WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Downers Grove, IL
GENERAL MEETING via Zoom

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, January 17th, 2023**
Roll Call/Attendance: Maggie Wiescinski, Susan Ourada, Jessica Nastal, Britta Waszak, Carol Avila, Sarah Swanson, Cindy Maquet, Katie Porter, Samantha Boehm, Allie Hedman, Katie Mlade, Jenn McDonald, Michael Krugman, Di Ander, Liz Stimes, Christine Paulik, Jim Hoff, Shamra Fallon, Amanda Champlin (19 Members)

Time Meeting Called to Order: 7:02pm
Mission Statement, PTA Annual Goals, Introductions from the Board

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 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 Dec 13th, 2022 Minutes: Motioned, seconded (no edits) - approved.

Guest Speakers: Kindergarten Teachers - Samantha Boehm and Allison Hedman
Both expressed thanks for the PTAs contributions and acknowledgement!
Kindergarten is learning about:

- Technology and Social Studies: community helpers, why we work, jobs in the school and in the community; each Kindergartner is making their own community helper
- STEM during OKEEP time; kids loving STEM – working collaboratively and switching classrooms; challenging thinking to help them become problem solvers
- Math: starting addition; story problems; "Gus the Plus" and "Linus the Minus"
- Science (after community helpers) will be pushes/pulls; animal reports on arctic animals

Treasurer's Report - Carol Avila

- Current Financials as of 12/31/22 - December was slow (with break, etc)
  - Miscellaneous income: $500 from passive income; more than 50% from Raise Right; thanks to Kari Fredrich for doing such a great job marketing!
  - Hospitality spent most of the budget for holidays – expected, the revised budget includes a $150 increase to cover P-T conferences in Feb.
  - Cash balance of ~$96K; net available ~$55K
  - Budget revisions presented last meeting; let sit for 30 days; Maggie proposed to adopt revised budget – seconded; voted – approved (all aye's); changes accepted
- Vote to Approve Revised Budget for SY 2022-2023 as presented at last meeting (sat for 30 days) - motioned, seconded (no edits) - approved.

Secretary's Report - Cindy Maquet - Hospitality Committee will provide dinner for Parent/Teacher conference on February 9th, a Sign Up Genius will be posted.

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

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

- Membership number updates: 75% families and 67% staff are Members - goal is 80% (we need 10 more families and 5 more staff). We are up 25% from our highest on record (pre-COVID).
  - Why does Membership matter? The PTA is a Member-driven organization - the more members we have, the better we can meet the needs of the Whittier community. Membership is the first step of engagement and involvement. Most people don't join because they were never asked.

- National PTA School of Excellence Update: In the Fall of 2022, Whittier Elementary was accepted into the National PTA's School of Excellence Program. As required, a baseline survey was distributed to identify priority areas within the school community, responses were submitted to National PTA and support provided to develop goals and action items (see link above or website for more detailed information).
    - 3 themes emerged from Whittier's data that address community concerns and align within National PTA's framework: (1) Continuing/strengthening efforts around accessibility and inclusion, (2) Digital/internet safety and (3) School violence prevention (Active Intruder Drills). Please see document for short term goals and action items.
    - If interested in being involved in any of these opportunities, please reach out to a board member - it is meant to be a team/community effort.

Principal's Report - Mr. Krugman

- Mr. Krugman expressed great appreciation for PTA holiday efforts and acknowledgements
- Bringing holiday fun back was a great success – movie at the Tivoli, and afterwards fun lunch and classroom activities; winter Scattergories and holiday sing rounded out the day
- Drop off and pick up has been smoother but still a few glitches; ensure safety at all times
- Scholarship Committee update: Mr. K received access to application and has been able to review questions – hope to get out to HS's soon with 3/31 deadline
- Working on Kindergarten round-up; will be week before Spring Break
- Science Fair this weekend: Friday night set up, fair on Saturday
- PTA Fun Fair week following - Saturday, January 28th (1:00-4:00pm at Whittier)
- January 30th: Community facility Visioning Session at 630P – O'Neill Middle School
- February 25th: Reading Games
- March 4th: Variety Show
- MAP testing complete and make-up sessions just took place

Committee Reports/Updates -

- **Reflections -** Christine Paulik and Jenn McDonald - Congrats to Elin Carlson, Olivia Avila and Clare Hayes for advancing to State!!
- **Family Fun Update** - Meghan Landers was not able to attend, but gratitude was sent her way for organizing the fun skating event for families! Another thank you to Carol Avila for coordinating event-day!
    - Reminder: Panera Family Fun dinner tomorrow evening 4-8pm, details on website, facebook and flyers were sent home in folder(s).
- **Masterpiece of the Month** - New supplies for volunteers to use! Oil pastel sets are located in the Masterpiece of the Month Art Cabinet.
- **Spring Fundraiser** - Jenn McDonald
    - Theme will be 90's; Save the Date posted (April 29th); want to form committees; Britta has reached out to Pierce (want to cater with someone local); would like to have some folks on planning committee; Mary Kate Barrett will help teachers and room parents with classroom projects for the auction; will plan a walk-through of Tivoli to set up; if anyone has contacts for Silent Auction items, reach out to Jenn or Meghan. Some auctions may be able to be hosted through Memberhub.
    - Thanks to Meghan and Jenn for making this an event that everyone can enjoy – lots of different ways to have fun

New Business - None

Announcements: Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11th at 7pm; Exec Board positions opening up: Co-Vice Presidents and Secretary. Reach out if interested.

Time Adjourned: **7:55pm**