

**Westlake PTA Meeting
October 16, 2014**

Board Members and teachers in attendance:

Clyde Curley, Principal
Jen Fritzsche, PTA President
Tim Madsen, PTA Vice President
Mel Sweet, PTA Treasurer
Papaya Van Dyke, PTA Parliamentarian
Terry McInerney, PTA Arts Co-Chair
Sufi Fox, PTA Arts Co-Chair

Approximate attendance: 20 people
Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.

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

Welcome and Introduction of Kris Munro, Superintendent, SCCS

Kris Munro, Superintendent of Santa Cruz City Schools, attended the meeting in order to introduce herself to the Westlake community. She said that the district needs to hear parents' voices, and is working to continue to have needed resources in local schools. She described the Superintendent's responsibilities as including oversight of all divisions in the District, including facilities, business, etc. The Superintendent also stewards the board, helping establish goals, set policy, and facilitate decision-making by providing information the board members need. There has been a significant change in school funding in the last few years, which involves the governor's plan to bring 2007 funding levels back by 2021. This plan depends on consistent growth, but because growth is always changing, there need to be more ways to ensure revenue to schools. Certain complicated formulas for local funding create specific challenges for Santa Cruz schools in receiving funding. She thanked Westlake and the PTA for inviting her to the meeting.

Review of Last Minutes by Papaya Van Dyke

Parliamentarian, Papaya Van Dyke (substituting for Anna Turner), reviewed the minutes of the last PTA meeting, which was held on September 18, 2014.

***** MOTION**

Motion to approve the minutes was brought by Krista Holt
Motion was seconded by Terry McInerney
Minutes were approved as presented unanimously

Treasurer' Report by Mel Sweet

Mel reviewed the budget report, a copy of which is attached. The Direct Appeal is currently at approximately \$32,000, which is in line with last year's income. (Although it was noted that last year's income was lower than projected.) We will do another push for the Direct Appeal before the holidays. The Back to School Barbeque was a very successful and raised over \$5000, which was helped by many significant donations this year. Drive for Schools has raised approximately \$4000 so far with a few days remaining. Spirit wear sales are doing well also, with over \$1000 in sales so far thanks to Sabine Crawford's efforts. Movie night raised approximately \$1100, again thanks to Sabine's work in putting this together. There are still a few copies of the book Bad Magic from the author visit available for sale online.

Mel also reviewed the check register, a copy of which is attached. The check register includes checks written from September 19, 2014 to October 15, 2014.

*****MOTION**

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

Motion was seconded by Sufi Fox

Motion approved unanimously

PTA Enrichment Programs

Jen Fritzsche stated that the following PTA enrichment programs were planned or starting shortly for the fall: Young Scientists Club (7 weeks); Pilates (year round); Guitar (Winter and Spring sessions); Math Club (Spring – Mr. Smith & Ms. Cramer).

*****MOTION**

Motion to approve the above-listed PTA enrichment programs was brought by Terry McInerney

Motion was seconded by Krista Holt

Motion approved unanimously

Principal's Report

Mr. Curley reported on ongoing and upcoming events:

The first awards ceremony of the year took place today for kindergarten through 5th graders.

There are four basic units through Second Step, and there will be 4 awards ceremonies during the year to recognize kids for their efforts. The first lesson involves skills for learning, and the next lesson is emotion management, including methods for helping kids manage their emotions, such as calming down, belly breathing, etc.

Spooky Story night is coming on Thursday, October 23, and there will be a costume parade on Halloween, Friday, October 31, which is a minimum day. Mr. Curley was asked why the students are requested to change into their costumes, and he noted that it was a policy that was intended to avoid the distraction of costumes, and that the policy not been revisited recently.

Global Citizens Committee Report

Deanah Rabiah provided a report on the Global Citizens Committee. They are planning to start a GCC student club, which would be for 3rd to 5th graders meeting at lunch approximately once a month to learn more about what it means to be a global citizen. This could possibly include a newsletter written by students, and students would also help with International Day/Night. Teachers are currently in the process of getting volunteer parents for International Day/Night.

Grants

Deanah also reported on current efforts for grant requests. Any parents or teachers with grant ideas can give them to Deanah or Mercedes Lewis. They are currently working on a grant for Life Lab. At this time, they are mostly targeting smaller foundations for grants with project-based funding. Mr. Curley encourages teachers to use donorschoose.org, and teachers often rely on the PTA for specific funding.

Candidate Forum

Tim Madsen reported that a forum for the school board candidates is planned for Monday, October 27 at approximately 7 pm at Branciforte Middle School. Questions will be submitted ahead of time, and all candidates will be participating. More information will be coming out to the public soon.

Arts Committee Update

Sufi Fox reported that they will be using Artsonia for ordering art cards, which will allow parents to order year-round. Art parent volunteers will scan art for classes during the year, although some classes will not have any art available before winter break. Parent volunteers are also needed to put together shelving in the music room to store equipment, and a sign-up will go out for help with this.

Hip-hop, African dance, and capoeira are getting started for 5th, 4th and 3d grades.

November 6 is Family Arts night, which will be run by Eileen Beaudry. Krista is working on several new projects for the evening, in conjunction with GCC.

New Business/Program Updates

Life Lab Workday: Sufi Fox reported that Jane is having another Life Lab workday on Sunday, October 19. Parents can bring cordless drills if they have them.

Directory: Emi Willet reported that the directory is almost ready and should be done by next week.

Drive for Schools: Christine Chopra is making one last push for Drive for Schools, which is due by Monday, October 20. It is currently at about \$4000.

Wildcat Spirit Store: Sabine is doing really well with spirit wear sales, the neon shirts are selling especially well. She will need to reorder shirts, as there are only 35 out of 80 left.

Sweatshirts orders are being accepted now, and the due date will be extended past Friday.

Chair and Volunteer Needs

The following chair positions are still open: eScrip; Valentine's Dance; Goodwill truck fundraiser. There is also a need for additional Science Fair coordinators to assist Michael Usher. Shadow successors are needed for Boxtops and yearbook.

Upcoming Events

Spooky Story night is coming up on October 23. There are still a few open spots for readers.

Family Arts Night is November 6.

The next Dining for Dollars will be November 18 at Mission St. BBQ.

The Winter Artisan Fair is Saturday, December 6, and almost all spots are filled for this.

Life Lab work day will be Sunday, October 19.

A question was raised about class photos, and whether it would be possible to have a group photo instead of composites. Mr. Curley explained that the selection of Larry's Photography was made at the district level, but individual parents could contact Larry's to see about the possibility of doing a class photo, or it could be done by a parent in the class.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.