

Westlake Elementary School

General PTA Meeting

November 29, 2018

Called to order- 6:42 pm

Adjourned- 8:10 pm

Presiding Officer- Amy Dahlen, President

Recording Officer- Janet Ike, Secretary

Board Members and Teachers in Attendance

Clyde Curley- Principal, Amy Dahlen- PTA President, Jackie Olin- Vice President, Almut Wolf- Treasurer, Janet Ike- Secretary, Tim Madsen- Parliamentarian, Joan Bogart and- Arts Committee Co-Chair, Teachers: Tina McGlashan

Attendance: 13 people

Welcome/Introductions

Review and Approval of last meeting's minutes- Janet Ike

- Janet Ike, Secretary, reviewed the minutes of the last PTA meeting held on October 18, 2018.
- Motion: Motion to approve the minutes was brought by Amy Joanides. Second by Almut Wolf. Approved unanimously.

Report from the Principal- Clyde Curley

- The purchase of Westlake's new electronic marquee is coming up for approval at the next Board Meeting. The construction of the marquee should take a few weeks and then installation can occur. From start to finish we can expect it to be up and running hopefully by Spring break.
- The students reviewed empathy to be a good learner and friend at the Second Step assembly.
 - The fourth and fifth graders reflected that they learned to calm down and control their emotions to help keep their friends from Second Step.
- Westlake will be hosting a site visit of administrators and district personnel 11/30. They will visit 15 classrooms and will be looking at accountable talk, safe spaces and Second Step.

- The school had a successful assembly with Tandy Biel on Tuesday. Meghan Waznack performed.
- The staff had its annual Code Red training, teachers received new information and practiced “shelter in place” to practice a lock down.
- New walk to read groups following the recent assessments have started this week.
- Dashboard is a school rating system that rates schools based on State assessments and attendance. Westlake aims to improve the % of students who are chronically absent. Chronically absent is defined as being absent 10% of the year. We are currently at 11% which is above the State and District average (13%). Research shows that chronically absent kids don’t do as well in school.
- Mr. Curley has been meeting with parent Brianna Donaldson about how to build a culture of math at school. One idea is to incorporate Math Mondays where the students will be invited to play math games in the library so that they enjoy math in ways that are different from that of the classroom.
- Mr. Curley is attending a Bond Meeting on Monday where he hopes to finalize the placement of the new wing and decide on whether to make it a single or two story building.

Report from Treasurer- Almut Wolf

- Direct Appeal is at \$17,625, which is quite low for this time of year. The thermometer has been put out
- Amy Joanides pointed out a mistake in “sweatshirts”, Almut will verify and correct.
- We need to keep an eye on donations coming in, there seems to be a downward trend. Amy is looking at other options, such as appealing to neighbors- sending out canvassing teams and dropping donation requests on doorsteps.

Arts Committee Update- Joan Bogart

- Artisans Gallery Fundraiser last night was quite successful. It had about 25-30 people in attendance. 4 items were raffled. The raffle sales made \$500 and another \$500 came from sale profits.
- Winter Artisans Fair will be on Dec. 8, from 11:00- 4:00 pm. We need volunteers to sign up, especially to bring in baked goods and work at the bake sale table. There are two food vendors, Mattias Pizzas and Vivas Mexican food. A suggestion was made to showcase the various vendors on Facebook.
- Reflections Art Contest- 3 students will be moving on to compete at the District level

Life Lab Update- Amy Dahlen

- All classes have planted for their salads and stir fries and everything is coming up so nicely. 5th graders are finishing a unit on photosynthesis, 4th grade decomposition, 3rd seeds, 2nd life cycles, 1st grade is learning how some stems can grow roots and Kinders are working in their tree journals.

Spring Auction Update-

- Amba DesJardins has resigned, there are two new Co-chairs- Megan Metz and Kevin Grossman, they will be focusing on sponsorships. They have met with Amba about previous sponsorships.
- We have a great procurement team that is putting together some great packages.
- The theme is still the 70's
- Rebecca Dixon is helping with Bidding for Good
- Scott Peterson is working on "The Day Of" piece
- Looking at restructuring the ticket price to bring the cost down.
- Still don't have an Art Parent Coordinator which is important for the auction

Promotional Requests-

- The PTA gets promotional requests to put out to the community. Currently Camp Kennolyn has offered the PTA \$20 for every pupil that enrolls by January.
- Q: How many is too Many? Response: Look at marketing value. Make it a flat fee (\$250). Must follow Title 9, you can discriminate. Limit it to services that cater to the families, such as camps, not like "Fit for Mom".

PTA News/Program Updates

- The Santa Cruz School District crossing guards were honored by the City Council and the Police Department and given a certificate of appreciation. This included our own, Richard Bartlett. It is wonderful to see all these men and women's hard work in keeping us safe recognized. We are grateful to each of them!
- We will be having our annual holiday get together at Abbot Square this year for PTA volunteers. The whole family is invited to come, looking at having some entertainment too.
- The Holiday parade is this Saturday, meet by 9:30 am by the Saturn Cafe if you want to march with Westlake. The parade is rain or shine.

Open Forum

- Q: Food Program: Why is everything heated up in plastic?

A: Food services is always a hot topic. The food services director is the person to talk to, she sets the menu. The short of it is that our school doesn't generate enough \$ to warrant changes, the program runs our of deficit. Mr. Curley will reach out to the food services director and get some information.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 pm

Janet Ike, secretary