

Westridge PTA April meeting minutes
April 15, 2022

Members present: Alissa Clark, Rebecca Reid Eschete, Amy Seidelman, Katie Asplund, Hallie Wemmie, Nancy Cullen, Elizabeth Larson, Becca Jaschen, Rupali Patil, Suchitra Sinha, Jesse Bunney, Mari Bunney, Tenille Hamilton, Gina Lewis, Colleen Boyer, Keaton Pulver, Brooke Nelson, Jillian Robbins, Beth Brewer

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 9:18 am by Rebecca Reid Eschete.

Officer Elections: PTA executive elections for 2022-2023

- Alissa Clark for president, Amy Seidelman for vice president, Katie Asplund for treasurer (not up for election this year but part of the slate for next year's exec team), Keaton Pulver for Director-at-Large and Hallie Wemmie for Secretary. – No nominations from the floor and the slate for next year passes without objection.

Presentation by Thor Holst – Eagle Scout project:

- Thor Holst is here today regarding his Eagle Scout project. He would like to re-paint portions of the Westridge blacktop. The project will cost \$2,600 and he is asking the PTA for \$1,200 and will fundraise the rest. The project will be done in June and take about one week. Has already spoken with Kevin Long and covered all bases for approvals. Becky moves to allocate up to \$1,200 and this is seconded and approved. Jesse Bunney offers to help get a paint discount for the project.

Principal's report:

- Mrs. Brewer is here today to provide the following updates: WR had a wonderful play production and everyone has really enjoyed performing and watching!
- Bookfair – ran for an hour during play and that was very successful. Around \$10,000 was brought in! \$5,000 - \$6,000 will be available for library spending.
- Field Day is May 27 and a rain date of May 31. More info is to come but all are excited!
- Staffing update: Two teacher hires for next year – both previous WR students. 3rd grade teacher interviews happening next week.
- Construction update: 4 new classrooms (2 kindergarten, 2 pre-K,) plus office/specialist spaces (ESOL, reading, AEA?) completed and ready for tours today.

Teacher's report:

- Jillian Robbins is here today to report the play was so amazing and loved seeing the students' confidence on display! The book fair was enjoyed by the kids as well.
- Spring testing ISASPS (next week) and FAST testing at end of April.
- New form available for teachers to request PTA funds is live

Secretary's report: March meeting notes submitted for approval. Alissa moves to approve and this motion is seconded by Katie. Minutes are approved.

Treasurer's report: This month we contributed to teacher appreciation (\$200) and donated to Dollars for Scholars (\$500.) Have spent \$3,300 in field trip bussing and our budget is at \$5k (may need to increase in May to make sure all field trips for the year are covered.) Extra busses for adequate spacing were paid for earlier in the year. Lots of play and teacher reimbursements.

- Concerns and questions regarding the budget were brought up initially by Mari Bunney.
 - Mari asks if we are over or under budget for total end of year spending. Treasurer doesn't think we are currently over on anything but some things are still coming in. Fiscal year closes June 30. YTD expenses thus far cash out \$22k; cash in \$22k.
 - Concerns are voiced over extra money in the budget. PTA funds are at a little over 2 years' surplus right now but not done spending for the year. Brooke Nelson says that PTA was previously recommended to keep 2 years' worth of expenses in account. Some discussion about if that is necessary and will get some clarification. PTA likes to have extra funds available to meet unique needs as they come up as not every expenditure fits nicely into a budget category. Jillian Robbins has set up living document for teacher requests which is now live for them.
 - Mari asks if we can discuss cash reserve in May – discussed some upcoming and typical asks for expenditures. Jesse Bunney asked what is the account total– treasurer responds \$104k including money markets.
- Teachers have been brainstorming wish list items such as 1st grade tie dye materials, Chromebook charging carts, laminator, lighthouse training, 5th grade push cart convention supplies, 6th grade calculators etc.
- Elisabeth Larson voices frustration that some PTA members opposed a request from the librarian last year and Mari asks if we have a policy for what we typically approved and not. PTA president responds that all decisions are school-centric and that funding approval is done by majority vote of PTA members present at any given meeting.
- Colleen Boyer asks about by-laws and PTA president confirms there are PTA by-laws. Discussion then about earmarking certain parts of the account and there are some concern about this concept as needs change year by year. A member shares that Indian Hills CPI has a policy that if they have excess of \$2k that they write check to the school. However – that is not a PTA and operates differently.

'Kevin Long – new classroom tour

- Kevin Long, Assistant Director of Operations for WDM School District, is here today for new classroom tour for the PTA group and provide an update. Construction is just about done. Contract for preschool playground has been signed and about to begin first week of June . The current pre-k playground can still be used and an idea was presented to use this for special education students.
- Mari Bunney asks about outdoor classroom and Kevin reports that poles will start going in next week and will take only a week or so. The sail is 3 weeks out still and will come down every winter. Some parents are upset that this is not what was fundraised for (the

sail vs. permanent roof structure). Another parent voiced that fundraising was done to provide an outdoor classroom in whatever form was going to be achievable and they are appreciative of whatever can be provided. Mari Bunney wants to know if a sail vs. permanent roof structure was voted on because it was a shift from the original plans. PTA president says that she cannot really speak to the decision to fundraise prior to all plans being finalized because that was a different PTA exec team last year. PTA president responded she is happy to share documents regarding the rejected quotes for a roof structure. All excess fundraising money will still benefit the school and looking at new tables for the outdoor classroom as well as figuring out what teachers need to make best use of the space.

Other current business:

- Discussion of open committees:
 - Katie provided a description of open committees – reach out to Becky if interested.
 - Mari Bunney asked for zoom/hybrid PTA meetings - Exec will discuss and weigh concerns over logistics. Exec reports that despite zoom meetings last year, evening and unch hour meetings this year, attendance has still remained low.
- Upcoming PTA meeting – there will be a budget vote on May 13
- Looking forward – Important dates
 - April 29 – no school for kids, professional development day
 - May 13 – PTA meeting at WR, 9:15 am

Without objection, Becky adjourns the meeting at 11:05