

Westlake PTA Meeting
October 15th, 2015

Board Members and Teachers Present

Clyde Curley, Principal
Anna Turner, PTA President
Tim Madsen, PTA Vice President
Wes Heim, PTA Treasurer
Julie Graff, PTA Secretary
Mel Sweet, PTA Art Co-Chair
Papaya Van Dyke, PTA Parliamentarian
Jen Simington, Teacher
Kristen Lenz, Teacher
Adrienne Cramer, Teacher
Jane Forbes, Staff Member

Approximate attendance: 26 people
Meeting called to order at 6:40pm

Welcome/Introductions

Kris Munro, SCCS Superintendent, and Board of Education Trustees-

-The board is currently focusing on common core, especially supporting the teachers. They are in the process of applying for an implementation grant for \$1million. The focus for this grant will be on math.

-Another current focus is figuring out what the tiers of support are. They are asking, "How do we adjust if kids are not succeeding and need extra support". Developing "meet the needs" socially and academically.

-School district is getting more \$ from the state, but California is projecting we will not be back to the 2007 levels until 2021.

-Fundraising still needs to happen in order for Art, Life Lab, Dance, etc. These programs make a huge difference in kid's school lives.

-Measures O and P can help.

-The main benefit of Measure P is classroom reduction.

-Measure O will benefit ROP classes in high school. It costs the district 1.4 mill a year to have these important offerings for our kids. These programs are critical for college and career readiness. We need Measure O! This supports enrichment programs in middle school. District hasn't funded these programs for 10 years...it has all been through fundraising. The tax will cost \$6 per month per household.

Parent question: If or when they pass, when will programs be funded by this tax?

Answer: P will be renewed before it expires. O depends on the economy and where the state decides to put the money.

Question about recent test scores.

The most recent test scores showed that we are significantly higher than the state median. It is too hard to tell yet what the scores mean for teaching. Mr. Curley stated that the test scores indicate that Westlake needs support with math.

Our focus now is to prepare kids in writing. If we can teach kids to speak well, they can learn to write well. This is one of the focuses right now. Kristen Lenz said common core has been great for kids because they are learning to speak up in class. They need to explain themselves; not just give an answer.

-The board is not happy as a whole with the assessments that come with common core. The math numbers show we need work. The children who are not as well spoken are struggling in math because common core math requires the explanation behind the answer.

*****Motion**

Motion to approve meeting minutes presented by Anna Turner
Seconded by Sufi Fox
Approved unanimously

Treasurers Report-See attached

*****Motion**

Motion to approve check register and budget presented by Curley
Seconded by Deana Rabiah
Approved Unanimously

*****Motion**

Motion to approve \$3,000 for PTA shed presented by Anna Turner
Seconded by Julie Graff
Approved unanimously

Mr. Curley's update

- New counsellor started last week.
- Trimester end assessments will begin end of October early November
- Harvest Parade Friday the 30th. This is not a minimum day.
- Teachers had a professional development day to discuss and implement the new writers workshop curriculum.
- Math intervention will start in 2nd grade.
- This week is College awareness week. Doors are decorated. Asking kids "What does it take to get to your career goal?"
- Strong clear communication is the focus in classrooms.

Life Lab Update

-Life lab workday Sunday the 18th. Snacks provided. Please bring a tarp if you have one and can come. 9-1pm.

Art Committee

- Family arts night Nov 12th 5pm-8pm. Dinner being sold. We need help running tables. Please sign up.
- Art committee meeting Monday October 19th in the Art room.
- Dance has started. Music has started. New music teacher is great!
- Dorothy Franks found a theatre group to come do a Scrooge performance. Some Westlake children will have the chance to be in it.

Global Citizens Committee

-First meeting will be Monday the 19th at lunchtime. We need 3rd grade students. Some classes still do not have International Night Parents.

Education chair-Cristine Chopra

-Links will be up on the PTA site for parents; Articles that provide help and info about common Core.

Tim Madsen on Measures O and P

-1 in 8 voting households have children in schools. We need more phone banking and precinct walking. Phone banking Mon-Thurs 5-8pm. Tim Madsen has sign ups for these. Only 50% of parents vote. We want to have a table at the church and base of campus.

Upcoming events

-Young scientist club has started. Wednesdays at 7:30am. Next talk is about volcanos and magna.

-We need a volunteer to help to choose assemblies for the school.

-Drive for schools \$6,200 so far. Tomorrow is the last day.

-Dining for dollars Nov 9th, Upper crust pizza. Take out, delivery and dine in. All day.

-Sweatshirts are on sale. Zip up only.

-Another order of baseball tees will go in soon.

-October 29th spooky story night.

-New Leaf Cards will be sold pre loaded at the school on Fridays.

Open forum for questions

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm