

## **Westlake PTA Meeting**

**January 16, 2014**

### **Board Members and teachers in attendance:**

Clyde Curley, Principal  
Jeanie Darling, PTA President  
Mel Sweet, PTA Treasurer  
Papaya Van Dyke, PTA Secretary  
Terry McInerney, PTA Arts Co-Chair  
Sufi Fox, PTA Arts Co-Chair  
Jane Forbes, Life Lab  
Jane Heyse, Teacher  
Adrienne Cramer, Teacher  
Kristen Lenz, Teacher

Approximate attendance: 25 people

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

President, Jeanie Darling, opened the meeting and called for order.

### **Review of Last Minutes by Papaya Van Dyke**

Secretary, Papaya Van Dyke, reviewed the minutes of the last PTA meeting, which was held on October 17, 2013.

#### **\*\*\* MOTION**

Motion to approve the minutes was brought by Krista Holt  
Motion was seconded by Terry McInerney  
Minutes were approved as presented unanimously

### **Walking School Bus News**

Julia Hill reported on the Walking School Bus program at Westlake. So far there have been 336 walks with 53 participants and they are seeking to increase participation. The program offers prizes like water bottles and pedometers as incentives for children to walk in the Walking School Bus. If parents are interested in starting a new route, they can do a training session and the Walking School Bus can also include smaller groups. The program is funded by the City of Santa Cruz for this year and they would like to encourage participation.

### **School Waste Reduction Presentation**

Mary Simmons from Santa Cruz Public Works talked about some of the programs available for Santa Cruz schools. The city assists with recycling programs as well as assemblies and field trips to the landfill for 5<sup>th</sup>

graders. The city provided recycling bins to Westlake about 10 years ago and she would like to do an inventory to be sure these are still usable. They can also offer new signs for recycling containers.

The District's goal is for all the city schools to go through green certification, which is a two-year process of waste reduction checklists for energy, water pollution and waste. Westlake may go through this process soon. Mary also offered some reusable decorations for events, as well as a bubble machine.

### **Principal's Report**

Mr. Curley reported on several events:

First through fifth graders are all participating in Walk to Read, four days a week for 40 minutes. The teachers will be looking at results of this program at the end of the trimester. This program gives targeted reading time with other students of a similar ability.

Coach Zell of Playworks is receiving new equipment provided by the PTA for PE and recess.

The Science Fair is an exciting event which will be held at Westlake on February 6. Judges are still needed.

Mr. Curley met with Dorothy Franks and Linda Piera about the 5<sup>th</sup> grade culminating project, which will likely be a tile mosaic backsplash on the upper building.

He also met with Global Citizens Community members about the upcoming International Day and was excited about their proposals.

Kindergarten registration for the 2014-15 school year will start on March 3, and tours can be scheduled in the office. The district plans to have a transitional kindergarten for students born between Sept. 1 and Dec. 2.

The school board has approved an Advisory Committee for the Natural Bridges reopening plan, and there is an opening for one parent representative from each elementary school. The Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the school board. The nominating process will go quickly, as nomination forms will be sent home on Friday and ballots will be due by next Friday. The first meeting is on February 3. Applicants who will have the best interest of the community are encouraged.

The Santa Cruz city schools superintendent, Gary Bloom, has announced that he will be retiring in July.

Mr. Curley provided a handout on Common Core standards for language arts, a copy of which is attached. The handout describes the standards that students are expected to master at each level. All grade levels are currently working on these standards. More information on Common Core is available at [commoncorestandards.org](http://commoncorestandards.org).

### **Treasurer' Report by Mel Sweet**

Mel reviewed the budget report and also provided a snapshot of the budget, copies of which are attached. The direct appeal is currently at about \$47,000.

Mel also reviewed the check register, a copy of which is attached. The check register includes checks written from October 17, 2013 to January 15, 2014.

**\*\*\*MOTION**

Motion to approve the budget report and the check register was brought by Krista Holt

Motion was seconded by Sufi Fox

Motion approved unanimously

**Life Lab Review**

Jane Forbes provided an update on events in Life Lab. She passed around a photo book showing students in the garden. She thanked the Environmental Club for their work, including campus cleanups and an upcoming crayon drive. Students are eating broccoli, cauliflower and parsley and are performing experiments in the garden. The garden cart will start up again in February.

**Arts Committee Overview**

Terry McInerney reported on current arts programs. Kindergarten through second grade will begin dance in February. Anne Cleveland may be hired for second grade dance. May 21 is the Day of Dance. The music program with Ms. Flora is wrapping up. An off-campus art show is scheduled for February 7 at Agile Monkey.

**Art Auction Update**

Julie Graff and Carrie Haber gave an update on the Art Auction. Promotional materials are going out and they are getting a positive response. Tickets are on sale now online. The auction will be done this year with mobile bidding, which will allow people to bid even if they are not at the auction.

