

Westchester Elementary School PTA
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 7pm

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: \$27,694.40

Administration Report – Nothing new to report for March. April will be a big month for staffing and new programs. Pre-K and Kindergarten registration is open now.

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

Pancake Breakfast (Brian Dial) – Staff participation is always appreciated. Turnout was very high—over 150.

Spirit Night (Laurie Sabatelli) – Peace a Pizza in May.

Spirit Wear (Laurie Sabatelli) – Still need someone to take over for next year

Yearbook (Ashley Mullen) – going to be done by next week for Teachers to review. Over 100 on-line orders have already been made. If anyone still has any outstanding photos, get them in by next week.

Health & Wellness (Shannon Bateman) – SuperStar Sprint—still looking for sponsors and donations. We have a month left before we have to put in the t-shirt order (on which sponsors are listed). Information is on the PTA website; parents also provide donations and we actively seek from local businesses for raffle. Are there other things that we can do during the school days to lead up to the event, anything to send home with the students to expand it to the home as well? Recess activities, fitness, healthy choice information or activities, etc. Staff was responsive to incorporating activities into the school day (recess) and expanding the event. There will be a running course that students in grades 1-5 will do during recess; last year, it was just 5th grade, but the teachers are excited about expanding it this year. There will also be a mascot this year to add excitement that day. We are also open to new ideas for businesses who come set up to represent themselves that day. Shannon will contact the Catonsville Cooperative Market to see if they are interested.

Green Committee (John Bolten) – Spoke to Ms. Maguire. John read a letter on behalf of the students: students have provided a letter to describe the benefits of an outdoor classroom. They presented the idea of a convertible patio bench and an outdoor whiteboard. John is meeting with them on Thursday. Mr Byers reports that staff would like

to upgrade the current classroom with benches and a board on which to teach from; same area, just more permanent and functional. There are funds available from the PTA. We could even look at whether or not there are grants available. We need hard costs; we want to spend some money on the students, this would be a concrete way that all grades will benefit from. We will invite a student(s) to come to the next meeting. Shannon Bateman has been in contact with the construction company doing the stream remediation to request replacement logs from the felled trees along the stream.

Mr. Byers and Brian Dial both spoke about the educational reading package that all the teachers and the reading specialist agreed would be a great addition to WES. The cost is approximately \$6,500. Those present all agree that the PTA can spend funds on the reading package in addition to the outdoor classroom upgrades. Mr Byers will be able to present more concrete information on the book package at next month's meeting.

Teacher Appreciation (Ganine Markowitz) – Pi day is this month; pies for the teachers in the lunch room, pizzas for teachers for lunch. Pi pencils for students distributed by Ganine dressed as Einstein. Teacher appreciation week is in May with an “ingredients” theme—looking for assistance with this. We will also need someone to take over the committee after this year.

New Student Committee (Bernadette Clark) – Lauren Rollhauser is wondering if there anything done for students who come in mid-year? In the past, we had years that we had welcome bags made when we had big groups of new students. It's something that she can put together or can do. Spirit Wear Cte has color-changing pencils, key chains and other items that can be made available for welcome bags; we can store a stock of them to have on hand.

Box Tops (Bernadette Clark) – Sent in 4,909 box tops. \$514.70 back to the school. Ms. Demers' class won the classroom competition for the soccer game. Still working a better box for the hallway. Would like to make it monthly next year; we had to throw out over 100 expired tops this winter. Also, doing a monthly award would make it more fun for everyone. We can also look into utilizing the middle school students who come to volunteer at WES to help with cutting and packing.

Old Business:

Screenagers screening keeps getting pushed back. A matter of coordinating the screening with the representative from BCPS who facilitates the conversation along with the film.

New Business:

The lost and found is over-flowing. Please check it if your students are missing anything; the school will need to donate it soon.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40pm.