

Westbrook PTA Meeting Agenda Monday, June 3, 2019

1. Welcome – call to order 8pm
2. Approval of May minutes – motion, approved.
3. Co-Treasurers' Report
 - Our next 30 days will be spent cleaning up the books and handing over to Gilles and Tim. Carnival shows a \$12K net gain, BUT not everything has been reconciled – we have expenses to pay still, but also some revenue to account for (food trucks). Overall, the budget looks good to close out the year.
4. Co-Presidents' Report
 - 2019-2020 PTA Executive Board Slate
 - Slate is presented by Amy Fox, who is on the nominating committee.
 - Joe Barber, Co-President: Joe has an artisan pizza shop in Ivy City. His daughter, Arden, is a rising 5th grader. He is an active Westbrook volunteer and has served as a Recess Ranger, 2nd Grade Artist-in-Residence liaison., Carnival Food Truck Coordinator, and a Dancing Hippo. His favorite Westbrook tradition is the Thanksgiving Pie collection for teachers and staff.
 - Hayley Weimer, Co-President: Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, Hayley has lived in the neighborhood for a little over a year and lived in DC for about 13 years before that. She and her husband, Eric, have twin boys, Miles & Harrison, who are finishing kindergarten. Hayley is a lawyer at the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals and served this year as the PTA Secretary
 - Cary Devorsetz, Co-Vice President: Born and raised with two older brothers in a suburb of Syracuse, New York, Cary came to the DC area in 1997 to attend law school and has been here ever since. He lived in the Brookdale neighborhood for seven years, and before that in Mount Pleasant & Adams Morgan in the District. He and his wife, Jennifer, and have two children, Ethan (K) and Ellie (2nd).
 - Jeff Senne, Co-Vice President: Jeff was born in Wisconsin but grew up in 5 different states. Jeff, his wife and their 6-year-old son, Mateo, have lived in the neighborhood for 2 years. Mateo will be in 1st grade next year. Jeff is a Managing Director at PwC where I lead our Responsible Business Leadership team, and he co-chaired this year's Carnival.
 - Gilles Stucker, Treasurer: Gilles is the father of Oliver (rising sixth grader), Clara (rising 4th grader), and Adrian (rising first grader). Gilles and his wife Bonnie have lived in the community for the last 14 years. He attended Johns Hopkins for undergrad and American University for law school. After practicing law in private firms in the DMV, he moved to the public sector 11 years ago and is currently the Associate Director of Real Estate for the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development in Washington, D.C.
 - Tim Brennan, Assistant Treasurer: Tim grew up in Germantown, MD and has lived in the neighborhood for 4 years. He has two sons – Oscar who is in first

grade and Henry, who will be starting at Westbrook in two years. He is the Homeland Security Standards Program Manager at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

- Iva Joseph, Secretary: Iva grew up in Croatia and has lived in the neighborhood since 2017. She is a stay-at-home parent to Georgia and Jacob. Georgia is a Kindergartener in Ms. Chang's class and Jacob will be attending Westbrook in 2020. Iva co-chaired the last book fair.
- Motion to vote on the slate; seconded. Vote: passed.
- 2019-2020 Committee openings
 - **A lot of openings are available: Aqua Eagles; Bingo event; Book Fair; Cluster Rep; Community of Caring; Directory; Local retail promotions; MCCPTA delegate; Media Center; Science Committee; Sister School; Special Needs; Spirit Wear (2 ppl); Staff Appreciation; Yearbook.**
 - Many of these positions don't require you to be at school during the day, so they're perfect for anyone who wants something outside traditional work hours.
 - Staff appreciation is one of the big things we do with the PTA. It's a great opportunity to jump in. It doesn't need to be exactly like this year, which was truly amazing. The staff appreciation chair(s) DO get a lot of volunteer help – people hop in on all those staff appreciation week activities, potlucks, etc.
 - **Please volunteer.** These traditions can only continue with people helping.
- Thank You's
 - JEFF SENNE & VANESSA BROWN – Carnival!
 - Sarah Brady – Volunteer Coordinator for Carnival
 - Jessica Deighton & Caroline Smith – Staff Appreciation Week activities
 - Chris Barone – Kindergarten Artist in Residence Opera (and the upcoming 5th Grade Musical)
 - Alison Goradia – Field Days
 - Amy Fox, Emily Simone & Karsten Daponte – Nominating Committee
 - Kerry Moore – Art Show
 - Susan Higgins & Meredith Hammond – upcoming 5th Grade party & farewell

5. Principal's Update: Karen Cox

- Most big updates were covered in the Town Hall.
- Apologies about technological glitch with Sunday's message.
- Our school will get the new curriculum for the 2020-2021 school year. We'll implement some Eureka math aspects earlier, but fully implement the new curriculum the following year.
- No other updates on the extended recess request. Our staff was informed that they're free to take students outside for brain breaks. We need to remain faithful to instructional minutes and time. So we don't know where exactly it'll fit, but our teachers will find a way. We will not join the official pilot for extended recess.

