WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Downers Grove, IL
GENERAL MEETING via Zoom

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, Oct 25, 2022**

Roll Call/Attendance: Dan Medina (IL PTA), Kristin Kramer (IL PTA), Maggie Kurcz, Sarah Swanson, Jessica Nastal, Britta Waszak, Jen Hodkowski, Mr. Krugman, Carol Avila, Liz Stimes, Meg Hoff, Jenn McDonald, Mandi Torello, Alana Miller, Kelly Freely, Meggie Ward, Barb Allen, Di Ander, Michelle Ricca, Meghan Landers, Janelle Rice, Christine Paulik, Katie Mlade, Kelsey Blazaitis, Stacia Plothow, Shamra Fallon, Sarah Forillo, Kirsten Clancy, Dan Shea, Carolyn Mulholland, Ann Russell, Kelly Parrish, Brenden Parrish, Anne Boswell, Katie Porter, Susan Ourada, Lori Achilles, Addie Pampalone; Elizabeth Berger, Nicole Joy, Kirsten Clancy, Julie Orozco, Katie Porter, Jim Hoff, Melissa Rausch, Natalie Kleehammer, Cindy Maquet (**45 Members; 2 Guests**)

Time Meeting Called to Order: 7:07pm

Mission Statement, PTA Annual Goals, Introductions from the Board

Guest Introductions: As discussed at the 9/20 meeting - representatives from the IL State PTA are present - Daniel Medina (IL PTA DuPage East Region Director) and Kristin Kramer (IL PTA)

The mission of the Whittier PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Our mission requires that diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) be central to our work and used in our day-to-day decisions and actions. The Whittier PTA strives to create a kind, responsive culture where all feel welcome.

Approval of the September 20th, 2022 Minutes: Motioned, seconded (no edits) - approved.

Call for New Business: None

Guest Speakers: Teachers: 5th Grade Teachers (Mrs. Hodkowski and Mrs. Lyons); 5th Grade Activities

- **30 Book Challenge**: had guest speaker kick off; prizes for 10/20/30
- **Homework Club**: opportunity for kids to get extra help; fun/hang out outside of formal classroom setting
- **STEM Club**: had to break into 3 groups, because so much interest; got grant from DG Women's club; fun activities planned
- **Field Trips**: 5th grade was first; traveled to Art Institute; PTA supported bus/transportation and an art rack; want kids using their hands (building and touching) so more hands-on
- **Social Studies**: Activities related to states
- **Safety Patrol**: Volunteer optional org; thanks to parents for getting kids to school early and picking up late; big part of keeping students safe, and instills a sense of pride in the kids – they become role models to younger students
- **Mission/Inclusion**: kids learn best when they feel best about themselves; Mrs. Lyons expressed that all teachers/staff support the PTA mission and inclusion efforts

Treasurer's Report - Carol Avila

- **Current Financials** as of 9/30/22
  - Fall Fundraiser: still coming in; not many expenses in September
  - Miscellaneous income item: $2,500 private donation marked for Green Team/Butterfly Garden
  - No questions on the budget
- **New Budget Item:** Miscellaneous Student Expenses
  - Motion to move $450 of Website to Miscellaneous Student Expenses; gives flexibility to sponsor unplanned events that benefit students → Motion was seconded and vote approved
  - Planning for larger budget reforecasting in upcoming meeting, due to irregularities with COVID years

Secretary's Report - Mr. Krugman - Classroom Halloween Parties Reminder - Monday, Oct 31st; following parade, will have traditional room parties, game, craft (stations), healthy snack (fruit/veg)

Co-Vice Presidents' Report - Britta Waszak and Sarah Swanson (None)

Co-Presidents' Report - Susan Ourada and Maggie Kurcz Wiescinski

- Membership number updates: Membership: 184 members; includes 63% of Whittier staff; goal is 80% membership for parents/guardians; need 21 more families to meet goals; biggest reason people join PTA is because they were asked!
- Whittier was accepted into the National PTA School of Excellence! Orientation meeting in early November, more information and a survey coming soon!

Membership was asked if there were any questions from anything covered. None noted.

