

Westridge PTA October 2022 minutes
October 11, 2022

Members present: Alissa Clark, Hallie Wemmie, Amy Seideman, Keaton Pulver, Katie Asplund, Scott Peshak, Nancy Cullen, Mindy Stieber, Rebecca Reid Eschete, Jennifer Drucker, Jillian Robbins, Beth Brewer, Ben Irwin, Janine Bauer, Olivia Meuret
Online: Sarah Baker, Krista Becker, Sara Rhein, Nicole Campbell, Asunta Majok, Jill Egger, Emily Mayfield, Meredith Noble, Lindsay Millang

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Alissa Clark at 6:29 pm

Treasurer's report: Update from the treasurer includes that the current combined checking and money marking amount is approximately \$65,000. \$33,425 of that is already allocated in the current budget and in addition just under \$13,000 is designated for the play, \$2,000 for TV subscription, \$3,000 for outdoor classroom. This leaves approximately \$13,000 non-allocated funds available. So far this year there have been about \$3,800 teacher reimbursements paid out. Fall fundraiser starting next week, goal to raise \$20,000 so that PTA can maintain a similar budget next year. Fall gear sales brought in \$3,600 gross sales and PTA received \$550 from those sales. PTA has brought in \$580 in company matches. Reminder that families can add WR PTA as Amazon Smile recipient – this has brought in \$79 this year so far. Treasurer position is open for next year if anyone is interested.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Brewer is looking forward to fall parties and appreciates the hard work in coordinating those. Conferences coming up next month, with more info to come. On Monday, staff had professional learning day regarding building goals and first learning cycle of creating a culture for learning. The day was facilitated by behavior specialist and school counselor as well as ESOL team. The staff learned about supporting students in restorative practices for classrooms and grade level teams were able to collaborate regarding their goals. She is thankful for the team that came together to support best environment for our kids. With the recent PTA funds made available they have purchased magazine subscriptions (Story Works, Scholastic, Time for Kids), Generation Genius which supports science standards, phonics materials, and a new laminator. The special ed team is meeting soon to discuss some of their needs.

Teacher's Report: Mrs. Robbins says that October is a busy and fun month. Kids are excited about chess club, the school play, fall parties. 1B used outdoor classroom yesterday for a lunch time picnic and glad to see the outdoor classroom getting used. Conferences are upcoming and everyone is excited to showcase students' work.

Secretary's report:

Motion to approve September minutes with one small amendment to a wording error by Jillian Robbins and is seconded by Scott Peshak. September minutes are approved and entered into record.

Current business:

- **Westridge Bylaws:** Every three years bylaws must be voted on for approval. This year, executive team is asking a few small changes that include updated committee list and having vice president serve as president should president be unable to continue to serve. Members were provided copy of old bylaws and new proposed bylaws and were

given time to review and ask questions. Scott Peshak is wondering about Article VIII. He wonders if the wording means there is a separate meeting that chair members must attend. Becky Reid Eschete volunteered that she has previously spoken to the President of the Iowa PTA about the bylaws, and asked about this section. Her understanding from that conversation is that we are in compliance through our regular meetings, as they involve the same people and conduct the same business as outlined in Article VIII. Essentially, the executive board meeting business is being conducted during the regular PTA meetings. At no time in recent memory has the Westridge PTA held separate meetings of the executive board in the intervals between general membership meetings, although specials meetings can be called if needed.

Motion to vote to pass by Scott and Becky seconds. Unanimously approved by vote of PTA members.

- **Fundraising Update:** Mindy Stieber is here as chair for fundraising committee. Fall fundraising starts Monday, October 17. It will run for two weeks with a Be a Superhero theme. It will be a direct ask campaign with a \$20,000 goal. Mindy is implementing some student incentives such as grade level goal meeting pizza parties, halfway prizes etc. There will be a few donor match days of up to \$500 in matched funds. Those days will be communicated with families via flyer and social media. An online member asked if this information could be sent out by teachers because not everyone reads the Westridge Weekly but most open emails from teachers. The PTA is thankful to Mindy for taking on fundraising!
- **Talking Canvas:** Olivia Meuret, Westridge's instructional coach, is taking on Talking Canvas as grad school project and is making a lot of exciting changes. Talking Canvas will feature books rather than artists and Olivia is excited to get families back in the classrooms having more options for parents to lead Talking Canvas in the classrooms.

Important dates/Upcoming events

- October 14 – Fall parties
- October 15 and 22 – park playdates
- November 1 – picture retakes
- November 3 – 16 - online book fair
- November 4 – 6 – WR school play
- November 7 – no school, conferences
- November 7 – Book fair open in Media Center 9 am – 7:30 pm
- November 10 – conferences 4:15 – 8:15 pm
- November 11 – PTA meeting; 9:15 am in teachers' lounge

Without objection, meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.