6. Teacher Liaison Reports: Nina Pattakos/Kim O'Connell

- Kindergarten: Kindergarten just wrapped up their artist in residence and performed their opera plays last week! We are looking forward to celebrating a successful year at the Kindergarten Celebration Ceremony next week!
- 1st Grade: First grade just wrapped up our informational writing unit and we are in the midst of publishing them. We researched to answer the question how humans affect the environment and then we wrote using our new knowledge. We recently took a field trip to the recycling center to complement our writing and SS/Sci unit. We just finished up geometry of 2d and 3D shapes as well as partitioning the 2D shapes into halves and fourths. We are moving into a big first grade milestone, telling time to the hour and half hour!
- 2nd Grade: Second Grade is wrapping up their Science unit observing planted seeds using different variables of sunlight and water. In Reading, Writing, and Social Studies, we are continuing to study historical figures and sequencing events in their lives. In Math we started our unit on Geometry, focusing on describing and drawing specific 2 D shapes quadrilaterals, pentagons, and hexagons. We continue to practice fact fluency to 20 and 3-digit addition and subtraction strategies.
- 3rd Grade: Third graders wrote autobiographies using the program Storyboard That. We have been learning about many topics in math including time, measuring liquid volume & mass, and perimeter of quadrilaterals. We are looking forward to making ice cream in a bag on Friday!
- 4th Grade: 4th grade is finishing our realistic fiction novels and writing our realistic fiction short stories. We are also finishing our engineering design process projects showcasing our electrical circuit knowledge. We are also learning about the 13 originals colonies in Social Studies. We are looking forward to our end of the year party next Tuesday and our air-powered bottle rocket design challenge.
- 5th Grade: We went to Colonial Williamsburg in May for our fifth-grade field trip and enjoyed a fantastic walk to Westland where we took a tour of the middle school and learned about musical programs that future 6th graders could participate in. We are all looking forward to our Artist in Residence performances of Seussical Jr. which will be held on June 4th and June 6th. In Reading, we are studying plays/musicals and continue to prepare for middle school by participating in literary circles to share our ideas. We continue to study chromosomes and dominant and recessive traits in Science.
- Media Center: We have circulated more than 13,000 books this year! We also had enthusiastic participation in our MakerSpace and Drop In Reading programs. Every grade, K-5, voted in the Maryland Black Eyed Susan balloting. The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors was the winning picture book this year - both at Westbrook and in the state of Maryland.
- SGA: The SGA had their last meeting and celebrated a successful year with popsicles. The officers explained the responsibilities that went into being officers. The 4th grade reps will relay the messages to all 4th grade students. The reps offered suggestions for events, fundraisers, and community service projects for next year. We will have elections for SGA officers and reps in September. Mrs. Woods will continue to be the SGA sponsor. Mrs. Modderno will be her co-sponsor.

7. Committee Updates – N/A

8. Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, June 4 & Thursday, June 6: 5th Grade Musical
- Saturday, June 8: 5th Grade Student/Parent Party
- Wednesday, June 12: 5th Grade Farewell
- Friday, June 14: Last Day of School (early dismissal)

9. Additional Issues from PTA Members

- Is there interest in revisiting the Carnival date?
 - We have to wait for the window of testing, and that's not yet been published. There are a lot of strong feelings about Carnival date, but we'd like to split the difference and host Carnival within the window of testing earlier in the month. Some 5th grade parents are overwhelmed by the timing of school activities. Mike is co-chairing the event next year and he'd like to aim for May 15th for the event and reserve May 29th as the rain date. We value the teachers' feelings and want to make the timing work for everyone as best we can. We know that parents felt overcommitted with these last few weeks of school activity.
 - Can we consider hosting Carnival in the fall? That way, parents can get to know each other earlier in the year, and we might see that people want to volunteer earlier on rather than later. Plus, there's no testing issue and generally good weather.
 - Taryn: we probably wouldn't have enough time for this coming fall, but we could consider it for the following fall. It's worth getting community feedback on the timing.
 - If we make a decision about scaling it back further or really disrupting the timing of the event, we would need a bigger audience than at a PTA audience.
 - We also note that 6 of major Carnival subcommittees were chaired by Kindergarten volunteers, who had never attended as a parent at the school. We need to balance the volunteering enthusiasm with the scale of the event. We need to consider who steps up to plan this event (and others).
 - Tim Brennan: we faced the volunteering conundrum with Book Fair, where people complained about hours for the event, but the chairs of the event struggled with volunteer recruitment.
 - Mike: Culture of the school is a little different these days. Whatever those of us who are involved do for the school reflects the time that volunteers give us and help out with.
- End of year gifts are being taken out of the PTA altogether, but Mike will be collecting it. You'll see that email soon.

10. New PTA Executive Board swearing in.

Adjourned 8:31pm.

Have a happy summer!