

Westfield PTO meeting minutes

Attendees: Sylvia Shannon, Amy Fell, Kari Titus, Tara Dirks, Dawn Wonick, Sarika Bhakta, Kim Bauer, Rebecca Eli, Pamela Groth, Sandra Rogers, Ed Rogers, Kristie Mattson, Colleen Bakker, Erica Arganbrylt, Angie Kinkeade, Bhumika Nanak, Amy Robertson, Eric Cjerde, Tabitha Lightfoot, Helen Royer

Meeting called to order by Colleen Bakker

Minutes form May 2017 were approved

School Board Member Jim Green came to discuss and answer questions regarding the upcoming bond vote. Here are some highlights from what was discussed.

- This upcoming vote will include the election of three new board members
- The details of what will be covered if the bond vote passes. (See the Linn-Mar website for details or graphics in the lobby at school)
- Linn-Mar is a growing district. Current enrollment is 7,400 students. Expected growth is 8,000 by 2020. Currently every class size k-12 is over 500 students.
- The bond vote needs 60% yes to pass. Everyone please come out and vote YES!!!!

Some Questions that were asked by meeting attendees:

Q-What's the contingency plan if the bond vote does not pass?

A-Squeezing kids into classrooms and portable classrooms. The earliest the district could come back with a new plan is 6 months. With the current plan the hope is to open the new 5/6 buildings Fall 2019.

Q-Is there a phase 2 of expanding the high school?

A- Pressure is on the expanding elementary right now. The LRC building is being used to relieve some pressure on the high school overflow and Admin offices could be moved out in the future to make more room.

Q- Regarding the board member vote, who's who?

A- Look on the Facebook page to see the 6 candidates running. There is also a video from the Marion chamber of commerce on you tube and a link on the gazette.

Q-What is the structure going to be of the 5/6 building? More like an elementary school or middle school?

A-That is to be determined but most likely more like elementary

Q-will there be play equipment?

A-Yes

Q-Are there plans for before and after school at the 5/6 building?

A- Unknown

Q-What will the new bus routes be?

A- The LRC is working on that

Q-What are the times and location of the polls?

A-There are 3 places to vote

1. Noel ridge Christian Church
2. Marion Christian Church
3. Knights of Columbus

*vote early at the auditors office

Q-Do you have to be a citizen to vote?

A-You have to be eligible to register to vote.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Thank you to all of the volunteers that help make the first week of school go smoothly! We have had a great start to the year with 114 new students and 2 new busses. This has been an exciting year with the addition of new teachers from Echo Hill, a new first grade teacher and new support staff. It has brought us out of our comfort zone but has been one of the best starts of school in many years as an administrator.

Some questions asked to Mr. Rogers were:

Q-How is the new lunch rotation going?
A-So far running very smooth

Q-Are we planning on opening the gate on the parking lot to the neighborhood behind Westfield?
A-No only for emergencies or if child pickup gets too crowded in the future. Also reflectors will be added to the gate.

TREASURER REPORT

Our starting bank balance after audit was \$12,084.99
Our total budget is \$25,367.50

Sources: Write one for Westfield-\$18111,50
Box Tops: \$1,000
Hy-Vee: \$1,000
Extra Fund: \$3756
Culver's: \$800
Yearbook: \$500 (actual was closer to \$200)
Kernels: \$200 (Actual was \$0)

Last year we budgeted for an additional 100 students added at Westfield. The actual number was 114 so we will be over budget for field trips and roller-skating.

We have earned \$12,200 so far with our Write one For Westfield campaign!! Great job so far to the 122 families who have donated!!!! We have 350 families in attendance at Westfield no hope to raise another \$6000 (or more) before our back to school bash on Friday 9/15!!!

The PTO received a dedicated donation for the special needs room. A letter was read from Denise Spencer explaining how the funds would be used. So far \$150 was spent to create the Roar Store and the remaining funds would be used to re-stock the store. The group approved this dedicated donation.

STAFF/TEACHER REQUEST

An additional \$629 was requested to pay the increased cost of Raz Kids and was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Class Packs

- we will be switching vendors next year. The new vendor is less expensive and will provide extra class pack to those who may be in need.
- We fell short on the 200 tickets needed to get the \$200 form the Kernels night. Weather was not in our favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Back to school bash

- Volunteers are still Needed!!!! Games will be cut if we cannot fill the spots! Kohl's volunteers are a possibility but not guaranteed. They are 45-minute time slots that need to be filled. If there are older siblings in your family that need volunteer hours send them our way!
- The dunk tank will be on the playground. Mr. Rogers will be in there as well as some previous

Westfield students and we will ask Dr. Shepherd to volunteer again as well.

Other Upcoming events

- Stride for Pride
- Homecoming parade
- Blood drive

Assembly options for this year were discussed. Old Creamery Theater and comedian Chris Mcbrian are options for this year. Depending on the budget we will vote next meeting.

Meeting adjourned