

## **Westlake PTA Meeting**

9/21/2017

### **Board Members and Teachers Present:**

Clyde Curley, Principal  
Amy Dahlen, PTA President  
Julie Lattin, PTA Vice President  
Tim Madsen, PTA Treasurer  
Shannon Cuff, PTA Secretary  
Steve Sikes, PTA Parliamentarian  
Michelle Nicely, PTA Arts Co-Chair  
Adrienne Megoran, PTA Arts Co-Chair  
Tina McGlashan, Teacher  
Jen Simington, Teacher

Approximate attendance: 32 people

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

### **Welcome/Introductions**

#### **Review and Approval of last meeting's minutes**

- PTA Secretary Shannon Cuff reviewed the minutes from the last PTA meeting, which was held on 5/25/2017.
- **MOTION:** Motion to approve minutes was brought by Amy Joanides. Second by Jennifer Jaffe. Approved unanimously.

**Childcare will be provided at this year's PTA meetings. Staff member will offer activities in the MUR.**

#### **Report from the Principal-Clyde Curley**

- Teachers are wrapping up beginning of the year assessments in reading, writing, and math.
- Students in grades 1-5 took online reading assessment tests.
- **Walk-to-Read program:** Walk-to-Read has started. Teachers used assessment results to create classes for Walk-to-Read. WTR aims to be instructional and enriching for our students as well as an intervention tool for struggling readers. Classes are created based on reading levels of students. There are additional staff members to support WTR. Your child's WTR teacher may or may not be classroom teacher.
- Kindergarten teachers assessed their students pre-reading skills. Intervention techniques will be used to close the learning gap.
- **PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) and Wildcat Ways:** These are programs used at Westlake to teach positive behavior and create a safe, respectful environment at school.

- Thanks to the passage of a bond measure last year, Westlake will be getting building upgrades. New architects are on board and Mr. Curley has met with them twice so far. We are still very much in the planning stages. A lot to consider: Remove portables? Extend current wings? How will changes affect playground and lunch spaces, flow of traffic? What is the best way to minimize disruption to teachers and current class instruction? Mr. Curley meets with the architects again next month. Projects will take a couple of years to complete.
- School counselor Maggie Wilson and playground coach Amanda are starting their 4th/5th grade recess programs for the year. Maggie will train students to be Kindness Ambassadors. Coach Amanda will train students to be playground helpers.
- Eureka Math and Writers' Workshop are being used again this year at Westlake. Some teachers are piloting Benchmark, which is an English/Language Arts program.
- Teachers are continuing the practice of mainstreaming special needs students. This will be done on an individual basis this year.

#### **Report from the Treasurer-Tim Madsen**

- Proposal of 2017-18 budget based on last year's budget
- Arts has its own section in the budget based on Westlake's history of supporting the arts
- The PTA handles some funds for other groups (4th grade Gold Country trip, Teachers' Sunshine Fund, CA State PTA dues). This is not PTA money.
- Site Support: This is funding provided by PTA to the district to pay for learning assistants, playground coach, substitute teachers, extra life lab hours, etc. This money is paid during current school year for positions for the following school year.
- At the final PTA meeting of the 2016-17 school year, the PTA exec board was unable to fund professional development substitute teachers and a second playground coach due to lack of funds. The 2017-18 board was able to change this decision due to more money coming in over the summer. Those positions are now funded.
- **MOTION:** Motion to approve 2017-18 PTA budget was brought by Jennifer Jaffe. Second by Amanda Jarosz. Approved unanimously.
- 2017-18 PTA beginning balance: \$39,000
- Popcorn sales so far this year: \$873, Spirit Store: \$415
- **Direct Appeal update:** Off to good start at \$21,264, does not include 4 pending credit card donations and pending corporate donations; another Direct Appeal push coming week of 9/25

#### **Arts Committee Update-Michelle Nicely**

- Dorothy Franks, Arts Coordinator at Westlake, reached out to Ebu about teaching drumming to upper grade students. He is not available for classes, but may be available for an assembly. Arts Committee also looking into inviting other local musicians for assemblies.
- 5th grade art project: may do sculpture instead of mural this year, possibly to be placed in or near Life Lab garden
- Next Arts Committee meeting is Oct. 14.

- Amling Designs has created Westlake pendant with a paw print. Can be sold with leather band or silver chain or pendant only. \$32-\$42. Portion of sales donated to Westlake PTA.
- Arts Committee still looking for Art Parent Coordinator to work with teachers and class art parents to oversee completion of class auction pieces.

### **Auction Update-Amba DesJardins**

- Amba is Auction Chair this year.
- She has volunteer list and the team is already looking at venues, planning event.
- Goals: increase revenue by 1/3, increase participation and retention
- Amba asked PTA treasurer Tim Madsen to provide numbers from past seven years. Unfortunately, net revenue from the auction has steadily decreased over the years. In 2010, the auction made \$51,000. In 2017, \$27,000.
- This year, auction will be held on a Saturday starting at 5pm.
- Auction committee is planning a big theme, bigger donated items, sit down dinner, live band/dancing.
- Ticket prices will likely increase.
- Would like to involve classroom parents to help with communication to parent population
- Auction committee is looking for graphic designers and tech support.
- Looking at dates in April: 14th, 21st, 28th
- Suggestion was given by Deana Rabiah to look at Santa Cruz community calendar as well as school calendar for possible scheduling conflicts.

