

Westbrook PTA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 10, 2017

1. Welcome/Meeting called to order at 7:37p.m.
2. September (2017) minutes were approved and added to the record.
3. Treasurer's Report – Neil Goradia

The current bank balance is \$44,280.00, The amount raised from Pay 4 School Stuff is \$34,462.00. The fundraising goal (combination of family contribution \$45,000 *(still 10K short)* *Cut-off Oct 27th*.

Total increases in stipend budgets by \$339.00, due to county mandate: Increases of \$.050/hour to \$15.00/hr (affecting WB Music Program; 5th Grade Aqua Eagles Teachers; Eagle Eye News Teachers; Science Teacher; Kids Care Club Teacher; and Art Integration Teacher (Per Amanda, Same hours, just had to raise amt).

4. Co-President's Report – Amanda Miller and Rachael Hirschberg

Fundraising

Parent Contribution Update

- We have raised 70 percent of our fundraising goal. We will be sending additional emails, but please remind your friends. Room parents will also be emailing parents. (Pay 4 School Stuff website.)

Jessica: End of Year – looking at Student Population for budgets? Are we able to get to that budget based on current enrollment?

Rachel: Yes! (70% so far, normally btw. 80-85%)

Gave later end date this year due to later start date.

To join the Westbrook PTA and pay your family contribution and class dues at <https://www.pay4schoolstuff.com>

PTA Vacancies – Co-Vice President and MCCPTA Delegate

- We are still looking for a Co-VP for the remainder of this year and MCCPTA Delegate. If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please contact Amanda or Rachel.

- Note, Ami Susan Petrucelli moved from Co-VP to Secretary board position.
- This year, Co-VP would help Mike Buening, VP with snacks this year and serve with him next year as Co-President.
- MCCPTA Delegate –

Chrysanthe Broikos shared BCC Cluster Coordinator, Jeremy Marcus sent out notice to schedule first meeting Tuesday, October 17th at 7:30pm (school, TBD). Topics for discussion:

- asks for CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) testimony -- don't worry, we don't need input yet; we'll just tee up the issue
- updated FACT methodology proposal
- possible Woodward Study Group update
- MCPS examination of long term planning

Thank You

- Deborah Solomon for organizing room parents orientation, and Taryn & Eric Rosenkranz for hosting
- Chris Barone and Sacha de Lange for a successful first trash free lunch
- Ami Susan Petrucelli for coordinating Community of Caring Random Acts of Kindnesses and notes for Ms. Pickle, and all the families who participated
- Cards/updates for future (add this note also)

5. Principal's Update: Karen Cox

Ms. Vogel – not back yet, medical set-back (permission to share with parents). She is still not herself yet. Seeking for a long-term substitute counselor to cover for Ms. Pickle until she knows when she is able to resume her role.

OPEN HOUSE: 300P visitors – very successful (hot, otherwise, great)!

Summer Reading Bingo Celebrated (see photos outside office).

Highlights: Every Friday, Spirit Wear Day (pizza coupons) great to see students and teachers excitement. Westbrook Wear or school colors okay (at least blue).

Calendar Updates:

PTA Volunteer Training this Friday, Oct 13 @ 9:00am

Ms. Brick's Open House rescheduled for 10/16 (out sick)

Bus Evacuation Oct 19th – Students Practice

First Grade Field trip – National History Museum 10/20

Aqua Eagles very busy w/ field trips already!

Science Committee – Oct 25th Recess Activity

PTA Luncheon hosted by 2nd and 4th grades (thank you)!

Oct 27th Fourth Grade Little Falls Field Trip

Tuesday, Oct 31st Halloween Party – see future email with any updated information if any changes for the Parade this year. Students to return to classroom parties afterwards.

Alternative activities w/ Ms. Curry provided on Halloween for students who wish to opt out of Halloween activities that day.