Last year's auction costs were approximately \$18,000, and this year's estimates look close to \$20,000. There is a need to increase the budget to allow for these additional expenses, some of which will be carried over.

**\*\*\*MOTION**

Motion to increase the Art Auction budget was brought by Deana Tanguay and amended by Tim Madsen. The budget to be increased as follows: \$10,000 for Auction Overhead, \$7,000 for Auction Hospitality, and \$2,000 for Auction Publicity.

Motion was seconded by Krista Holt

Motion approved unanimously

**PTA News and Program Updates**

Jeanie reviewed several current programs, as follows:

- a. Third Grade Request: The 3d grade teachers have requested funding for books relating to the salmon/trout hatchery experiment. They are requesting 40 books at \$8.95 each, to be purchased from Bookshop Santa Cruz.

**\*\*\*MOTION**

Motion to pay for books for 3d grade request in the amount of \$325 was brought by Tim Madsen

Motion was seconded by Sufi Fox

Motion approved unanimously

- b. Valentines Day Dance: The Valentine's Day dance, called "Party Heart-y" will be held on Wednesday, February 12 from 5:30 to 8:30. Mr. Guy will DJ and there will be other entertainment. Food will served at the beginning of the event. Costs for the event are estimated at approximately \$1700.

**\*\*\*MOTION**

Motion to increase budget for Valentine's Day Dance to \$1700 was brought by Krista Holt

Motion was seconded by Terry McInerney

Motion approved unanimously

- c. Goodwill Truck: The Goodwill truck will be coming to Westlake as a fundraiser from March 28-30, on the lower playground. Parents will be needed to help run this.
- d. International Day: Deana Rabiah talked about the upcoming International Day, which will be held on Tuesday April 15, followed by International Night on Wednesday April 16. During the Day, each class will create a poster board with a different country which will be set up in the Multipurpose room. On International Night, there will be food, dancing, and other activities. The next meeting of the Global Citizens Committee is on Thursday at 8:30, and they are looking for parental involvement.
- e. Yearbook: The price has increased slightly, and is available for purchase online. The last day to order online is March 21.
- f. PTA Audit: Jeannie expressed thanks to Tim and Mel, who are currently working on the PTA audit of last year's books.
- g. Cloud Pay: Nicole Levey gave an explanation of the Cloud Pay system, which is a mobile payment system which makes a non-profit donation when people use it to pay. They would like to encourage Westlake families to sign up. People who sign up can choose a non-profit for their donations, which will receive 3% of every purchase. Jeanie said the PTA would talk further with Nicole to see how this program would be supported by the PTA.
- h. Ecology Action Walk and Bike Audit: This will be presented at the February meeting.
- i. Sweatshirts: Jeannie expressed appreciation for all the work that has gone into sweatshirts, which have all been delivered.

- j. PTA Board Elections: Nominations are now open for the 2014-15 year. The PTA would like to encourage parents to participate.
- k. PTA Purchases: The PTA purchased the following in Fall 2013: Ice Machine for nurse's office; helium tank cart; new marquee letters and tracks; coffee maker and 3 large hot and cold thermos dispensers; notebooks and poster boards for Science Fair; 12+ scholarships for Book Fair; playground equipment for the Playworks coach (chalk, hoops, jump ropes, basketballs, playground balls, etc.)

### **PTA Enrichment Programs & Assemblies**

Gabrielle Prochaska reported on the enrichment programs. She noted that Math Challenge will be starting soon. Jay Stoffer of Math Challenge told Jeannie to be sure to express his appreciation to Deana and Gabrielle for putting the program together.

Updates on other programs as follows:

- a. Flute, Guitar and Lego Robotics have started;
- b. Pilates is starting February 4, 2014;
- c. Violin will be starting soon;
- d. Table Top Society has started;
- e. Spanish is a possibility for the spring;
- f. The Pen Pal program is on-going;
- g. Math Club will be starting in mid-February.

The Skydome assembly will be on March 3, and there will be a walking science museum assembly in May.

### **Upcoming Events**

Jeanie Darling reported on several upcoming events:

- a. The next Dining for Dollars is at Surfrider Café on February 19, followed by Mission St. Barbeque in April.
- b. The Art Auction will be March 15.
- c. Yearbook order deadline is March 21.
- d. The Valentine's Day Dance/Party Hearty will be February 12
- e. Fourth grade family movie night will be on March 7 to raise funds for Columbia overnight trip
- f. The Walkathon is planned for April 9; however that date may be changed to May.
- g. Scoops for Schools fundraiser at Mission Hill Creamery is April 22.
- h. Teacher Appreciation week is May 7.
- i. Valerie Quandt, the Mission Hill principal, will be coming to the March meeting to talk about middle school.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

