

Westridge PTA February minutes  
Feb 11, 2022

Members present: Alissa Clark, Rebecca Reid Eschete, Amy Seidelman, Katie Asplund, Hallie Wemmie, Beth Brewer, Jeanette Barnes, Rachel Loret de Mola

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm by Rebecca Reid Eschete.

- Principal's report:
  - Mrs. Brewer has recently enjoyed some time in the classrooms and likes seeing the kids and teachers finding opportunities to work on academics while also incorporating life skills into their learning (collaboration, communication, etc.) She has enjoyed seeing the kids ask great questions and share ideas.
  - Parent - teacher conferences are coming up in the next weeks and Mrs. Brewer looks forward to parents being able to share in the successes of their students. Two meals for teachers are being provided to staff and Mrs. Brewer thanks the PTA.
  - Sunday is the first play practice for the year, The Little Mermaid.
  - Book club is now starting up in classrooms. A 6<sup>th</sup> grader will help lead each of those groups . She is proud of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders for setting goals and showing great leadership skills.
- Teacher's report: Jillian Roberts not here today but an update was provided by Alissa: Teachers are excited for upcoming conferences and are thankful for the provided meals. Teachers are happy that the play is back, too.
- Secretary's report: November's meeting notes submitted. Alissa moves to approve and this is seconded by Rebecca. Minutes are approved.
- Treasurer's report: Update on field trip budget was provided. The budget is at \$5,000 and we have currently remaining about \$1,700, with spring field trips still upcoming. Consider increasing budget at next opportunity for upcoming year. Also outdoor classroom fundraiser funds have started moving with construction of the outdoor classroom having begun. The bill for concrete came in a little under budget and a canopy addition is to come.
- Other current business:
  - Upcoming conferences: Feb 21, 22, 24. Look for mid-week signup coming up for staff conference dinner donations for Feb 22nd and 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Play update: First practice is this Sunday. Performances will be April 8, 9, 10. More info to come on how weekend performances may be set up for viewing.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade activities: Things continue to progress regarding all 6<sup>th</sup> grade activities. Currently in planning is a photo booth for party, Kona Ice visit, Pizza party, etc. Still working on student gift and school gift.
  - Book fair update: There was a successful book fair in the Fall - \$5,000 scholastic dollars for school to spend. There will be a spring book fair upcoming with a date to be announced.
  - Book Clubs are starting up. They were able to arrange so that kids can either attend during the school day or after school.

- A discussion about pickup procedure concerns was had. There continues to be a lot of parental concern about the chaos of pickup time and concern for the safety of students. A parent was present to share concerns for children's safety, teachers who are dealing with pick up/drop off, and traffic flow issues. Ideas were presented including: having coordinated effort of parents to assist with traffic or getting children safely to and from their cars, additional crossing guards and staggered dismissal times. These suggestions were discussed at length and it was concluded that Mrs. Brewer had a few ideas to return with regarding reminders to students/parents, possibility of signage regarding traffic flow rules, and/or video demonstrations of proper dismissal procedures. However, the district's hands are mostly tied and the City of WDM has already observed and did not approve any additional support alleviating the safety concerns. It was discussed that the PTA can help advocate for solutions but cannot, for a number of reasons, run the efforts to solve the concerns. It was discussed that it may be that the solution is for parents to start contacting city officials or council members to see what is the procedure for voicing concerns that have yet to be addressed.
- A question was asked regarding bike ride – 4<sup>th</sup> grade is going on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> is a solid no for bike ride.
- The school nurse has reached out to look for support providing snacks for kids who are coming in hungry and do not have snacks. It was discussed that PTA cannot take this on but that many parents are willing to provide if asked and a request for donations to use at such times – likely at a classroom level- will be sent out.
- Important dates/Upcoming activities:
  - Feb 14 – Valentine's Classroom parties
  - February 18 – no school for kids – professional development day
  - February 21 – no school for kids – parent/teacher conferences
  - March 4 – 9:15 am PTA meeting at LRC
  - March 11 – no school
  - March 14-18 – no school for spring break

Without objection, Becky adjourns the meeting at 1:25.