

Westchester Elementary School PTA
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2019, 8PM

PTA Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/westchesterpta>

PTA Website: <http://westchesterpta.org/>

Attendance – Sign-in sheet available upon request.

PTA Minutes – Motion to approve minutes from the last meeting: Approved

Treasurer's Report – Balance at end of last month: \$27,474.27

Administration Report (Amanda Crabb)

Thank you so much for the books for the fifth grade, as well as the books for the reading specialist.

This is the list of assemblies that the PTA has paid for in the past. The numbered ones are being planned for next year. We are considering other options:

1. Ballroom Dancing
2. Zoo Mobile
3. Joe Romano “Books Are Alive” magic show—we’ll do this every other year.

Australian program with the didgeridoo?

JoJo—some of the kids were afraid of JoJo, so probably not again.

4. Blue Sky Puppets “Conflict Resolution”
5. Kindness Assembly

5th Grade Refugee assembly

Reptile Man assembly—brought up by staff liaison—there were issues with the safety of some of the animals? Ms. Crabb may look into whether the program has changed at all since it was last presented.

Allergy Assembly—Kyle Dine

Maria Broom, storyteller—been unable to get in touch with her; she may be out of the country.

MAP Assessments the next two weeks. Computerized test that matches student ability and measures growth; reports are provided. Testing is scheduled for Thursday and Friday this week, Monday and Tuesday next week.

Several parents have expressed that they really want their children to participate in clubs, but transportation is an issue. Is it possible to have transportation for next year's clubs? The middle school offers it on limited days; they run through the entire community with one bus and limited stops. Perhaps we could offer it just on the busiest club day. We don't have to guarantee it to all participating students. The administration will look into the cost. Will the cost be passed on to families through a tuition increase? The PTA will create a survey to figure out whether the demand will offset the cost.

Please take the stakeholder's survey. We use this information to inform policy moving forward.

The PTA has provided snacks to the kids for testing in the past—we can do a dry run this year for the MISA tests (5th grade science) and then do the PARCC testing in April. Ms. Crabb will talk to Ms. Costa about snacks.

Committee Reports (only those with updates and/or representatives present are listed below):

Bingo Night (Melissa Schwartz) – Kara also needs volunteers for that to sell tickets and concessions. We are also looking for donations from the classes. There is a list online and it was in the newsletter. We are also going to send a flyer home to families.

Pancake Breakfast (Erica Russo) – Saturday morning is the flapjack fundraiser at Applebees from 8-10. Tix are \$7 per person; the PTA gets \$4.50 per person. We are still looking for parent volunteers between 7:45-10am. We have 8 teachers lined up to do the serving and seating. We'll have tickets available at the door. We need 50 people to show up to make it worthwhile; last year we have 125 (we bested expectations).

Spirit Night (Erica Russo) – will be putting together a Peace a Pizza night later this Spring, probably May.

Spirit Wear – Still looking for someone to take over next year.

Book Fair (Elizabeth Newton) – April 10-18. We'll preview the 10th and 11th. Book fair will start selling on the 12th. Just purchased books for the 5th grade and we're looking at purchasing more; we have \$505 scholastic dollars that expire in May. Elizabeth will check with Ms. Adam about "high interest, low readability" books.

Kids Club (Melissa Schwartz) – Spring session is on the website.

Membership (Melissa Schwartz) – Up to 254 members, 40 of which is staff. Membership is winding down.

Yearbook (Ashley Mullen) – Still wanting pictures. Yearbook is 20 pages longer than last year. We still need certain events represented. Has a 1st grade mom to come up and take pics, once a week for the next few weeks, of students and teachers to back-fill. Flyers to purchase the yearbook will be available. The cost is also going up \$2 to cover the cost of the additional content printing.

Health & Wellness (Melissa Schwartz) – Working on SuperStar Sprint. Do we want to do some sort of anniversary celebration facet to the post-race festivities? Regardless, we would like to upload the celebration powerpoint that was made to the PTA website so everyone can view it. The kids and some parents saw it at the pre-holiday assembly and concerts.

Green Committee (John Bolten) – The Green club is now meeting regularly. Ms. Crabb will try put the lead teachers in touch with John. As far as immediate identified needs: the logs in the outdoor classroom need to be replaced with something else, as they are rotting.

Box Tops (Bernadette Clark) – Due by the end of this month; must be shipped on March 1. We will add a reminder to the morning announcements. There is a competition between classrooms for a kickball game between Ms. Crabb and Officer B. There is a plan for a sturdier box, but perhaps the mailbox that Melissa offered may work nicely. We can only send the tops in twice a year, but we may try to do collection on a monthly basis rather than twice a year, just break up the task of trimming, counting, and pulling expired tops.

Valentine Grams (Kim Hughes) – They are being sold Thursday, Friday and Monday. The flyer is on the website if parents need to print more. The office is making extra copies to have on-hand. Melissa offered a mailbox for collecting the grams. Offer declined for now, but it does sound like a good option for collecting box tops.

Old Business:

(Laurie Sabatelli) E-mailed the teachers, she heard back about the Souper Bowl fundraiser for Epik Kids, benefitting CEA. Another upcoming project is making blankets for Project Linus that provides blankets to babies and kids in hospitals. Please support Epik Kids.

(Mellisa Schwartz) The CHS PTA did a viewing a couple of years ago that was arranged through BCPS. We have been in touch with the high school PTA president to try to arrange another viewing. It has been requested that we reach out to other elementary and middle PTAs (Southwest BCPS community) to try to engage a larger community for a spring viewing at the high school.

New Business:

(Ms. Allen) We are offering Camp Invention again this summer. This is the 16th year they've offered it and we are running it for two weeks, separate programs. Flyers are going home this week. This is the first year that Ms. Allen is trying to solicit a camp parent to help market the camp to area schools. In exchange for their service, that parents child can attend camp at no cost, save a \$20 fee. We do take other

parents volunteers during camp sessions that can also reduce your registration fee. There are a lot of opportunities to reduce registration costs. Camp Invention is incoming K-5th (going into 6th). The PTA will try to solicit volunteers through the PTA newsletter.

April 26 is the 5th grade Philadelphia field trip.

Meeting Adjourned at 8pm.