

Westlake PTA Meeting

March 20, 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
Jane Heyse, Teacher
Julie Egdahl, Teacher
Adrienne Cramer, Teacher
Kristen Lenz, Teacher
Kristi Bates, Teacher

Approximate attendance: 40 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 February 13, 2014.

***** MOTION**

Motion to approve the minutes was brought by Terry McInerney

Motion was seconded by Sufi Fox

Minutes were approved as presented unanimously

Principal's Report

Mr. Curley reported on several ongoing and upcoming events:

Students earned a Pajama Day celebration by filling up a jar of Cool Cats.

He expressed his appreciation for everyone's work on putting together the Art Auction, particularly Carrie Haber and Julie Graff, as well as the Executive Board for all of their effort. This was a successful fundraiser and community event.

He reported that awards were held for the County Science Fair recently, and a number of Westlake students received awards.

The Reading Warriors challenge has been a success, with over 100 million words read (last year was approximately 65 million words).

Kindergarten registration has started, and 45 students have registered so far. Westlake is aiming for approximately 100 students next year.

Trimester assessments have been completed and Mr. Curley has met with grade level teams to discuss the results. He has seen high levels and impressive growth in reading and other areas.

The 4th graders are starting their class trips to Columbia this week and next.

On April 22-25, 3rd through 5th graders will be participating in testing called Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. This is a computer-based assessment and the school district will be preparing mobile computers for this testing. There are two parts to the test: (1) multiple-choice/short answer tests, which are combined language arts and math, and should last about 1 ½ hours; and (2) performance tasks, which will be in math for 3rd graders, and language arts for 4th and 5th graders, which will require students to read critically and write a response. To prepare for this testing, classes will go to the computer lab and do practice tests. They will be using Chrome Books and will have access to a mouse and headphones. There is no time limit to the tests. This is a pilot year for these tests, so there will be no results for the students, schools or grade level, just feedback on what worked or didn't work in the testing process. Parents will be receiving a letter about this testing process, and can review the practice questions at home.

Walk to Read is continuing from March 20 to May 16, and he has seen a lot of upward movement with new groups.

Several events are coming up, including Spring Break, International Day, Day of Dance, Open House, and 5th grade Science Camp.

Treasurer' Report by Mel Sweet

Mel reviewed the budget report, a copy of which is attached. She does not yet have final figures from the Art Auction. The Direct Appeal is currently at approximately \$50,000, which is slightly lower than last year but is still doing well. The PTA plans one more push for Direct Appeal before the end of the year.

Allterra Solar has stated that it will provide a donation of \$275 to Westlake for each Westlake family that installs solar power using Allterra.

Teacher stipend money needs to be spent by May 15.

Mel also reviewed the check register, a copy of which is attached. The check register includes checks written from February 14, 2014 through March 16, 2014.

*****MOTION**

Motion to approve the budget report and the check register was brought by Sufi Fox
Motion was seconded by Jen Fritzsche

Motion approved unanimously

Mission Hill Parent Involvement

Valerie Quandt, the Mission Hill Middle School principal, and Meghan Thomas, the Mission Hill PTA President, came to talk with parents about ways they can become involved at Mission Hill. They discussed ways of being involved at middle school, and encouraged PTA participation. Parent participation in the classroom in middle school is different than in elementary school, but can be useful in other ways. Parents are welcome to help out at lunch or break, and some classes, like art, can use parent assistance. Ways of communicating with parents include Constant Contact, and other methods of increasing communication were discussed. PTA meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The idea of adding a parent component to the orientation day was discussed, as well as other suggestions for encouraging parent participation at the school.

Camp Kesem

Marissa, a volunteer and co-Director of Camp Kesem, introduced Camp Kesem. This is a national summer camp run by college students for children who have been affected by cancer. It is a one-week long free camp, and this year will be the first year in Santa Cruz. It is designed for 6 to 16 year-old students, and they would like to have approximately 30 campers. It will be held on July 13-18. Counselors from UCSC are trained for this summer. She encouraged parents to pass along information about this camp to any interested families.

Arts Committee Overview

Terry McInerney expressed thanks to everyone who helped make the Wildcats and the Arts afternoon so successful, particularly Nicole Levey and Krista Holt. Dance is starting, but not all classes have started yet. Teachers are encouraged to monitor the content of any music and it should be checked to be sure it does not have adult content.

Art Auction

Carrie Haber thanked all the volunteers who worked throughout the set-up of the Art Auction as well as the night of the auction in making it a successful event, and gave an additional thanks to Krista for all of her work.

Natural Bridges Re-Opening Update

Tim Madsen reported on the work of the Committee discussing the Natural Bridges reopening. Kristi Bates, the teacher representative from Westlake, and Tim, the parent representative, have been at several meetings, including an all day meeting, to discuss proposals. Some of the ideas proposed include: creating a neighborhood school with newly-drawn boundaries; creating magnet schools; or dividing schools by grade level. There will be another community meeting in late April. All public comments are read and considered by the committee members. The committee will present its recommendation to the school board by June, and then the board will make its final decision. Input can

be made on the district Facebook page, website, or in the public forums. This will not affect the number of students per class at Westlake, but would reduce the overall number of students at Westlake.

PTA News and Program Updates

Updates were given on several current programs, as follows:

- a. Playground painting project: Nicole Levey and Paula McCombie are working on a playground painting project for an upcoming weekend. The paint and supplies have been donated by a Westlake family, and they will need volunteers to do the painting. Stencils will be used, and will be purchased from the budget of \$1000. The paint is expected to last 10 years. The proposed date is April 27, with a pancake breakfast before. An online sign-up will be set up for volunteers.
- b. Yearbook update: Becky Saltikov reported that orders are due tomorrow for the yearbook, with prices increasing at the end of the year.
- c. The Goodwill truck will be coming to Westlake as a fundraiser from March 28-30, on the upper playground. Each truck that is filled will raise \$1000 for the school. Donations can be left on the stage starting on March 26. Volunteers will be needed to staff the truck.
- d. Nominations are now open for the 2014-15 year for the PTA Board. Coffee for interested board members is planned for Wednesday, March 26 at 8:30 at the Abbey.
- e. Movie Night will be rescheduled for April 25.
- f. International Day will be held on Tuesday April 15, when class projects will be displayed. International Night is on Wednesday April 16, and there will be performers, vendors, food and a bake sale, as well as the country projects on display. Some of the performers coming include: Baile Folklorico, Moroccan drumming, samba, Irish dancing, and a ska band.
- g. Scoops for Schools will be held on April 22 at Mission Hill Creamery.
- h. SCEF's Eddy Award nominations are due by April 22.
- i. The Walkathon will be held on May 14.
- j. Amy Miller noted that there were a number of boxtops that needed to be cut and the 4th and 5th graders will help do this at lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.