

Westridge PTA September 2022 minutes
September 9, 2022

Members present: Rebecca Reid-Eschete, Sally Crowley, Alissa Clark, Sumathi Ganapathi Raj, Jillian Robbins, Beth Brewer, Scott Peshak, Nicole Campbell, Hallie Wemmie, Jennifer Drucker, Jennie Hogan, Nancy Cullen, Amanda Bjornson, Matthew Donnelly, Janine Bauer, Keaton Pulver, Emily Mayfield, Amy Borness, Amy Seidelman, Ayesha Ali, Dhivya Sonthakumas, Anastasiya Landry,
Online: Mariah Buckner, Stacy McCormick, Ben Irwin, Whitney Gallo, Mari Bunney, Ashley Thoreson

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Alissa Clark at 9:16 am

Treasurer's report: There is currently just under \$65,000 total in funds - \$58,000 in money market and the remaining in checking. The current year budget of allocated money is \$33,425. There has been an \$11,000 anonymous donation which was donated specifically for the play. An additional \$1,000 in the account is also play grant money. There is \$2,000 in grant money for the program that runs on the pod monitors, this is from the 2020-2021 6th graders. There is \$3,000 remaining in outdoor classroom funds. Additionally, there are a few field trips from last year that have yet to be billed as well as membership dues to be paid out to the Iowa PTA. This leaves about \$12,600 not allocated for any specific purpose at this time.

The following are recent payments: outdoor classroom sun sail and a back to school lunch for teachers. Reminder of a \$20,000 donation to the school that was voted on last spring. There will need to be fundraising this year if future year's budgets will continue as the school is accustomed to.

A question was asked about how much money has been spent on the outdoor classroom. Treasurer reported \$17,000 was raised; the PTA paid for the concrete slab, which was about \$4000, the sun sail was just under \$14,000, so there remains about \$3,000, which will likely be used on picnic tables at some point.

** all totals are approximations

Principal's Report: Mrs. Brewer is excited about the beginning of the school year and has been enjoying reading with students and visiting classrooms. She reports that the school and teachers are currently engaged in a professional learning cycle about establishing a culture for learning and what it means to be ready for learning. In October another learning cycle on foundational literacy skills will begin. Mrs. Brewer reports there is much excitement in the building right now, with tonight's Back-to-School BBQ, upcoming movie night and the ply auditions that took place this week.

Teacher's Report: Jillian Robbins echoes what Mrs. Brewer has said about this year starting off so wonderfully! Next week is curriculum night and teachers will be going over curriculum with parents. She expresses that the teachers are thankful for the back to school lunches.

Secretary's report: May 2022 minutes were reviewed. Lindsay Milang motions to approve and Becky Reid-Eschete seconds this motion. Minutes are approved.

Current business

- **Westridge Bylaws:** Every 3 years bylaws need to be voted on an approved. The PTA will attempt that at the October meeting. There are two small changes that the executive team is proposing; 1. Updating committee list and 2. Changing the plan that if president

is unable to serve that the vice president (rather than director-at-large) would assume that role.

- **Open committees:**

- The PTA needs a fundraising committee chair person. Last year a large payment was given to the school for teacher distribution and we are no longer sitting on a 2-year reserve. This means there will be a significant need to fundraise to maintain our standard budget for next year. A question was asked if Iowa PTA provides assistance with their membership dues income and the PTA president reports that the answer to that question is no, PTA is on it's own for fundraising.
 - PTA is looking for a parent interested in archery to assist Beth Bulow this year. If we cannot get a formally trained person over the course of this year, this will be the last year of archery at WR.
 - Healthcare screenings committee- will help school nurses with vision and hearing screenings. Please contact Alissa Clark if any interest in any of these positions.
- **Westridge gear:** Update from Janine Bauer: sales will go live by Monday. Orders will ship directly to families with orders shipping out by second week of October. Will be advertised in WR Weekly. A few questions were asked: Do we get control over designs?- No, we have to stick to district approved and trademarked logos (and vendors.) Are there water bottle stickers available? Can we add to the shopping cart on purchasing an option to add donation to PTA? Can we explore options for available colors etc? Janine will look into these questions with Laine Mendenhall-Buck and CFO.
 - **Play update:** Emily Mayfield updates that registration closed last week and auditions were held this week with an overwhelming response! Parts will be announced this weekend.
 - **Garden update:** The garden has been neglected since covid. May seek out volunteers in the WR weekly and also hoping to get the kids more involved this year by tying in into curriculum. 2nd grade has a whole unit on plants so this may be an option. There is someone interested in taking over this committee.
 - **Member update:** Sally Crowley reports that last night was the Tiger Gala, hosted by WDM foundation. This currently functions as a scholarship entity but have been working to fully expand the foundation's potential. WDM has some powerful alumni and hope to use this to boost our potential. If you are interested in being involved, email Sally.

Important dates/Upcoming events

- September 9 – WR BBQ
- September 13 – Curriculum night
- September 20 - School
- October 1 – Movie night at Valley stadium
- October 10 – no school, professional development
- October 11 – PTA meeting, 6:15 pm in WR community room

Without objection, meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.