

Westlake PTA Meeting

September 19, 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
Kristen Lenz, Teacher
Adrienne Cramer, Teacher
Kristi Bates, Teacher
Jane Forbes, Life Lab Instructor

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 May 23, 2013.

***** MOTION**

Motion to approve the minutes is brought by Jeanie Darling

Motion was seconded by Papaya Van Dyke

Minutes were approved as presented unanimously

Principal's Report by Clyde Curley

Mr. Curley welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave an overview of two main focus areas this year at Westlake: (1) Common Core Standards and (2) Creating a positive school community.

Common Core Standards.

These are national standards for the curriculum that have been adopted with some adjustments for each state. These include online assessments and the use of technology, which will be a transition for students and staff. Staff is currently working on the logistics of this shift. Teachers will need time to plan and prepare based on these new standards. The staff are currently working in Professional Learning Communities, which are grade level groups focused on learning and implementing CC

standards. CC standards go deeper than earlier standards, allowing students to spend time on complex problems and persevere to succeed.

Text complexity is a big focus, using a Lexile number for each student. The Lexile number tells what level the student is reading at, and can pair students with books for each level (book lists are available at lexile.com or scholastic.com)

Writing standards have already been incorporated into the curriculum, and include focus on Persuasive, Expository, and Narrative writing.

A new program at school will be Walk to Read, or what Mr. Curley called, “What I need”, a program that will serve students’ needs. Currently there is a wide range of reading abilities within any class, and this program allows students to work in small groups at their reading levels. Walk to Read will be 40 minutes, 4 times per week, and will level students by Lexile in groups to work on reading skills. He explained that this will provide equal outcomes with equitable opportunities – there is a higher need for working with students who are below grade level, so the groups will be smaller for those students and may have more aides.

The scheduled times for Walk to Read are:

Grades 4+5 -- 12 -12:40

Grades 1+2 -- 1:40-2:20

Grade 3 -- After lunch – 1:20

Parent volunteers are welcome during WTR

Creating a positive school community.

Mr. Curley explained that creating a positive community at Westlake will use a method called Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), which is a way of framing behavior in a positive light to allow for solutions. There is a set of core expectations for all students, which students already know. There are also specific rules for certain areas which will allow kids to know what is expected of them. This will be reinforced positively through Cool Cats.

Playworks

Mr. Curley explained that he is still interviewing for a Playworks Coach, as the last candidate declined the position. This is a program developed to sponsor a coach who will come to the school from recess to lunch to play with kids and train kids to be playground helpers. This person will set up and keep going games. He or she will also maintain equipment and teach classes games. Funds for Playworks coach are provided by PTA. This program will be publicized when the staff member is hired.

Treasurer’ Report by Mel Sweet

Mel reviewed the budget and check report from last year, copies of which are attached. The check register includes checks written from 5/24/13 to 7/31/13.

*****MOTION**

Motion to approve check register/budget from last year is brought by Jeanie Darling

Motion was seconded by Lisa Napier

Motion was approved unanimously

Mel reviewed the proposed operating budget for the 2013/2014 school year, a copy of which is attached.

There was a discussion about possibly repainting the hopscotch on the lower playground. Mr. Curley said that this would happen more quickly with PTA funds, as there is only one painter for the school district. Jeanie said the PTA would look into this.

Jeanie explained that the biggest fundraiser is the Direct Appeal, which is ongoing. The current income from this is slightly ahead of last year at approximately \$30,000. The second biggest annual fundraiser is the Art Auction.

*****MOTION**

Motion to approve the operating budget for 2013-2014 was brought by Jeanie Darling

Motion was seconded by Lisa Napier

Motion approved unanimously

Mel reviewed the check register from 8/1/13 to 9/17/13, copies of which are attached. Check register includes all checks written for the current fiscal year.

*****MOTION**

Motion to approve the check register was brought by Jeanie Darling

Motion was seconded by Terry McInerney

Motion approved unanimously

Life Lab Review by Jane Forbes

Jane reported that the new chickens in the Life Lab garden that were donated by girls in South Africa are a huge hit with the kids. She thanked the PTA for helping pay for extra hours for her, which allows her to reach more kids. She also thanked all of the volunteers in the garden.

She explained that every class comes every week and that she ties in her lessons with the standards for the grades. K through 3d grades will get to have a salad party, and 4th and 5th graders will get to make a stir fry.

She is having a workday on Sunday, October 6 from 9-1, and there are several items that need to be repaired and other work to be done. She welcomes all volunteers for the workday, and will have snacks and projects for the kids to work on.

She is also looking for volunteers for the Garden Cart every Friday, starting October 1. Volunteers for once a month would be helpful.