### **Life Lab Update-Jane Forbes**

- Jane passed around a photo book she made about Life Lab.
- Kids are learning about life cycles and photosynthesis and of course, eating from the garden!
- Jane plans her lessons to tie in with what kids are learning in their classrooms.
- Jane is looking for volunteers to help with October work day and spring plant sale. Parents are also encouraged to come to help during child's class time.
- Jane will post a wish list for supplies on the Life Lab bulletin board by the school office.
- Environmental Club for 4th/5th graders will start next Tuesday during recess.

### **Back to School BBQ**

- PTA President Amy Dahlen gave updates on the upcoming BBQ, 9/28
- BBQ committee is still looking for middle and high school students to run games at the event.
- Also looking for more volunteers to advertise event by holding giant Costco bear during school drop-off and pick-up next week.
- Check sign-up genius for other volunteer needs.
- Greg Larson, BBQ Chair, will post Bake Sale requests this weekend.

### **Enrichment Programs-Angela Dobkin**

- Angela would like someone to co-chair with her this year.
- Chess Club for 2nd-5th graders will be starting in October. Takes place during recess one day a week.
- Math Club will be offered in spring.
- Guitar will not be offered this year.
- Liz Fowler will be offering a variety of after school sports: K sports, 1st grade sports, volleyball, basketball.
- Lego programs will likely be offered again this year.
- Mr. Curley spoke about the new process for enrichment programs this year. In the past, these programs have been offered without an official procedure via the school district. We are now required to follow district procedure. Providers can become district employees and receive support from Westlake admin or can apply for facilities use permit (no Westlake admin support with this option.)
- Currently, our interested providers are district employees.
- Westlake PTA must pay upfront for programs offered by district employees. In order to do this, the PTA board has requested from providers itemized budgets detailing classes offered, number of students accepted, cost per student, and budget request to run program. With this information, the PTA can decide whether or not to approve budget and program.
- Mr. Curley provided a budget spreadsheet for Liz Fowler's after school sports and Kristine North's lego engineering/robotics classes.
- Parent donations help offset costs of these programs.
- **MOTION:** PTA Treasurer Tim Madsen proposed a budget of \$11,000 to fund these enrichment programs. Motion was brought by Amanda Jarosz to approve this budget change. Second by Jennifer Jaffe. Approved unanimously.
- Meeting attendee brought up possibility of after school Spanish enrichment program.

#### **Sweatshirts-Amy Joanides**

- Seeking input on design and color changes. Not sure there is enough time to make too many changes for this year's sweatshirts.
- Sweatshirt sales: small fundraiser, but also good for school spirit.
- Amy found last year's sweatshirt sizing inaccurate, hoping to change that this year.
- Order should ideally be in to Catto's in November.
- Amy will bring new design change to Mr. Curley and the PTA board for approval before taking orders.

#### **Bridges to Kinder-Julie Atkinson**

- Bridges to Kinder sponsoring parent education event on October 4. Flyers will go out school-wide to invite parents to positive discipline class.
- Bridges to Kinder is offering after school care to kindergarteners this year.

#### **Drive for Schools-Anna Turner**

- Drive for Schools fundraiser is underway. Ends October 20th.

- Tickets available for purchase through students, Spirit Store, school office, on PTA website.
- All money raised through ticket sales goes to schools. Boardwalk and Capitola Auto Mall sponsor this and do not take any money from schools.
- You could win a new car or cash.

#### **Other Business/Questions and Comments**

- First Dining for Dollars event at Kianti's raised \$305. Next Dining for Dollars at Assembly on October 25.
- Lisa Peevers is organizing first Bike to School day on October 5.
- Michelle Nicely suggested new fundraising idea. Westlake community members hosting dinners in homes. Already some interest in this.
- eScrip: Amy Dahlen has a volunteer looking into best way to make this work for Westlake. Amazon Smile perhaps? Jennifer Jaffe volunteered to draft letter explaining how Amazon Smile works.
- Grant ideas/information should be sent to Deana Rabiah.
- Technology on campus: Westlake currently has Chromebooks in all 2nd grade classrooms and carts of Chromebooks which rotate among classrooms in the upper grades. Not a lot of money in the district for technology upgrades and purchases. 90% of district money goes toward salary and benefits. Not much money left for supplies and tech. Westlake PTA focuses heavily on the arts due to importance to parents. Is community ready for shift toward technology instead? Westlake PTA would have to raise a lot more to fund major tech upgrades.
- Box Tops: There was some confusion over the sheet that went home in homework folders. Too many Box Tops to attach by due date on sheet. Parent thinks it was unclear that Box Tops could be collected in any number all year long.
- School supplies: This year, instead of asking parents and PTA to supply classrooms with school supply kits, the district gave each teacher set amount to spend on supplies. This means money for general needs is less than in previous years. Need teacher feedback to see if this works better or worse than requesting parent and PTA help with supplies.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:22