

Westlake PTA Meeting

October 17, 2013

Board Members and teachers in attendance:

Clyde Curley, Principal
Jeanie Darling, PTA President
Lisa Napier, PTA Vice President
Mel Sweet, PTA Treasurer
Papaya Van Dyke, PTA Secretary
Terry McInerney, PTA Arts Co-Chair
Sufi Fox, PTA Arts Co-Chair
Dorothy Franks, Arts Coordinator

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 September 19, 2013.

***** MOTION**

Motion to approve the minutes was brought by Lisa Napier

Motion was seconded by Terry McInerney

Minutes were approved as presented unanimously

Principal's Report by Clyde Curley

Mr. Curley provided updates on several school programs and events.

Playworks: Mr. Curley reported that Sarah Zell has been hired as the Playworks coach. She is starting with the 2d-5th grades and working on teaching games like kickball. She will start working with 1st graders shortly, and will be adding one game per week. She is going to a training in November. There are currently no funds for any additional Playworks staff.

Awards: He reported that the first awards ceremony took place for approximately 100 students to recognize their listening and learning skills.

Family Arts Night: He expressed his appreciation to everyone who worked to make Family Arts Night a great event, and especially Eileen Beaudry, Greg Larson, Nicole Levey, and Krista Holt.

Solar Panel Update: He read an email from the solar panel installation company explaining that the project would be ready to start the week of 10/21. This project will close the teacher parking lot, but curbside drop off and pick up will still be accessible. He asked for everyone's patience during the project, which may take 6-8 weeks.

Common Core: Mr. Curley passed out a handout describing practices for Common Core mathematics. A copy is attached.

Information meetings will be held on October 29 (at Delaveaga Elementary) and November 5 (at Santa Cruz High) to give more information on the Common Core curriculum.

Natural Bridges re-opening listening tour: This will be rescheduled by Superintendent Gary Bloom after he has an opportunity to meet with teachers.

Mr. Curley noted that the assessment window opens on October 28.

Treasurer' Report by Mel Sweet

Mel reported that money is coming in now from the Direct Appeal, Drive for Schools, sweatshirts and enrichment programs. The Direct Appeal income is currently at about \$35,000, which is more than last year at this time. The Back to School Bar-B-Que produced income of over \$7000 (approximately \$2000 was collected on Square credit card sales), and netted approximately \$3000. Previous year's barbeques have averaged about 350-400 people; this year had approximately 600 people. Family Arts Night grossed approximately \$700, and also had increased attendance.

Mel reviewed the budget report, a copy of which is attached.

*****MOTION**

Motion to approve the budget report was brought by Lisa Napier
Motion was seconded by Deana Tanguay
Motion approved unanimously

Mel reviewed the check register, a copy of which is attached. The check register includes checks written from 9/18/13 to 10/16/13.

*****MOTION**

Motion to approve the check register was brought by Lisa Napier
Motion was seconded by Tim Madsen
Motion approved unanimously

Math Academy After School Program

Jay Stoffer provided a report on the Math Academy program for the upcoming year. He is a part of the foster grandparent program. This program works with 4th and 5th graders on solving math problems. Last year the program was held on Wednesdays after school and served 38 students.

This year Jay proposes to run programs on Mondays (for 4th graders), Tuesdays and Wednesdays (for 5th graders) after school. He also hopes to include training for the County Math Contest, as last year's Westlake contestants did well in the contest. Entrance to the Math Academy will be by lottery, and will begin in January. He will run the program with Sheila Deane, another foster grandparent.

Jeanie and Deana Tanguay will help with signups for the program, which will have space for 16 students in each group. Students will be selected by lottery done with a randomizer program. Jay hopes to have signups begin in December.

Program Updates

Jeanie reviewed the programs currently going on, as follows:

- a. Directory: This is completed and made money this year by selling ads. Thank you to Emi Willet for completing this.
- b. Back to School Barbeque: Jeanie thanked everyone who worked on the barbeque, and noted the success of this year's event.
- c. Family Arts Night: Jeanie also thanked everyone who worked on this to make it a fun event, including Global Citizens Committee.
- d. Drive for Schools: She noted that tickets are still for sale for the Drive for Schools fundraiser.
- e. Direct Appeal: The PTA will put out a second request for the Direct Appeal before the holidays.
- f. Yearbook: This year 42 covers were submitted. The 5th graders voted to select the top 24, and the rest of the students will vote on the top 24 to choose one cover.
- g. Bike to School: This is supported by a grant to the school from Ecology Action, so there will be monthly events. There will also be a bike safety program and a bike rodeo for 4th and 5th graders in the spring.
- h. Walking School bus: The Walking School bus program has started.