Principal's Report

- **Hospitality Committee**: Thank you for providing food for conferences; support appreciated; Addie, Cindy and Committee did a great job!
- **Hot Chocolate Fun Run**: Wonderful event, great weather; all enjoyed. Thanks to Britta and Tera
- **Teacher Wish List**: Motioned, Seconded, Voted - Approved. Background on Teacher Wish Lists – pre-date Mr. Krugman; some teachers request items every year, some more intermittent; all enhancements for the students
- **Whittier Spirit Wear**: Jordan Shea has been working hard; grade level shirts for Field Day; changed over to different company
- **Gaga Ball Pit Platform** update: 9 volunteers; will set up meeting with Kevin Barto and Jeff Neustadt; will share updates and thanks to all who have stepped in to assist

Committee Reports

- **Post-Hot Chocolate Fun Run**- Britta Waszak and Tera O'Malley: Britta will work with Carol to settle up financials; thank you to Tera, Meghan Landers, and parents who helped to pass out flyers, assist with street closures; Mr. Krugman, Mr. Mike with set-ups. Conference week is a long one but still had great teacher turnout; thanks to parents who supported the sign up process; any feedback welcome; may be putting together a photo share
- **Spring Fundraiser Update** - Jenn McDonald and Meghan Landers: Date and location - Tivoli Bowl on April 29th, will be pulling together a committee; reach out to Meghan or Jenn if interested
- **Family Fun Update** - Meghan Landers: Two fundraisers – Pierce raised over $800, Home Run in over $600; next is Gia Mia November 10th; also planning a winter roller skating event; will reach out to the Board to receive guidance on past event planning.
- **Reflections** - Christine Paulik and Jenn McDonald: Entries due Friday at box by main door; ceremony on Weds December 7th for entries advancing to council level
- **Walking Club Update**: Prizes passed out tomorrow, spring walking club will be longer session
- **Hospitality Committee**: Thanks for donation for conferences
- **Chess Club** will have 6 week session; flyers will come home; posted on FB and starts on November 3rd;
- Addie attended curriculum event and recommends to others; on Thursday state will open school report cards; information letter and our scores will be shared at that time

Unfinished Business

As motioned and seconded at the 9/20 meeting, Membership continued the discussion on the inclusive naming of events with IL PTA representatives in attendance to answer questions (Daniel Medina and Kristin Kramer).

Continuation of Discussion on Family Dance/Inclusive Naming: Members called individually and given 1 minute to comment to allow for an orderly flow of discussion while being mindful of time. 2 minutes were agreed upon once requested.

- Several Members expressed their thoughts, feelings and opinions on inclusive naming.
- Feedback was given to the board (verbally and in chat) with regard to how this issue was managed - some felt it was handled well, others felt it could have been handled differently.
- Members expressed disappointment at the divisiveness of this issue
- Some desired this meeting/discussion to be in person; however, it was noted that parents/guardians completed a survey before the beginning of the school year and Zoom/online was the preferred format

- Inclusive naming has been a practice at Whittier since 2018, not a written policy
- Some members expressed interest in having a VIP/son and VIP/daughter event
- Some members expressed that boy-only and girl-only; Mom/Dad events do not include all
- If events are inclusive (non-relationship/gender specific), some expressed wanting a smaller, more intimate setting. [In chat] The last family dance (family glow dance) was held as a fundraiser, it was well-attended, but had limited registration due to the capacity of the school/gym
- An option for smaller inclusive events could be primary dance/upper grade dance; perhaps hosted through Experiences
- Mr. Krugman can work with those coordinating the dances - will meet all needs: inclusively-named, smaller group/more intimate setting with ways to honor special relationships within dance - (examples: father-daughter/mother-son/special someone dance called by the DJ, a photo booth with props to acknowledge special relationships/bonds, etc.).