New Business/Programs

Jeanie reviewed the new business and programs currently going on, as follows:

- a. Direct Appeal – The Direct Appeal is an ongoing fundraiser, and this year’s goal is \$100,000.
- b. Directory – Emi Willet is working on the Westlake Directory and hopes to have it completed by mid-October. She still needs to collect information. She is also soliciting ads to help cover the cost of the directory.
- c. Drive for Education – These tickets are sponsored by the Boardwalk and Toyota and will be sold from mid-September to mid-October.
- d. Back to School Barbeque – This will be on October 3, and raises money for 5th grade science camp. Volunteers are still needed.
- e. Winter Artisan Festival – Amanda Timar is planning the Winter Artisan Festival in December, and is still soliciting vendors.
- f. Box Tops/Esript – These fundraisers raise approximately \$1000-2000 per year, and are an easy way to raise money for the school. Box Tops and Esript can also be done online, as well as through major retail stores.
- g. New Leaf – Lara Lenington will head this program again, which allows parents to purchase New Leaf cards and gives a percentage amount back to the school. This raises approximately \$3000 per year.
- h. High Ground Organics – This fundraiser is a CSA, which provides organic fruits and vegetables which can be picked up on campus and also gives a percentage back to the school.
- i. Wildcat Spirit Store – Sarah Wickens will be heading up the Spirit Store and she will be selling on Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as online. She is selling the old stock first before ordering new items.
- j. Wildcat Sweatshirts - Jennifer Fritzsche is working on the sweatshirt orders. She is preparing a flyer with the size chart, etc. and will be printing the sweatshirts this year with Catto’s printing. Personalized sweatshirts will be offered first, and they will also have some for the store to sell.

- k. Goodwill truck – Jeanie is looking into scheduling the Goodwill truck fundraiser for some time this year.

Global Citizens Committee Report by Deanah Rabiah and Victoria Sanchez Toledo

Deanah and Victoria explained that they are heading up a new committee designed to embrace the multicultural variety in our community, which will help empower kids to be global citizens. They are hoping to incorporate some of their ideas in existing programs, such as Family Arts Night, and are also working on new ideas, such as a spring International night with different foods and classes presenting projects from different parts of the world.

Volunteers are encouraged to contact Deanah and Victoria with ideas. They would also like to include a section in the WAVES with upcoming events in the community. They will hold a meeting for their committee to discuss more ideas and projects.

Arts Committee Report

Dorothy Franks has been the Arts Coordinator at Westlake since 2000. She thanked Krista Holt for all of her contributions and Sufi Fox and Terry McInerney who are taking over as chairs.

Dorothy gave some background on the Arts program at Westlake, which has been around for approximately 20 years. It was an effort to bring the arts back into schools after Proposition 13, and for many years received grants to provide programs.

Currently, K-5 visual arts and 4+5 music are covered by the District through the parcel tax.

Westlake has hired Judy Flora to teach K-2 music, which is 14 weeks beginning in February.

Family Arts night will be on October 10, from 5:30-7:30, and dinner will be provided.

There are two chairs for the Art Auction, Julie Graff and Carrie Haber. It will be at the Hotel Paradox on March 15, 2014. They are setting up a meeting for volunteers on Monday, October 7. Most art parents have been selected.

PTA Enrichment Programs

Deana Tanguay explained the PTA Enrichment programs proposed for this year. Some of these programs are sponsored by the PTA at no cost to students, and others have a suggested donation. She prepared a handout with tentative dates and schedules for the programs.

Most programs are filled using a random lottery process

- a. Young Scientist's Club – This will be held on Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:15 am, beginning on October 16 or 23. Scientists will come in to talk about different scientific areas, including astronomy.
- b. Chess – The chess program will be held at lunchtime. This is paid by the PTA. It runs from October to May, and is offered for 2nd through 5th graders. We are working on arranging a room

for the chess program. The library will not be available at lunchtime because of teaching needs, and it would be difficult to schedule chess for kindergarten or 1st grade.

- c. Beginning violin – This will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays. There is a suggested donation.
- d. Flute – This would likely be held on Wednesdays for 4th and 5th graders. There is a suggested donation.
- e. Westlake Tabletop Society – This is a new program run by Yann Nicolas, and will be held on Thursdays. This is a tabletop game program which is paid for by the PTA.
- f. Lego Robotics – This would be held on Thursdays. This program has a suggested donation.
- g. Guitar – This would be held on Fridays for 3rd to 5th graders. This program has a suggested donation.
- h. Band – This program is held on Thursdays and Fridays and is funded by the school district.

***** MOTION**

Motion to approve the enrichment programs as proposed on the attachment was brought by Deana Tanguay

Motion was seconded by Mr. Curley

Motion was approved unanimously

Deana also reported that there are two assemblies currently planned for the school year: The Skydome assembly (for K-5), as well as a STEM museum assembly for 2-5 grades in the MUR.

PTA Online

Jeanie said that the PTA would be purchasing some new letters to update the marquee at the school entrance.

Jeanie also noted that the PTA needs a new web manager to keep the PTA website updated.

Upcoming Events

Jeanie said that there is an online signup available through signupgenius.com for the Back to School Barbeque.

Spooky Story night is coming up on October 24, and Jeanie is working on hiring professional readers.

Family Movie Night will be on November 8, and will probably benefit the second grade.

Nicole Levey requested that anyone with contacts for restaurants contact her for Dining for Dollars suggestions.

Abby Arnott reported that there will be a Fall Festival fundraiser for Bridges to Kinder on October 19 at the upper playground.

Jeanie also noted that we still need someone to coordinate the Science Fair this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

