

**Whittier Elementary School**  
**Public PTA Meeting**  
**September 10, 2020**

Present: Liz Karnik (Pres), Allyson Maisel (VP-Membership), Cary Phillips (VP-Committees), Kim Jones (VP-Committees), Jenny Raia (VP Ways & Means), Gina Salerno (Treasurer), Julie Player (Secretary), Katy Schafermeyer (principal), Mark Spontak (PE), Stephanie Fleming (Art), Emily Friedman (K), Ashley Charleston (1st), Meg Moore (5th), Nicole Krick (4th), April Sekhon (OT), Cindy May (K), Kim Kern (4th), Shannon Sprunger, Jen Banowetz, Traci Kantowski, Kelly Zownorega, Kim Alanis, Christy Damon, Landon Nguyen, ? Hernandez, Kate Wilt, Judith Zapf, Kristina ?

#### WWPTA Meeting Updates

- Asked that we refrain from using social media as a main source to distribute information. Whittier has a FB, but we do not use it as our main source.
- Food insecurities - We were able to donate \$1k in the 19-20 school year.
- Virtual Academy Principal encouraged PTAs to help VA students/families to feel connected. Possible VA room parents.
- Looking for a Reflections Chair for the District as well as for Whittier

Minutes will be posted on the PTA website so that we no longer need to email minutes after meetings. May 2020 Minutes were emailed to this in attendance in May. May 2020 Minutes have been approved.

#### Treasurer

- Audit came back clean.
- Budget for the 20-21 School Year was reviewed and approved unanimously.
  - We have lowered our estimate on what we will raise for Romp & Roar by \$10K.
  - We have reduced our spending in many areas (field trips, assemblies, etc.), but are hoping that spring events will be able to take place.
  - We are hoping to bring in about \$17k this school year.
  - We plan to spend about \$33K this school year.
  - We will run at a loss this year, but thanks to our reserve we will continue to have a reserve if our fundraising & spending go as planned.
  - Meg Moore confirmed that the budget for the Incubator Program is appropriate for this year. 5th grader teachers no longer need to pay the large fee for the business they have previously used to come in and help with this program anymore.
  - We hope to have enough funds to be able to provide teacher grants, but that will be dependent on fundraising.
  - Mr. Spontak requested that we bring back the line item for feet/hand charms for next year if possible.

- Jen Banowetz would like to make sure that the line item for the School Pet not be deleted so that Fred can return if possible.

#### Ways & Means

- Light the Torch & Reindeer Run (Currently Virtual Runs) through the Park District - If someone registers for the run and enters Whittier as the promotional code, the runner receives a \$5 discount and Whittier receives a \$5 donation. All we need to do is promote the runs.
- Romp & Roar - Looking into turning this into a virtual run. It will basically run as a Write-A-Check Campaign. Details are being ironed out.
- Spirit Wear - Working with Rumpleshirtskin in Wheaton. Whittier will receive \$3-5/item ordered.
- Cooks Night Out (goal 1/month) & Box Tops will continue to be run.
- Book Fairs are currently on hold.

#### Committees

- Staff Appreciation Chairs are working to plan a grab & go breakfast for September 25th (institute day).
- 23 of the committees have chairs filled.
- Romp & Roar needs a chair. This is our most immediate need. We also need committee members.

#### Membership - Currently at 104 Members

#### Principal's Report

- Introduce Staff on Call - Nicole Krick (4th), Kim Kern (4th), April Sekhon (OT), Cindy May (K), Emily Friedman (K), Mark Spontak (PE), Meg Moore (5th), Stephanie Fleming (New Art Teacher), Ashley Charleston (1st)
- Front Office Staff have worked hard to get this year started with both in-person and Virtual Academy Students.
- Whittier Reopening Team worked throughout the summer to create a return to school in accordance with the State & District Guidelines for a safe return to school. Student & Staff safety has been top priority. The Custodial Crew has done an excellent job keeping our school clean.

#### PTA Educational Grant Proposals

- 10 grant proposals were received and the PTA is happy to be able to support 4 proposals in full. Those 4 proposals are:
  - Chrome Book Sleeves
  - Bottle Filler
  - Individual Floor Rugs for the Kindergarteners
  - Keyboarding without Tears for several grade levels

- The PTA is putting a hold on Teacher Grants until later in the year when we get a better idea of our fundraising for the school year.
- The PTA is still able to support Teacher Stipends for the school year. Information for those will go out at the end of the month.
- Dr. Schafermeyer brought up concerns regarding how Grant Proposals are approved. Liz Karnik explained that her experience has always been that the Executive Committee takes on the task of discussing grants & deciding which can be supported based on the budget. Jen Banowetz & Julie Player confirmed that Whittier has always run Grants (previously called Capital Expenditures) this way. A mom (Name?) expressed that she appreciates that the Executive Committee takes the time to do this and sees no problem in the way that it is being done. Dr. Schafermeyer would like the bylaws to be checked.

#### New Business

- Six Flags, Kane County Cougars & Raging Waves programs. Jen Banowetz will connect the new chair, Shannon Sprunger, with Kelly Gronlund who ran the programs in years past.
- Jen Banowetz picked up a new standing desk for free for the library from a store in Wheaton that is going out of business.
- The list for Committee Chairs & Members is on the website and will also be sent out in an upcoming PTA Newsletter.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45pm