

PTA General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 13, 2018

Kelly Warner called the meeting to order at 6:31pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kelly introduced the new Board Members as: Kelly Warner (President), Suzanne Tuburdyke (Vice President), Colleen Hagler (Vice President), Jessalyn Reboy (Treasurer), Beth Steinwandel (Recording Secretary) and Liz Gates (Corresponding Secretary).

School News - Mrs. Frawley acknowledged there have been some issues with buses being late. The Bus Garage is well aware of the problems and they are working on it. She appreciates everyone's patience while they try to resolve this. The staff was very appreciative of the Teacher Welcome Back luncheon that was provided by the PTA on the first day of school. The school received great feedback on our school supply kits that were available again this year.

Mrs. Frawley went over staff/classroom changes in the school:

- Mrs. Herr is now teaching 3rd Grade.
- We now have a 3rd Grade classroom upstairs this year.
- Mrs. Skuse is a new 2nd Grade teacher that came to us from Allendale.
- We have a new 8:1:1 class for Kindergarten being taught by Mrs. Nicosia who came from Winchester Elementary.
- Mrs. Battaglia is a Special Education teacher that came to us from Allendale to replace Mrs. Townsend.
- Mrs. Bell is our new Gym teacher from West Sr. She replaces Ms. Bonetto who left us to go teach at West Sr.
- Mrs. Safford is our new music teacher that came from Clinton Elem. She replaces Mrs. VanNortwick.
- We have a new Orchestra teacher, Ms. Rice. She is the new Orchestra teacher for the whole district for the elementary level.
- Mrs. Robinson is a new Music teacher at West Middle. She will be here for 4th and 5th Grade lessons and Band.
- We have 2 new preferred substitute teachers – Mrs. Zgaljardic & Ms. Powers.
- We have temporarily lost our teacher assistant Mrs. Evans to a long-term position at Allendale therefore we have a substitute covering her position – Mrs. Harbridge who is a 20+ year veteran from QOH.
- Mr. Arnold is our substitute Librarian while Mrs. Warren is out on maternity leave.
- Nubia Cawthard is our new School Psychologist coming from Tapestry Charter School. She replaces Ms. Wastchak who is now at Clinton Elementary. She is also a parent at our school as well.
- Mrs. Faltyn is our new Speech Therapist who comes from East Sr. She replaces Mrs. Sipior who retired in June.

Mrs. Frawley commended the custodial staff for the tremendous job they did over the summer. Buildings & Grounds repaired some masonry work on our staircases and did lots of miscellaneous jobs around the building. The only thing they didn't get to was hanging our new PTA sign. It is on the list to get done next. Mrs. Frawley discussed the school's Capital Improvement Project. There is a Scope Board in the entrance explaining the plan. Most of the updates are maintenance related (new roof, repaving parking lot, replacing damaged sidewalks,

etc..) The biggest change is going to be creating a corridor to the pool space. We will no longer have a pool at West El. The pool room will be getting repurposed to something else. Since the only access to the room is through the locker rooms, they will need to create a corridor to access the space.

Minutes from May 2018 – Colleen Hagler made a motion to accept the May 2018 minutes as submitted. Liz Gates seconded the motion. All were in favor; minutes were accepted as submitted.

Corresponding Secretary Report – Liz Gates reported that the Welcome Back Lunch for the staff on the first day went well and was very much appreciated. We received a thank you card from BOCES. We sent a welcome gift from the PTA to all the new teachers. Colleen Hagler took care of sending things over the summer to Mrs. Corbett and Mrs. Warren.

Membership – Jessalyn Reboj reported that we have 41 current members online and 3 staff members (not including the paper forms that were turned in). Mrs. Frawley said that the membership flyer went out in the mail over the summer.

Event Recap

Staples School Supply Kits – Jessalyn Reboj reported that we sold 217 kits which is a 31% increase from last year. We sold 16 of the extra supplies which was an increase of 77%. We sold over \$10,600 worth of kits and supplies which was a 52% increase over last year. We are getting back from School Kidz \$974.72 right now which does not include an extra bonus we will be receiving from having over a 15% increase in sales.

