★ WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA: GENERAL MEETING ★

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, Feb 17, 2026**

Roll Call/Attendance: PTA Board, Mr. Krugman, Miss Karius, Mrs. Modine, Mrs. Hodkowski, Mrs. Lyons and 6 PTA members.

Meeting Call to Order: 7:01pm

The Whittier PTA's mission 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.

Exec Board Introductions

Call for New Business No new business.

Approval of the December Minutes:

Jenn: The minutes from our December 16, 2025 meeting are available for review on our website. Are there any corrections to the minutes as distributed? **None.**

- Seeing as there are none, I move to approve the December 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes.
- Do we have a second? **Seconded.**
- It has been moved and seconded to approve the December 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes, there are no corrections and **the minutes are approved as distributed**.

Guest Speakers: Grade 3 (Miss Karius and Mrs. Modine) and Grade 5 (Mrs. Hodkowski and Mrs. Lyons)

- Mrs. Lyons thanked the PTA for approving the Teachers Wish Lists and her new rug. She discussed 5th grades' Social Studies and Reading curriculum, and giving back with Feed My Starving Children. Mrs. Hodkowski discussed their Science and Writing curriculum.
- Mrs. Modine also thanked the PTA. She discussed 3rd grades' Social Studies, Economics (different ways to manage money / needs vs. wants), ELA (different characters' point of view / each character has their own perspective) and 3D comic strip poster curriculum. Miss Karium discussed their Math (fractions/ measuring/ estimating) and Science (forces and motion/ magnetic forces) curriculum.

Treasurer's Report - Michelle Ricca

- **Current Financials** - Looking at our projected spending, we anticipate to have a net available cash balance of $47K (not including Spring Fundraiser). Reminder: $44K is the minimum amount of reserves we want to have (approximately 1 year's budget) to follow best practices, so we are on track.
- **Send Budget Changes:** The Board will be meeting in March to draft next year's budget - any committee(s) that needs to adjust their budget, please contact Michelle at treasurer@whittierschoolpta.org by February 27th.
- **Voting on $4,500 invoice from District 58 for playground pavers** -
    - **Michelle**: At the December 16th meeting it was moved and seconded to earmark $4,500 of PTA funds towards the playground pavers. The motion sat for over 30 days, so we will now vote on the motion.
    - **Jenn**: Are there any questions or discussion? **None.**
    - **Jenn**: Seeing as there are no questions or discussion, we will vote on the $4,500 playground paver invoice by voice vote. If you are in favor say "Aye." Those opposed, say "No." **Motion passes**.

- **Replacing the playground back stop** -
    - **Michelle**: We have been in discussions regarding School Improvement Projects at Whittier. We received a quote to replace the playground back stop, which came in at approximately $2,700. We have $675 available in the School Improvement Projects budget. With some fundraising efforts, we can accomplish this project this Spring. As a result, the School Improvement Projects budget needs to be increased by $2,200 to replace the Playground back stop.
    - **Jenn**: Are there any questions or discussion? **None.**
    - **Michelle:** I move to increase the School Improvement Projects' budget by $2,200 to replace the Playground back stop and use these PTA funds to pay the invoice when it comes.
    - **Jenn**: Do we have a second? **Seconded.**
    - **Jenn**: It has been moved and seconded to increase the School Improvement Projects budget by $2,200 to replace the Playground back stop and use these PTA funds to pay the invoice when it comes. As this amount is over $500, the motion will sit for 30-days and be voted on at our April meeting.

Secretary's Report - Caitlyn Bouton

- **Membership Update**
- **Newsletter information/process**
  The Whittier PTA membership total is 205. Information for the newsletter and website can be emailed to info@whittierschoolpta.org.

Co-Vice President's Report - Liz Stimes & Mary Shea

Co-Presidents Report - Kristin Wasak & Jenn McDonald

- Open Committees (Dine out Night, Reflections, Fall Fundraiser) were discussed.
- The PTA received many thank you notes from teachers for the appreciation during the holidays.
- Reimbursement request should be placed in the PTA bin in the school's office.
- Staff Celebration- Save the date for May 15. More information to come.

Principal's Report - Mr. Krugman

- Thank you for the catering from Pierce Tavern for Parent/Teacher conference night
- No School - Friday, February 27 - Teacher Institute Day
- Student Registration for 2026-27 school year is now open - please register as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, March 13
- Kindergarten Round-Up: Thursday, March 19, 6:00-7:00pm - please help spread the word
- School Improvement Project - Backstop for Central Playground - $2,750.00
    - Need motion to approve $2,200.00 to add to School Improvement Project account (See above)
- Next Whittier Principal Announced - Mr. Bryan Bolton

Committee Reports -

- **(Spring) Experiences-** go live on Thursday @ Noon. Thank you to the hosts. We have the potential to raise $19,000.
- **Fun Fair-** is scheduled for Monday, March 23 after school starting at 2:15pm. The Head Spin Guy is coming!
- **Scholarship-** We've received our first application! Applications are due by March 1. After March 1, the Whittier Faculty Review Committee will use the rubric developed by the scholarship committee to score the applicants. Links to the application and additional information are found in the Whittier Weekly.
- **Family Fun Event-** Ice Skating at Rocket Ice Arena on March 1 starting at 3:20pm- 4:50. $4 for a pair of skates.

- **Spring Fundraiser-** is scheduled for Friday, April 17 at Downers Sand Club. There will be a silent auction, raffle, and DJ. Super low key. Volleyball rally scoring to 25. Bring your quarters.
- **Staff Appreciation-** luncheon last week. We catered food from Pierce Tavern.
- **Variety Show-** 1 month away.
- **Walking Club-** back after spring break. We are looking for trinkets.
- **Whittier Wear-** the store will open again in the spring. Order your field day t-shirts.
- **Author Fest-** date is set. We are working on lunch orders for the authors. If you want to help, reach out to Aubrey Southall.

Unfinished Business- None.

New Business- None.

Announcements

- Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 14th at 7:00pm** (Next year's board will be nominated)

Time Adjourned: 7:45pm