

## **Westlake PTA Meeting**

**January 15, 2015**

### **Board Members and Teachers Present**

Clyde Curley, Principal

Papaya Van Dyke, PTA  
Parliamentarian

Jen Fritzsche, PTA President

Sufi Fox, PTA Arts Co-Chair

Tim Madsen, PTA Vice President

Adrienne Cramer, Teacher

Mel Sweet, PTA Treasurer

Jane Forbes, Life Lab Coordinator

Anna Turner, PTA Secretary

Approximate attendance: 12 people

Meeting called to order at 6:40pm

President, Jen Fritzsche, opened the meeting and called for order.

### **Review of Last Meeting's Minutes by Anna Turner**

Secretary, Anna Turner, reviewed the minutes of the last PTA meeting, which was held on November 20, 2014.

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

Motion to approve the minutes was brought by Tim Madsen

Motion was seconded by Sufi Fox

Minutes were approved as presented unanimously

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

Mel started the report by reviewing recent incomes, such as a \$500 check from the Box Tops program, and the \$1500 made so far by the Art Cards program. The December Artisan Fair netted \$500; this amount is down from last year due to a large increase in the cost of items from Alexis Rentals. This year there were more vendors, and the outdoor "café" was well attended. Tim Madsen indicated that this

event was budgeted to hit \$500, and it made \$500, so despite the lower net amount in comparison to last year's event, this year's can definitely be considered a success.

The amount generated by the Direct Appeal is still down, despite a holiday push. There was some discussion of the possibility of doing one more push before the end of the school year. There is currently \$65000 in the PTA bank account.

Tax donation letters will be mailed out by the end of January to everyone who has made a donation to Westlake within the past year.

Spirit Wear has been doing really well this year. Sweatshirts have brought in \$2000 so far, which is way up from last year.

A parent in attendance raised a question about the structure of the budget report; Mel clarified how income and expense lines are listed separately.

Mel also reviewed the check register covering the period from November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 through January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Mel highlighted the three checks for the largest dollar amounts: one for Catto's Graphics (the cost of printing sweatshirts and additional spirit shirts/hats), one for Alexis Rentals (for the Artisan Fair), and the last for SCCS (for instructor fees for the Westlake K-2 Dance program).

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

Motion to approve the budget report and check register was brought by Tim Madsen

Motion was seconded by Anna Turner

Motion approved unanimously

### **Principal's Report**

Mr. Curley reported on recent and upcoming events:

Santa Cruz Warriors: everything went smoothly at the recent game (all Westlake students were bussed to the Kaiser Permanente arena to view a D-League expo game). Faculty and students are looking forward to the Read to Achieve program, starting next week; SC Warriors will participate in on-campus events to help encourage kids to read. Students will keep track of the books they read for a month. A couple of rewards will be given to students to support this event. Last year, 50 million words were read as a school via the Read to Achieve program – the goal this year is 60 million.

CA Healthy Kids Survey: 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be surveyed about their healthy habits (eating, exposure to drugs/alcohol/controlled substances) and school safety. The

survey will be done online, so results will be available for review soon. The Westlake PBIS system is currently being rebooted/refreshed, and faculty/staff will be retrained on school rules, disciplinary behavior. Students will be reminded of expectations and school rules this month.

Walk to Read: Grade-level reading groups were adjusted this trimester; the number of low performers keeps shrinking. Staff is open to feedback on how best to serve students; the main concern is how to provide reading intervention for students without pulling kids out during PE, science, etc. Tim Madsen asked how the Walk to Read data is compiled, and are these numbers reported for people to be able to see? Mr. Curley stated that the numbers will be available soon. Tim reiterated that this is a program a lot of people don't know about but should have access to info about.

There are six weeks left before the next academic assessment period for students. The goal amongst faculty right now is to keep students focused. Students came back from winter break refreshed and so far are performing well.

Guest announcement: Suzanne Williams from the Harbor High Boosters provided details about an upcoming charity poker tournament involving the SC Warriors. The event is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>, and will benefit all SCCS athletics. There is a \$75 buy-in, and participants must be 18 years or older. Food/beverages (including alcohol) will be available at the event, which is being held at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. Flyers will be left at front office.

### **Art Auction Update**

Julie Graff, auction chair, reported on the status of auction planning. The event is coming up in two months, and donation letters and initial emails have gone out. Amy Wirth is heading up donations, and can use some help with contacting local businesses to solicit donations (people are also needed to pick up said donations). Event tickets will go on sale online hopefully next week; price: \$55. Drawing tickets will be available online when you purchase your event ticket. Local Hula school coming to do a performance, band comprised of Westlake dads will also perform. Julie also announced an upcoming meet-and-greet targeting mainly kindergarten parents; this event aims to inform these parents of the purpose (and importance) of the Westlake Art Auction. The event is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-9:00am. Any Westlake parents are welcome if they have questions or need info about the auction – not JUST kinder parents.

Teachers will get their event tickets for free this year. Event tickets come with a drink ticket. Signature drinks with souvenir glasses will be available. The auction team is trying to get a Hawaii trip for free or at least at a discounted rate for the live

auction. Classroom art project ideas are coming in. Marini's will be doing desserts. Event tshirts will be on sale at the event. The next auction committee meeting is February 5th at 1pm; this is not so much a general information meeting, but more for event chairs for the auction. There was some discussion about the layout of the Elks Club (the location of the auction), what the club capacity is, and where things will go (auction items, dining tables, etc).

### **Movie Night**

Sabine Crawford reminded everyone that a movie night would be taking place on January 16<sup>th</sup>, and that additional people have volunteered to help ensure that the event will happen as planned.

### **Arts Committee Update**

Sufi Fox reported on some recent/upcoming arts-related events and news:

K-2 music program is finishing this week, and K-2 dance will start at the beginning of February.

The Westlake Spring Band concert will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and a joint Westlake-Bayview concert will happen on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Art instructor Julie Nolte is working on handmade tiles with 5<sup>th</sup> graders for their culminating art project. For future projects, each 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will be following the theme "The Natural World in Santa Cruz" (this year's class is focusing on the ocean).

The Art Cards program is doing very well, and is much easier to manage this year. Using the Artsonia online-sales portal means there is virtually no cost to run this program.

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

Motion to change Art Cards "expenses" line item in the budget to \$0 and bring income amount to \$3000 brought by Tim Madsen

Motion was seconded by Jen Fritzsche

Motion approved unanimously

Dance teachers are still being interviewed/hired for a February start. Instructors are especially needed for K-2 level.

### **Life Lab Update**

Jane Forbes asked those present when it would be most advantageous to schedule the Life Lab's plant sale fundraiser. So many fundraising events are happening in the spring; Jane and Jen Fritzsche will sit down and figure out a doable date. Jane is working on plant sale logistics.

Additionally, when would it be appropriate to schedule another Life Lab work day? Sunday might be better due to Little League conflicts. Jane thinks the Sunday of the Goodwill truck fundraiser weekend will probably work.

### **New Business/Program Updates**

Author Visit: Katherine Applegate (author of *The One and Only Ivan*) will be visiting Westlake to speak to 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders; books are available for purchase online (the PTA needs to sell 50 in order to cover expense of author's visit).

Dining for Dollars: Jill Heller is currently working on scheduling future locations/dates.

Valentine's Dance: An event chair is still needed. Tim Madsen suggests making an announcement at movie night tomorrow to help generate volunteers.

Volunteer Needs: Planning of the end-of-year teacher luncheon needs to start now, and this event needs a chair. The Goodwill Truck event, Box Tops program, and enrichment programs all need leaders.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.