★ WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA: GENERAL MEETING ★

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, Dec 12, 2023**
Roll Call/Attendance: Michael Krugman, Britta Waszak, Christine Paulik, Catherine Hazen, Carol Avila, Jenn McDonald, Kari Fredrich, Melissa Rausch, Susan Ourada, Katie Porter, Kirsten Clancy, Bethany Marek, Shamra Fallon, Caitlyn Bouton, Mary Namestnik, Allie Hedman, Samantha Boehm
Meeting Call to Order: 7:03pm

Whittier PTA Mission: 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. Learn more HERE. The Whittier PTA strives to create a kind, responsive culture where all feel welcome.

Exec Board Introductions

Call for New Business (to be added to this agenda):

Approval of the Oct Minutes: Approved

Guest Speakers: Kindergarten - Ms. Boehm and Mrs. Hedman
They thanked the PTA for the wishlist items that the Kindergarten team received. They really enjoyed the field trip to the Nutcracker and appreciated it so much. The kinder team is piloting a new ELA program which includes a new phonics program. They are loving it. They also have enjoyed the full day as it has more time for curriculum and play. In math they are working on equations, word problems and addition and subtraction. In social studies they are learning about things from the past. They also have added new fine motor stations that are linked to the social studies curriculum and holiday themed. In science they will be learning about pushes and pulls after break. They are also piloting an updated version of Benchmark and the kids are enjoying writing how to's and informative pieces. Overall, it's been a great year.

Treasurer's Report - Carol Avila

- **Current Financials** Shared current financials. The things highlighted in yellow are new. The spring fundraiser has a negative balance because the committee is making deposits for the upcoming event. The directories have been delivered. Some classrooms submitted for the reimbursement for the Halloween parties. The fine arts field trip was paid for but the bus deduction will still need to be submitted. The net balance is roughly $54,000.
- **Vote on Playground Funding** The kids voted at lunch on 3 items and they really liked being a part of it. They chose between different climbers and the colors. The playground will be ready in the fall. We need 10k for extra funding which was voted on and approved.

Secretary's Report - Maggie Kurcz

- **Membership Update -** We are 219 Members strong! Nine more Members than last year's record!
- **Newsletter information/process -** If you have something PTA-related to include in the Newsletter, please email info@whittierschoolpta.org or submit on our website HERE.

Co-Vice President's Report - Catherine Hazen & Jenny Maslowski

- **Teacher Holiday Gifts** The room parents are working on putting together the holiday gifts for the teachers and will be given to them in the coming weeks.

Co-Presidents Report - Christine Paulik & Britta Waszak

- **Bylaws Vote** Reviewed new bylaws and there were minimal changes which included a $1 increase from the state for membership fees. Motion passed.
- **Open Exec Positions:** Co-Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary
- **Open Committees:** Volunteers needed for student/family events to continue in 24-25: Fun Fair, Variety Show. Reading Games Whittier Coordinator.
- **District Superintendent Community Advisory Council** - Bethany Marek
  2023-2028 Strategic plan is being worked on and are looking for feedback. There is a Glenbard parent series that is open to all families. They are also working on aligning the District 99 calendar to District 58 calendar. The demographer report is coming out soon.

Principal's Report - Mr. Krugman

The intermediate playground is in the works and everyone is looking forward to it. The Nutcracker field trip went very well and all the grades enjoyed it. Thanks to the community who helped with the mittens donations. Friday, Herick Middle School had a holiday concert. Next Friday, there is the whole school movie at the Tivoli. School resumes January 8. The Fun Fair is going to be February 3 from 1-3pm at Whittier. All are welcome and we are needing a new chair for next year.

Committee Reports

- **Fall Fundraiser** (Britta Waszak/Tera O'Malley) The Fall Fundraiser was a great event with 275 participants. Thank you to the sponsors and there was a lot of positive feedback.
- **Fun Fair** (Lindsay Monco): 1-3pm on 2/3 at Whittier w/the help of parent and HS volunteers. All Whittier families invited
- **Fun Lunch** (Stacy Klepper/Lori Achilles): Jan-June order window will open beg. of January. Transitioning to Jenny Schoonover & Meghan Landers in Feb.
- **Intermediate Playground** (Kristin Waszak/Christine Paulik/Shannon David)**:** Lunch presentation & student vote 12/6
- **Math & Science** (Shamra Fallon): Successful Math & Science Night @Whittier 11/29! Possible event in April
- **Passive Fundraising** & **Playground Equipment** (Kari Fredrich): RaiseRight 12/18 deadline, Five Below week of 12/11, new playground balls
- **Reflections** (Christine Paulik/Kelly Parrish): Congrats to all participants! Whittier had many Council & now Regional level entries that advanced. Participant Pizza Lunch 12/19!
- **Reading Games**: Team Form due by 12/18; Book Lists sent - reach out w/questions.
- **Spring Fundraiser** (Jenn McDonald/Mary Namestnik): Planning underway! Reach out with any raffle/silent auction donations or ideas!
- **Staff Appreciation** (Di Ander/Ashley Papanikolas): 12/20 Staff Holiday Luncheon, Staff Appreciation Week prepping underway
- **Variety Show** (Melissa Rausch): 1/27 show at Tivoli Theatre! Committee Chair role open for next year.
- **Walking Club** (Sarah Bogacyzk/Kristen Waszak): Thank you to volunteers; season wrapped up! Save unused tickets for the Spring. Store is restocking & seeking more environmentally-friendly options. There will be a Spring Sign-Up Genius for volunteers.
- **Welcome & Support** (Kirsten Clancy/Holly Small/Colleen Dziedzec): Leap Family Mittens-Thanks to all that donated and help support the families. There are 16 mittens that are still missing. Please turn items in as soon as possible. This committee will be handed over to Shannon David.
- **Whittier Wear** (Ashely Papanikolas): Should be coming home with your student or in office for those who requested office pick up.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business -

Announcements

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, Feb 13th at 7:00pm**
- Notice: Date change for April Meeting (April 9th at 7pm) due to a district orchestra conflict

Time Adjourned: **8:46pm**