Global Citizens Committee Report by Deanah Rabiah and Victoria Sanchez Toledo

Deanah and Victoria reported that their first meeting had approximately 12 people. They are brainstorming new ideas for the Global Citizens committee. They were excited to participate in the Family Arts Night.

New Business/Programs

Jeanie discussed the following new programs:

- a. PTA Audit: The state PTA is currently conducting an audit. Jeanie thanked Mel and Tim for the time they have spent working on this audit.
- b. City of Santa Cruz and Ecology Action are having a community forum at Santa Cruz High. They are planning to present information at the next PTA Meeting.
- c. Tea Collection fundraiser: This is an upcoming new fundraiser for online sales of Tea Collection clothes where 15% of sales go back to Westlake.
- d. Marianne's Ice Cream: Tokens for Marianne's ice cream will be given out at Spooky Story Night.

Arts Committee Overview

Family Arts Night was well attended, and contributions from everyone were greatly appreciated, including the chairs, Global Citizens Committee, and former Westlake 6th graders.

The Arts Committee will be holding their meeting on Monday, October 21.

The art teacher, Stephanie Young, would like hooks for backpacks outside art classroom, as backpacks left on the ground can be dangerous. Mr. Curley has submitted request to district and might like to see if PTA could contribute.

The helium tank currently stored in Dorothy Franks' office needs to be secured with a handtruck for safety. The handtruck costs approximately \$260.

*****MOTION**

Motion to approve the purchase of the handtruck was brought by Deana Tanguay

Motion was seconded by Lisa Napier

Motion approved unanimously

Dorothy Franks provided an update on the dance program. Third through fifth graders will have dance every other week, starting at the end of October through May. Third graders will do Capoeira and 4th and 5th graders will do hip hop.

The Day of Dance will be held on May 16.

Kindergarten through 2d grade dance will start in February. A Spectra Matching Grant has been approved for \$1000, which will go to paying for first and second grade dance.

Art Auction Update

Julie Graff and Carrie Haber provided an update on this year's art auction. They will have mobile bidding for auction ad well as online ticket sales. This will help streamline checkout.

The theme this year is "Into the Woods." A website has been set up for auction volunteers, and there are many opportunities.

PTA Enrichment Programs & Assemblies

Deana Tanguay reported on several new enrichment programs.

- a. Flute: This program is proposed for Jan to May. It would be offered for 10 students on Thursdays.
- b. Pilates: This is a new program for 1st to 3d graders, for 10 students, run by Lucy Navabpour. She proposed Thursdays in the MUR.
- c. School to School international pen pal program. Alison Brooks provided an update on this program, and a handout is attached. This program would offer meetings for 2 groups (3d graders and 4th and 5th graders). Each group would meet 3 times – the first time would be as an introduction and to write letters; the second time to read responses and write again; and the third time to read responses. This is proposed for Mondays or Fridays after school, depending on availability of the multipurpose room.

***** MOTION**

Motion to approve the new enrichment programs listed above was brought by Sufi Fox

Motion was seconded by Lisa Napier

Motion was approved unanimously

Cloud Pay Introduction

Jon Underwood presented the Cloud Pay system, which is a potential fundraiser for Westlake. The system uses cell phones to pay merchants through Cloud Pay, bypassing Visa fees, and instead donating the 3% fee to a non-profit such as Westlake. The program is currently in testing stage with local merchants, and they would like to include Westlake in their pilot program. Jeanie said the PTA would look into this possibility.

Upcoming Events

Jeanie Darling reported on several upcoming events:

- a. Dining for Dollars at Pizzeria Avanti will be on October 21.
- b. Young Scientists Club will be starting soon, and will last through December.
- c. Spooky Story night is Thursday, October 24.
- d. Family Movie night will be Friday, November 15.
- e. The Winter Artisan Fair will be Saturday, December 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.