New Business - None

Announcements

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Dec 13th at 7pm

Time Adjourned: **8:44pm**

<u>*Our state PTA representatives offered to stay on after the meeting adjourned to chat/answer questions. Here are the notes from these informal conversations:</u>

*A general question was asked about a scheduling conflict between this meeting and the general meeting of the Downers Grove Junior Women's Board (that occurs monthly on the 4th Tuesday). It was noted that there are ~40 individuals from Whittier who are part of this group and actively engaged in the DG community, thus an important part of PTA membership/volunteer efforts. It was stated that the Executive Board does their best to schedule around these dates (as well as other important dates - religious holidays, board of education meetings, middle school/high school events, etc.). Whittier PTA General Meetings typically occur on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; however, there needed to be 30-days notice from the last meeting (9/20) so that the Teacher Wish List could be properly voted on, thus the conflict was unable to be avoided.

*IL PTA Representatives noted that we could include these scheduling details in the PTA's Standing Rules (some of the Exec Board is still looking for an old copy so these can be updated).

*IL PTA Representatives noted that 30-days for a voting item to "sit" is a relic from the 'pen and paper' days - now that we have electronic communication, we can adjust this to meet modern standards. The only item still requiring 30-days is a vote involving the Bylaws.

*IL PTA Representatives discussed the different variations of Membership depending on the needs/desires of PTA - some PTAs have 'alumni' memberships, community memberships, business memberships. Mr. Medina stated that his PTA allows for business memberships - they can be for whatever amount desired - $100, $500, etc. This gives voting rights beyond teachers and parents/guardians. Mr. Medina's PTA uses a % of the business membership revenue towards their PTA's scholarship fund.

*IL PTA Representative Mr. Medina expressed that the Whittier PTA is not alone in facing challenges with shifting school/PTA traditions to be more inclusive. His school's PTA Membership was championing changing a Daddy-Daughter/Mother-Son Dance to a Family Event; however, their school facilities/gym could not accommodate such a large number of people. The event would require additional funds to rent a space, thus driving up the cost of the event. Their membership settled on two events - "Me & My Guy" and "Me & My Gal" (the "Me" being the child), thus allowing a gender-neutral event for students where they could honor a special relationship with a male or female adult figure in their life (grandparents, parents, foster parents, aunt/uncle, etc).