November 3-9 Book Fair (coordinate w/ Building Services please)

Nov 9 and 10 (half days)

Nov 9th Teachers Professional Days (so no conferences during school hours, okay afterwards)

Chrysanthe Broikos – Any update on Ms. Campbell's return (5th Grade)?

Mrs. Cox – TBA, Mr. Lewis (Ms. Campbell's long-term sub, has another appointment) may have a few subs couple of days until her official return.

Nov 17 (also half day) – okay to schedule Conferences during the day
Report Cards not ready by conferences until Nov 22 but you will receive a two column day report.

Nov 22 half day (day prior to Thanksgiving Holiday) + break, Nov 23-24
Returning Nov 29: 3rd Grade AIR Assembly

Karen Thorton: asking for Principal and Teacher feedback to NEW schedule/mandated Hogan's dates (trying to fit dates in along with State/Federal/Religious days...her understanding next Calendar year there will be 6 days off for "observances" and community and staff are being asked to comment on how they would like those 6 days to be used.

Karen added: Perhaps too early to know (only October) but want us (parents) to be informed HOW BEST to respond...

Mrs. Cox: Do not buy plane tickets/etc. (if they are being used for make-up days) Spring Break and Winter Break are very important days (to recharge/rejuvenate – vs. a day here or there) for teachers.

Mrs. Cox – willing to pass along information to teachers (parent feedback and interest in dates).

Please continue to visit school website and view newsletters for updates
Principal Town Hall: MCPS Parent Portal

6. Teacher Liaison Report – Colleen Dahlem

Teachers – happy for attendance at Open House and teacher reimbursements

8. Committee Reports/Other Announcements

- **Book Fair: (Autumn Thomason and Brynn Lamanna)**
Theme: Wild West – Readers Wanted!
Volunteers needed, especially Nov 2nd – Scholastic brings in books but need help w/ trinkets) & giving books to our sister school
Since no PTA Mtg in November – calling on Volunteers now (see Sign-up Genius soon)
- **NAACP Representative: (Janelle Wong)**
- **First meeting - School Improvement Plan**
- **Second meeting – School Calendar**
Need an event on campus about racial equity (previously, “How to talk to your children about Race?”)
Asking for Call Out for ideas:
1-Implicit Bias
2 –Indigenous Peoples Day (Westwood Ho or modified?)

3 – Early Spring Date?

Chrysanthe: Any books we can suggest?

Could be done for Kids/Parents, Assembly, book w/ discussion?

Different Grade Level Books (or recommended books)

Jessica: K-2 “book club” and at book fair (raise \$) 3-5

jw36@gmail.com

Also discussed Community of Caring/Ami Susan helping with an Assembly, esp. since Mrs. Vogel is on leave?)

Chris Barone: Love idea of something at school (not just w/ books) and ways for parents to follow-up.

Amanda: Could Ms. Stoll/librarian bring in a book/share?

Ms. Dalhem: Read book from Book Fair (then do a special lunch bunch “book club” discussion w/ teacher/etc.

Michael Buening – echo’s tying into Community of Caring

Rafael Martinez – careful w/ book selection (based on event in Middle School, misinterpreted (even though book approved by MCPS)

Selecting books by age: ask parents to review, offer a heads up.

- **Special Needs Liaison: (Patricia Guroff)**

A lot of things coming up:

School – email sent asking for what information parents want/need or not getting?

Special Needs List Serv – John Crupi working on (per Rachel, get back on updating)

Creating Buddy Families – “welcome to Westbrook” and what’s available to them

One or two speakers (Town Hall, Assembly, other)

Q. Amanda – meetings to include ED program for other parents or not?

A. Patricia – if void of information (people should know basic info teachers/# students, etc.) but support is for parents in program, which was lacking. Additional program, however, to help ALL students/parents who could benefit from any type of info related to additional supports, 504 or IEP process or topical speakers, for example, Executive Functioning (or something everyone could relate to), as needed – and by grade (if necessary for programing)

