

## **Westlake PTA Meeting**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

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

Clyde Curley, Principal

Jen Fritzsche, PTA President

Tim Madsen, PTA Vice President

Mel Sweet, PTA Treasurer

Anna Turner, PTA Secretary

Papaya Van Dyke, PTA Parliamentarian

Terry McInerney, PTA Arts Co-Chair

Sufi Fox, PTA Arts Co-Chair

Kristen Lenz, Teacher

Jane Forbes, Life Lab Coordinator

Approximate attendance: 17 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 March 19, 2015.

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

Motion to approve the minutes was brought by Papaya Van Dyke

Motion was seconded by Mel Sweet

Minutes were approved as presented unanimously

## **Principal's Report**

Mr. Curley reported on recent and upcoming events:

Westlake's annual Day of Dance will be taking place on Friday, 4/24.

Congratulations to the Global Citizens' Committee for putting on such a successful International Night event (the event took place on 4/15). This is a valuable event for the school community, for many reasons.

The Santa Cruz Education Foundation recently recognized Westlake as its "School of the Year." The "EDDY" awards ceremony will be held at Kuumbwa Jazz Center on Tuesday 4/28; a link for tickets will be sent out. Two Westlake teachers will be receiving awards at this event: Rosalie Limas and Katrina Haeger.

Some standardized testing will begin next week. 5<sup>th</sup> graders begin next Wednesday; the week after that, 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and the week after that, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. All tests are taken on computers. This year's tests are more difficult than those taken in the past. For the first time, parents will be receiving results (in the summer) about how their child(ren) did in comparison to others in the same grade, nationwide. These tests aim to see whether curriculum/instruction is tied to standards. State tests will not be tied to a "score" (API) this year, but will be by next year. Test results this year are likely to be low, because this type of test is still new for students. Question from a parent: have there been any problems so far in terms of students (3<sup>rd</sup> graders, specifically) using the computers effectively? Mr. Curley responded that teachers haven't mentioned any problems so far in the pre-test stage.

The district is investing in a typing program; students will start using this program in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Teachers were trained today, and some might implement the program as early as next week. Question from a parent: what about programs highlighting internet citizenship/responsibility? Mr. Curley responded that this is an ongoing topic of conversation amongst faculty; currently, students do have to sign a contract about being responsible on the internet before being allowed to use school computers.

A stakeholder meeting has been requested by the district to address the needs of our students/facilities. This would be in preparation for an upcoming parcel tax renewal/bond measure that could appear on the ballot by November 2015 or June 2016. Mr. Curley will work with PTA Exec Board about when to hold this meeting (possibly at the beginning of May's PTA meeting)? Phone polling will take place over the summer.

The Governor's May budget revision is coming up; this determines whether public schools will get more, the same, or less monies in the upcoming academic year. Expectation is that schools will get slightly more next year. Local property taxes are increasing and this means a little more money for schools, as well.

Outdoor Science School for 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take place in about two weeks.

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

Mel started the report by recapping recent event incomes and expenses. The Art Auction gross income came to \$33,357; this year's event earned about \$4k more than the budgeted amount. Income has been topping out over the past few years for this event, but this year, expenses were way down.

The Direct Appeal campaign brought in \$5800 so far this week. Donations have been coming in through classrooms, PayPal, and at dropoff. Hopefully more will come in at the Day of Dance festivities on 4/24. Having parents/kids out at the dropoff area with posters highlighting the state of fundraising is important and has clearly been an effective fundraising tactic.

The recent Spring Plant Sale generated \$1000. As a result, the Life Lab's expenses are just about covered as of this date.

The PTA bank account sits at \$98k.

Mel then reviewed the check register covering the period from March 19, 2015 through April 22, 2015; the biggest check on the register is for yearbook expenses. We still need to sell 60 yearbooks to break even; Becky Saltikov, the yearbook event chair, is confident these will sell. Leftover auction expenses and guitar enrichment class checks make up the rest.