Whittier Elementary School PTA

Financial Statement 07/01/2022 - 09/30/2022

INCOME		09/30/2022	2022 - 2023 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
FUNDRAISING					
	FAMILY FUN NIGHTS	(831.66)	0.00	(831.66)	Income from Family Fun less Expenses (e.g. Back to School Event)
	FALL FUNDRAISER	10,747.66	10,000.00	747.66	
	SPRING FUNDRAISER		10,000.00	(10,000.00)	
TOTAL FUNDRAISING		**9,916.00**	**20,000.00**	**(10,084.00)**	
DONATIONS					
	GENERAL DONATION	85.00	0.00	85.00	
	WHITTIER ANGEL	296.00	0.00	296.00	
TOTAL DONATIONS		**381.00**	**0.00**	**381.00**	
OTHER INCOME					
	EXTRA DIRECTORIES & ADS	155.00	400.00	(245.00)	
	FUN LUNCH	5,832.04		5,832.04	
	INTEREST INCOME	23.85		23.85	
	~~MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS~~				Removed from 2022-2023 Budget. Remove from F.S. 2023-2024.
	MISC INCOME	2,558.47		2,558.47	Donation for Green Team / Butterfly Garden, Amazon Smile, Givebacks
	PTA DUES	1,859.00	1,500.00	359.00	
	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS INCOME			0.00	
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		**10,428.36**	**1,900.00**	**8,528.36**	
CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR YEAR			16,200.00	(16,200.00)	
TOTAL INCOME		**20,725.36**	**38,100.00**	**(17,374.64)**	
	EXPENSES	**09/30/2022**	**2022 - 2023 BUDGET**	**DIFFERENCE**	**NOTES**
ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES					
	ACCOUNTING & BANK CHARGES	38.81	150.00	(111.19)	
	ANNUAL INCORPORATION DUES		135.00	(135.00)	
	DG PTA COUNCIL DUES		100.00	(100.00)	
	DIRECTORY	450.00	700.00	(250.00)	
	ELECTRONIC INVOICING	(12.26)	200.00	(212.26)	
	EXECUTIVE BOARD EXPENDITURES	67.00	300.00	(233.00)	
	ILLINOIS CHARITABLE STATUS FEE	15.00	15.00	0.00	
	ILLINOIS PTA PORTION OF DUES COLLECTED	770.50	950.00	(179.50)	
	PTA BONDING & LIABILITY INSURANCE	355.00	375.00	(20.00)	
	PTA COUNCIL DINNER		100.00	(100.00)	
	PTA SUPPLIES		200.00	(200.00)	
	SITTING		250.00	(250.00)	
	TAX PREPARATION	506.16	525.00	(18.84)	
	WEBSITE	350.00	1,200.00	(850.00)	
	WELCOME AND SUPPORT		500.00	(500.00)	
TOTAL ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES		**2,540.21**	**5,700.00**	**(3,159.79)**	
SCHOOL EXPENSES					
	~~CLASSROOM MAGAZINE~~				Removed from 2022-2023 Budget. Remove from F.S. 2023-2024.
	~~COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTORY~~				Removed from 2022-2023 Budget. Remove from F.S. 2023-2024.
	GREEN TEAM		1,500.00	(1,500.00)	
	GUIDED READING		1,500.00	(1,500.00)	
	HOSPITALITY		500.00	(500.00)	
	PRINCIPALS FUND		500.00	(500.00)	
	STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK		500.00	(500.00)	
	TEACHER & STAFF RECOGNITION		3,000.00	(3,000.00)	
TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES		**0.00**	**7,500.00**	**(7,500.00)**	
STUDENT EXPENSES					
	AUTHOR FEST		1,000.00	(1,000.00)	
	BIRTHDAY BOOKS		800.00	(800.00)	
	CLASSROOM PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	354.31	400.00	(45.69)	
	FALL FUNDRAISER 2023		1,000.00	(1,000.00)	
	FIELD DAY		100.00	(100.00)	
	FIELD DAY LUNCH		1,200.00	(1,200.00)	
	FIELD TRIPS		4,000.00	(4,000.00)	
	FINE ARTS FIELD TRIP		4,000.00	(4,000.00)	
	FUN FAIR		1,500.00	(1,500.00)	
	ICE CREAM SOCIAL		150.00	(150.00)	
	LRC MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS		500.00	(500.00)	

	MATH & SCIENCE NIGHTS		300.00	(300.00)	
	MONTHLY MASTERPIECE		200.00	(200.00)	
	PROGRAMS & ASSEMBLIES		4,000.00	(4,000.00)	
	REFLECTIONS		50.00	(50.00)	
	SAFETY PATROL		1,000.00	(1,000.00)	
	SCHOLARSHIP		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	
	~~STUDENT PLANNERS 3RD - 6TH GRADE~~				Removed from 2022-2023 Budget. Remove from F.S. 2023-2024.
	SUMMER MATH CLUB		200.00	(200.00)	
	TAKE HOME FOLDERS K-6	464.00	700.00	(236.00)	
	VARIETY SHOW		1,500.00	(1,500.00)	
	WALKING CLUB		300.00	(300.00)	
	WRECK		0.00	0.00	
TOTAL STUDENT EXPENSES		**818.31**	**24,900.00**	**(24,081.69)**	
UNBUDGETED EXPENSES					
	SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS		0.00	0.00	
	TEACHER WISH LIST		0.00	0.00	
	WHITTIER ANGEL EXPENSES	886.33	0.00	886.33	School supplies
TOTAL UNBUDGETED EXPENSES		**886.33**	**0.00**	**886.33**	
TOTAL EXPENSES		**4,244.85**	**38,100.00**	**(33,855.15)**	
NET INCOME		**16,480.51**	**0.00**	**16,480.51**	

111,072.15	**Cash Balance 09/30/2022**
(2,712.26)	*Less Family Fun*
(472.62)	*Less Wreck*
(23,172.40)	*Less Money earmarked for School Improvement Projects*
(2,500.00)	*Less Money earmarked for Green Team / Butterfly Garden*
(750.00)	*Fun Fair - Carryover 2021 - 2022*
0.00	*Teacher Wish List Approved*
(33,855.15)	*Less Approved 2022 - 2023 Expenses not yet paid*
47,609.72	**Net Available Cash Balance 09/30/2022**