Mrs. Cox: Name of (ED)Program has changed: **Now “Social Emotional Support Services Unit: SESSU** (once Super’s budget is approved)

- **Staff Appreciation Committee: (Jessica Deighton)**

Thursday, Oct 26 first of “Parent Pot-lucks” for teachers

Email Deborah Solomon to update room parents & Kelly w/ school calendar

- **Building and Grounds Committee: (Ami Susan Petrucelli)**
 - Save the Date: Saturday, November 18th Grounds Beautification Day & Fall Clean-up
 - Fall Project: Clean-up & Bulb Plantings
 - Bulb/Donations: If you have Daffodils 3 years or younger, we'll accept them. Also accepting donations (cash or in-kind)
 - Thank you (Jessica Deighton) - \$250.00 Donation from American Plant Food
 - Pineapple Landscaping also to donate (either labor or pass on discount to WES)
 - Upcoming meeting with Mrs. Cox about other grounds needs
 - Meeting w/ Pineapple Landscape, 10/11 @ 12:00pm) to discuss project their involvement
 - Sending out Save-the Date for Fall Clean-up later this week
 - Securing raffle donations/music for Westbrook students and SLL hrs for middle and high school students

- **Science Committee Update (Maureen Kramer and Erin Harcourt)**

Update:
October 25th National Chemistry Week – recess Activity
Jan 19th – Stem Week
April 18th – First Ever WES Science Fair (thank you, Mrs. Cox)
Earth Week: Trash Free Lunch, Westbrook Trash Clean-up

9. OTHER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- Yearbook– We are encouraging students to participate to design the cover for the yearbook. Entries are due on November 4

Friday – Volunteer Training on October 13th Volunteer Form:

-Finger Prints: good for 3 years

-Training – have to do every year

-If you can't make training, e-mail Robin Miller-Turnoff, she'll work on a make-up 1:1 or group session robynmt@comcast.net

Q. Is there a school photo make-up day?

A. Rachel – there will be one when ALL kids (Ms. McCool working on) can attend.

Russell Deighton – Q.If something is arranged (like Scouts)

Friday, April 5th (National Science Fair) – would kids be “excused” ?

A. Mrs. Cox will look into this.

Rafael: Noted - Feb 14th – Frederick Douglas’s 200th Year Anniversary – idea for racial event.

No PTA meeting in November

December – Speaker: FOWS, how goals/budget differ vs. PTA goals, etc.

Final Call - any comment cards in back of room?

10. Upcoming Events:

October

- October 13th – Volunteer Training
- October 16th – Mrs. Brick’s (Make-up) Open House (9:10-11)
- October 16th & 17th – Ledo Pizza PTA Fundaiser
- October 20th – First Grade Field Trip
- October 25th – Fifth Grade Field Trip &
Science Committee - Recess Activity
- October 27th – Fourth Grade Field Trip &
End Date – PTA Membership Dues
- October 30- Kindergarten Field Trip
- October 31st – Halloween Parade and Classroom Parties

November

- November 1 – Aqua Eagles Field Trip
- November 2 – No School (PEP)
- November 3-9 – Book Fair
- November 9 – Early Release Day for Students
- November 10 – Early Release Day for Students/Parent Teacher Conferences

- November 13 – Second Grade Field Trip
- November 14 – Trash Free Lunch
- November 18 – Grounds Beautification Day & Fall Clean-up
- November 22 – Pie Day & Early Release Day for Students
- November 23 – Thanksgiving/No School
- November 28 – 5th Grade McDonald's Fundraiser (River Road) & Staff Breakfast

December

- December 4 – AIR, Mrs. Seiger's Class
- December 5 – PTA Town Hall: FOWS (7pm) & PTA Mtg (7:30pm)
AIR, Mrs. Seiger's Class
- December 25th (2017)– January 1 (2018) Winter Break/No School

11. Meeting adjourned at 9:03p.m.