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

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

Motion was seconded by Anna Turner

Motion approved unanimously

### **Playworks Coach Presentation**

One of Westlake's two new Playworks coaches, Coach Mercy, introduced herself to those present. She stated that both Playworks coaches are very open to feedback and suggestions from parents/teachers, and have been working over the past few weeks to get to know the kids, and assess where the program was left by Coach Zell. Coach Mercy stated the importance of exposing kids to different sports (right now, for instance, the lower playground is divided between soccer and kickball), and giving all students an opportunity to try something new. Depending on what kids like best, some games/sports will continue, some will be changed. Coach Stanford is working with the upper grades, and has age-specific goals.

Question from a parent: what about targeting donations from the upcoming Walkathon to go towards paying for Playworks coaches? Mr Curley responded that he is always hesitant to earmark funds for specific purposes. Tim Madsen responded that SCCS is forming their budget now (to be voted on on June 30<sup>th</sup>), and that this would be a good time to contact your SCCS board member and convey your school's wishes/needs.

### **Arts Committee Update**

Terry McInerney reported on some recent/upcoming arts-related events and news:

Day of Dance is taking place all day tomorrow; this year's event will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Westlake Arts Committee, so some founding members will be present.

The Westlake Spring Band concert will take place on 4/30 from 6-7:30.

Scanning continues for Artsonia; there will be a push for Mother's Day purchases. After being scanned, art teachers may need help getting art matted and posted in time for Open House; emails will go out asking for volunteers.

Shakespeare to Go will perform for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> graders in May; the play will be "As You Like It."

### **Elective Committee for 2015-2016 PTA Executive Board**

Papaya Van Dyke explained the procedure for nominating and electing officers for next year's PTA Executive Board, and read the bylaws for how the Elective Committee will be formed.

Papaya offers to chair committee. Carrie Haber and Mr. Curley volunteered, as well. Lucy Navabpour volunteered to serve as an alternate.

Papaya will send out email to the committee about the next steps.

### **Enrichment Programs**

Kimberly Sanford-Yi and Angela Dobkin (next year's Enrichment Program Co-Chairs) provided a handout reviewing what programs were available for the 2014-2015 school year, and when they were offered. A chart was also provided, indicating which programs are SCCS funded, which are PTA funded, etc.

Ms. Bates, Mr. Smith and Ms. Cramer will all be offering math clubs this Spring.

The Enrichment team is looking for presenters for the Young Scientists Club for 2015-2016. Any suggestions are welcome.

Angela asked if email announcements about enrichment class opportunities would be more effective than paper copies. Mel Sweet and Terry McInerney responded that email has been tricky this year: not everyone seems to read the emails. A parent suggested doing both, sending forms and emails to contact the most people?

Kimberly and Angela reminded those present that any/all suggestions for potential enrichment programs are welcome. A parent suggested that more programs like the after-school basketball class would be great, and/or perhaps additional sports throughout the year? Tim Madsen responded that the Enrichment Class model has been to have programs that can handle a large number of kids. Mr. Curley responded that another limitation is how expensive some programs can be (and have been in the past). Tim reminded everyone that we can only do "donation only," and can't force anyone to pay; sometimes we lose enrichment programs because the donations don't come in, and instructors end up providing programs without being paid. A brief discussion of the intricacies/limitations of our Enrichment Programs ensued.

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

Jen Fritzsche provided updates on various programs/events.

Remainders from last weekend's plant sale will be available for sale at the Gazebo on 4/24 from 12-3pm.

The Goodwill Truck will be located in the dropoff area from Friday 5/1-Sunday 5/3. Signup Genius will go out asking for volunteers early next week.

The next PTA meeting will take place on 5/28. Budget items will be voted on at that meeting, and officers will be elected.

Dining for Dollars events should be taking place in both May and June; locations TBA.

Another movie night is a possibility; date TBA (sometime in May).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.