Kindergarten Orientation – Kelly Warner and Mrs. Frawley said Orientation went well. The kids met their teachers, saw their classrooms, toured all of their specials and took a bus ride.

Treasury Report – Kelly Warner reported that the taxes were done and filed. The Audit is done. Everything looked great and she passes everything on to Jessalyn Reboj.

Upcoming Events

Welcome Back BBQ – Mike Bertini said everything is going well so far. We don't have a lot of pre-orders yet. Punkin the Clown and DJ Tom will be there. Mike asked Mrs. Frawley for hula hoops from the PE teachers. Heather Bertini said we will have some costumes and face painting and will be popping and selling popcorn this year. Beth Steinwandel said she will follow up with Lifetouch to inquire about a photobooth for the event. The PTA will send a reminder about the pre-orders. There will be a sign-up genius for volunteers and Mrs. Frawley said she will look into recruiting teachers to help out again.

Wildcat Merchandise – Kelly Warner reported sales are all online and are selling slowly. The deadline is 9/21. Mike Bertini suggested having a table at the BBQ with a laptop for students and parents to see the merchandise we have available.

School Pictures – Beth Steinwandel reported that we are going through a new company this year called Lifetouch. One of the biggest draws for families is that they are used at the Middle School as well and have a District Wide Family Plan (order a package for your first two children and get a package of equal or lesser value for any other children). We still have not received the flyers from Lifetouch. They should be in by Friday to go out. Beth will call to get a code for online ordering. Picture days are Thursday K-2 and Friday 3-5. We are all set for volunteers.

Dollar Day – Kelly Warner reported that this month’s Dollar Day will be September 28th and the theme is Wildcat Pride (Blue & White). The money raised this month will go to the PTA.

**Curriculum “Open House” Nights –
September 26th (Grades 1-3) - September 27th (Grades 4 &5)**

New Business

Co-Chairs and Volunteers Needed – The PTA is looking for volunteers and event chairs for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. We have quite a few Board Members and Event Chairs that will be leaving next year and the year after. If you are interested in working with or “shadowing” a current chair or chairing an event yourself, please contact the PTA board at wscwestelpta@gmail.com.

The following PTA members signed up to chair or co-chair the following events: Elizabeth Goodman – Science Night, Movie Night, Scholarship Committee and Tree of Warmth; Beth Steinwandel – Merry Moose Holiday Shop; Mike & Heather Bertini and Brittany Valvo – Holiday Event; Heather Bertini and Jenna Ferraro – Kindergarten 100th Day; Square 1 Art – Sharon Kasperek. Kelly will be chairing the Veteran’s Day Lunch but is looking for someone to take over. Colleen Hagler mentioned Carrie Brown may be interested.

Jessalyn Reboj is still looking for volunteers for Popcorn & Paws. Kelly Gabamonte volunteered to join.

Concerns/Suggestions

- Sarah Ruth shared information from the American Red Cross about the Pillowcase Project. The Pillowcase Project is a preparedness education program for elementary school students. Sarah shared the contact information for the Executive Director at the Red Cross if we are interested in having them come to our school.
- Elizabeth Goodman asked if next year we could move the Meet the Teacher Night to before school begins since parents were not able to walk their child to their class on the first day. Mrs. Frawley explained that arrival and dismissal times are when the school is most vulnerable, therefore we need to have tight security measures even on the first day. She also pointed out that teachers are not contractually required to be at school prior to the first day. Mrs. Frawley suggested if there were any concerns to make an appt with her to do a tour of the child’s classroom. She said she can also suggest and encourage teachers to mail a welcome letter and/or introduce themselves to the incoming grade at the end of the year.
- Heather Bertini requested that the information for the Embracing Uncertainty Art Exhibit at UB be shared on the PTA Facebook page.

Colleen Hagler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm. Mike Bertini seconded the motion. All were in favor; meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Library Media
Center**