Westfield PTO Meeting Minutes

March 10th, 2015

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER Stephanie Humphries**

In Attendance: Ed Rogers, Stephanie Humphries, Michelle Langston, Dawn Wonick, Kari Whitlow, Sara Mishler, Nicole Glau, Melissa Tillotson, Sarah Young, Deb Wegmann, Jennifer Dechant

Meeting called to order and February meeting minutes approved.

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT Ed Rogers**

Thank you for arranging the meal during conference time. It is very appreciated!

Report cards have been sent home and teachers are working on finishing up conferences. Due to the snow day, teachers had to reschedule some times.

The students enjoyed the dress up day that was Friday, February 27th.

5th graders will go to the aquatic center on Friday, March 13th for swimming. Towards the end of the year, the 4th graders will go for 5 days.

In regards to the Spyin’ Lion, the kindergarten and first grade teachers keep track of the students who receive an award to ensure that all students get one. It is no longer posted in the newsletter because it became a competition to some of the students. That is not the purpose of the program, so that change was made.

Kids Inc contract is on the Linn Mar website. They are currently allowed to use the gym and multi-purpose room. These spaces are used as space requirements for DHS. There is no problem with them using the gym for a fee if it is not used by the school. Students will still be able to attend Kids Inc, they can accomodate up to 65 kids. Westfield has a good relationship with Kids Inc, they work together if there is a need to use the gym or multi-purpose room for any reason. There is no power to change things at the Westfield level. Any changes need to be made through the district as they are enforcing the contracts. If you have any questions or concerns, you are asked to talk to Angie Morrison at the district level.

For the 2015/2016 school year, the new contract states Kids Inc and the other daycare providers at all 7 elementary schools will no longer have GUARANTEED access to the gym on a daily basis, even if they pay a monthly fee, as the district has the right to take it away with 7 days notice. Because of this new clause, the gym cannot be used toward the space requirements for kids. Therefore Kids Inc anticipates needing to cut approximately 30 current families from the program next year, not counting any new families. More info to come…

**FINANCIAL REPORT Dawn Wonick**

There was a change to the Target payout, so we got a check from Target for $1,600. We will now get the check in February instead of August. If you have a Target RedCard, you are encouraged to designate Westfield as your school to help raise money for the school. For more information on how to do that, please go to the PTO website.

The goal for the sign installation is March 23rd. There is projected to be a surplus from this year and there have been many discussions on how to use the funds. We are allowed to carry over some funds to the next school year.

For the Period February 10th through March 9th :

Beginning Balance: $20,701.20

Income:

Target Red Card (Feb) $1,690.19

Read A Thon Income $376.00

Stride for Pride Income $55.00

Yearbook $39.00

Total Income $2,160.19

Target Red Card Income – changing from paying out in August to Feb. We already received one check. We won’t get another check until Feb 2016

Read A Thon 2015 donations

Stride for Pride 2014 matching funds

Yearbook sales – people who chose not to do online payment

Expenses:

Rollerskating $2,574.00

Classroom Funds $135.42

Field Trip $396.00

Sock Hop $150.00

School Funding Request $851.00

Staff Appreciation $345.02

Child care & new games $84.93

Window decorations $89.68

Learning Night $19.35

Total Expenses $4,645.40

Classroom funds – various items for staff

Rollerskating PE unit

Field Trip – 2nd grade trip to Iowa Children’s Museum

Sock Hop – DJ performance

Learning Night – miscellaneous

School Funding Request – PTO Front sign – reimbursed Westfield. Approved at Feb mtg

Staff Appreciation – meal provided during conferences

Child Care – paid for Kids Inc staff for Nov & Feb mtgs, bought additional games

Window decorations – purchased new dolls to be used

**MIMIOTEACH BAR DEMONSTRATION Deb Wegmann**

 There are currently 11 MimioTeach bars at Westfield. They are more interactive for the students. They use a special pen and your computer is on your board. It was very informative to see the demonstration. These are easier to use and teachers can train how to use this new technology. They are able to share lessons through the entire district or make it grade specific.

 Mrs. Wegmann would also like to have Kona Ice come at the end of the school year as a reward for the goal met for the amount of words read for Reading Counts.

**STAFF FUNDING REQUESTS Stephanie Humphries**

Due to the lack of participants at the meeting, the vote for new playground equipment has been moved to the April Meeting. With the surplus of funds, we would like to see how many requests we can satisfy with the remaining funds. Due to the amount of money it would take to replace the playground equipment, there would need to be a separate campaign to raise the money. The current playground equipment is 15 years old and is at a toddler rating. Most parks have the rating of 5-12 years for their playground equipment. Any removal of equipment and putting in new would be done as volunteers to keep the cost down. We potentially have $6,800 to spend. There will be a vote at the April meeting on one new piece of playground equipment.

 There was a motion passed to purchase 4 MimioTeach bars for the kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms that need them. Mr. Rogers said it would cost about $3,200 for the bars and then a little more for shipping and tax.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Learning Night Stephanie Humphries**

Learning night went well. Most felt that the large group demonstration was a little slow, but the small groups were a big hit.

**Read A Thon Dawn Wonick**

Not all minutes have been totaled yet, but so far, it has been over 150,00 total minutes that the students read.

**Yearbook Michelle Langston**

If you have any pictures of the Friendship parties, please send those in. So far, about 80 yearbooks have been ordered. You are able to order one until April 1st.

**Running Club Melissa Tillotson**

Running Club was filled shortly after the sign up went out! Melissa has been working with Denise to take over next year. Running Club starts on March 31st.

**Sock Hop Sara Mishler, Kari Whitlow**

The DJ has been booked for Sock Hop. Many ideas are being discussed to make this a fun filled night! There will be cotton candy this year instead of candy. They are hoping to find a way to keep the kids away from the DJ area to avoid the mishap that happened last year with sound system equipment getting unplugged.

**Class Packs Stephanie Humphries**

Kim has the information all ready to go for Class Packs. Keep an eye out for details. We will have 2 weeks to order, with the goal to be done on April 10th in order to receive the discount.

**Officer Elections and Committee Chairs Stephanie Humphries**

In April, new officers are elected. These positions are open every year. If you are interested in becoming part of the executive team, please make arrangements to be at the meeting. During this meeting, we will also approve the new budget for the 2015-16 school year.

**Announcements**

Sock Hop April 10th

Next PTO Meeting April 14th

Spring Clean Up April 19th

Art Show April 23rd

Meeting Adjourned by Stephanie Humphries

Respectfully Submitted, Nicole Glau, Westfield Elementary PTO Secretary