lane addressed the ongoing need to advocate with the School Board and the County Executive Council for advocacy of Westbrook. Everyone is encouraged to go to the Board of Education's website and make your voice heard.

B. Our building services team did an incredible job during the past week getting Westbrook back up and running following the snowstorm. If you

see Mr. Benny or Ms. Berta, please show your appreciation and thank them.

C. We had a second round of radon testing performed. We anticipate to hear back in two weeks. In the first report, two rooms (204 and 205) had a slightly elevated level. It was not high enough to necessitate removing students.

D. Quarter 3 is now shorter due to snow days. Teachers are working very hard to accomplish everything that they have planned. Please know however that Quarter 3 Report Cards may reflect some missing information if teachers are not able to get to everything due to lost school days.

E. This month some of our teachers will be visiting other schools to observe arts integration programs. Thank you to the PTA for funding their substitute teachers so that they may attend the programs.

F. With support from Mrs. Barone, we now have an artist in residence working with our emotional disabilities class.

G. Valentine's Parties are coming up, along with Spirit Week, in which participation is optional.

#### 8. Teacher Liaison Report: Colleen Dahlem

Kindergarten has been hard at work beginning a unit on personal narratives. We began our unit on shapes and geometry. We have been busy observing our mealworms go through metamorphosis in Science and enjoyed learning about maps and globes in social studies. In Reading, we just finished reading non-fiction texts and have moved into fiction texts using a 5 finger retell to share our knowledge of the story.

First graders are excited to explore non-standard measurement in math. Also, due to last week's snow event, we will reschedule our field trip to the American history museum. The date and time will be announced soon.

Second Grade: In Writing, students read and retold traditional folktales and fables. In Math we worked on using different addition and subtraction strategies to solve 2 digit equations. In Reading, we asked and answered questions in both Literature and Informational Reading. We also focused on main idea. In Science, students created musical instruments focusing on parts of a whole. In Social Studies, students created a mural representing the life of the Wampanoag Native

Americans.

Third grade is working on a literary analysis opinion writing piece. Reading historical fiction. Students are working on biography book reports at home for the wax museum. In math we are learning about fractions on a number line.

Fourth Grade is creating an informational newsletter based on what the students have studied in Writing, testing the water quality of the Little Falls Watershed in Science, and focusing on nutrition and then early settlements in Social Studies.

Fifth Grade is beginning a science unit on astronomy, and look forward to the Planetarium visiting us at the end of February. In reading, we are about to begin looking at figurative language in poetry. In writing, we will start writing stories in our favorite genres. And middle school course selections are happening now. Parents should have already received an email from their child's homeroom teacher regarding that.

## 9. Committee Reports

- A. BCC Cluster: Maureen Kramer gave a brief recap of the Public Meeting held on Feb. 1 regarding the upcoming Boundary Study for the new middle school. Bruce Crispell, MCPS Director of Long Range Planning, presented information about the process for the Boundary Study in addition to providing some overall enrollment trends our Cluster has seen over the past decade. Maureen and Erin Harcourt will represent Westbrook on the Boundary Advisory Committee, which will meet twice a month through May. Two meetings have been planned at Westbrook in which Maureen and Erin will share options presented during the Committee meetings and gather feedback from Westbrook parents. The meeting dates are February 24th and April 5th.
- B. Special Needs Liaison: Amy Cropp reminds the community that there is information regarding the Special Ed Advisory Committee posted on the Special Needs list serve. Also PEP has spaces available for incoming 3 and 4 year olds (without special needs) in 2016.
- C. [Campaign for Assistant Principal: Please email the Board of Education and the County Council \(Executive Legget's office\) to advocate for an Assistant Principal for Westbrook Elementary. We are the largest elementary school in Montgomery County without an Assistant Principal and the only elementary school](#)

[with ED \(Emotional Disabilities\) and PEP programs without an Assistant Principal.](#)

10. A question from the audience-- What can be done about traffic and parking?—led to yet another discussion of how frustrating this issue is for everyone. Many suggestions have been made in past months, from using orange cones to getting police to ticket illegally parked vehicles. Nothing seems to work. Mrs. Lane pointed out that an Assistant Principal would be hugely helpful in this matter. Another reason to advocate to the Board of Ed to fund an AP for Westbrook. One parent suggested we form a traffic/parking committee to perform a root cause analysis and to research what other schools in the area do to deal with the crowded and unsafe streets during drop off and pick up.

Upcoming Events:

### February 2016

February 12<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day Class Parties

February 15<sup>th</sup> - President's Day - NO SCHOOL

February 17<sup>th</sup> - Staff Appreciation Lunch hosted by 2nd Grade Parents

[February 18<sup>th</sup>- Jump Rope for Heart](#)

February 19<sup>th</sup> - --Principal Parent Coffee, 9:20am

[February 24<sup>th</sup>- 7: 30pm Boundary Study Meeting at Westbrook](#)

February 25<sup>th</sup> - Talent Show, 6pm (Westland MS)

February 26<sup>th</sup> - EARLY RELEASE DAY

### March 2016

March 1<sup>st</sup> - [PTA Seminar on Resiliency 7 pm and PTA Meeting 8pm \(Media Center\)](#)

[March 5<sup>th</sup>- FOWS Fundraising Social 8pm](#)

March 6<sup>th</sup> - International and Multicultural Night, 5pm - 7pm (Westland MS)

[March 7<sup>th</sup>- CAVA Restaurant Night \(Tenleytown\) starting at 4:30pm](#)

[March 10<sup>th</sup>- Kindergarten and First Grade Talent Show at Westbrook 7pm](#)

[March 11<sup>th</sup>- Volunteer Training \(Fireplace Room\)](#)

March 12<sup>th</sup> - Skate Night

March 16<sup>th</sup> - Staff Appreciation [Lunch](#) hosted by 1st Grade Families

[March 16<sup>th</sup>- 5th Grade Fundraiser at McDonald's](#)

March 17<sup>th</sup> -- Principal Parent Coffee [9:20am](#)

March 24<sup>th</sup> - Professional Day for teachers - NO SCHOOL

March 25<sup>th</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup> - Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

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