



**Fort Washington Elementary School PTA Minutes
General Membership Meeting
September 14, 2016**

PTA President Debbie Rothkopf called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

- Debbie Rothkopf welcomed new parents and introduced the PTA board for the 2016-2017 school year. It includes: President: Debbie Rothkopf (debbierothkopf@aol.com), 1st Vice President: Jenny Shapiro (jennywshapiro@hotmail.com), 2nd Vice President: Heather Fichter (hfichter25@gmail.com), 3rd Vice President: Marian Butcher (mgbterp@gmail.com), 4th Vice President: Lisa Lester (lisaylester@verizon.net), Treasurer: Sherri Gregg (sherri.gregg@comcast.net), Secretary: Mia Payne (miafpayne@verizon.net).
- There are many opportunities to get involved and to help out with events and school activities. For information look for the regular PTA emails, and check the FWES PTA website (fwpta.org), the FWES PTA Facebook page, or contact any of the board members. PTA meetings are held on a Wednesday evening each month at 7 PM in the FWES library, dates are on the school and district calendars.

Principal's Report, Stephanie Hultquist

- PSSA and School Performance results will be presented in October during the PTA meeting or a special parent meeting.
- There will be a parent night on October 13th at 7 PM at FWES with information about the district's new English/Language Arts curriculum. It is currently being implemented and allows for more differentiation of instruction.
- Mindfulness sessions by Jacquie O'Malley, of Project Mindful. (projectmindful.org) start next week in selected classes for eight weeks.
- Please contact her with questions or concerns about transportation or any other issues.
- Parents need to log on to school district Home Access Center (HAC) to update information. Parents can access the HAC from the udsd.org website, under "Quick Links," which also contains a video tutorial for how to update demographic information. If parents require login/password information, or are having trouble with the HAC, please contact Ginny Heiss by calling the school office, or email: gheiss@uds.org. There may be PC's and assistance available on Back to School Night for the HAC.

Teacher/Staff Liasons, Mrs. Stockbower (K) and Miss Goldfinger (1st)

- Attended mindfulness training with Jacquie O'Malley over the summer. They both enjoyed the program and found it very useful. Guidance Counselor Debbie Einhorn, who has training in

mindfulness will be doing some sessions with Mrs. Stockbower's class and possibly more classes that are not part of the current mindfulness training program.

- Thank you to the PTA for seat sacks, beginning of school gifts and continued support.

School Board Report, Sara Rothman

- Dr. Wheeler's annual goals are posted along with the agenda for the last meeting on September 12th. The information can be accessed by going to the school district website udsd.org, and going to the district calendar, and clicking on the date of the meeting.
- The next school board legislative meeting will be Monday, October 10th, at 7PM in the UDHS Cardinal Room. Other committee meeting dates and times are listed on the township calendar.

Business Meeting:

- June minutes were unanimously approved.
- PTA audits were unanimously approved.
- PTA Treasurer Sherri Gregg gave her report (follows).

Announcements and Committees:

- The Welcome Back Social will be held on Friday, September 23, 6:30-7:30 PM on the lower playground.
- This year's school directory will be provided using an app called DirectorySpot.net. Users will receive an email with log in instructions. Information for the directory will be provided by the data in the district Home Access Center, so make sure you check that information and update if needed. Parents may update their information on the DirectorySpot app at any time. The app also allows users to print out directory information. Check out the website, directoryspot.net, to view the full application capabilities.
- The fall fundraiser is KidStuff coupon books. The sample book and information was sent home with students. Parents can either send back the book, or pay \$25 for that copy. If you sell five books, you receive one free. FWES earns 50% profit on books sold. Books, forms and/or money need to be returned to school by September 30th.
- Keep clipping and collecting Box Tops for Education. The Cash Back committee will be awarding prizes to classrooms with the most collected each month. Look for additional fundraising opportunities through the year such as "dine and earn at local restaurants that benefit FWES.
- Big Strides will start again on September 20th. It will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch recesses through December, as weather permits. Student and class recognition and prizes are awarded during the school Town Hall meetings. Volunteers are needed, look for a sign up coming soon.
- A colorful mural was done by last year's fifth grade classes as their gift to the school. It is located on the outside wall by the steps and newly cleaned up garden bed on the lower playground.

- Good quality photos are always needed for the Yearbook, please contact Jennifer Iannitti, (salmon.jennifer@gmail.com) to help! Yearbooks will be sold online again this year, information to come.
- Michele Miller presented the opportunity for a grant through Whole Foods to build a school garden at FWES. School gardens provide curriculum opportunity for many subjects, including science and nutrition education. They also allow for many fun, hands on learning by doing opportunities. Pennypack Farm & Education Center in Horsham has offered to be a Community Partner. She will be gathering input from teachers, students and parents. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Michele Miller, at: michelebrant@aol.com.
- PTA Welcome Packets (in the large gold envelopes) are due back to school this Friday, September 16th.
- The Room Parent luncheon will be held Tuesday, September 27th.
- The first assembly is November 14th. It will be a reading and writing presentation by Herman Parish, author, and the nephew of Amelia Bedelia series creator Peggy Parish.
- Raffle winner picked for tickets to Kellogg's Tour of Gymnastics Champions. Tickets were provided by Elementary Connections.

Thank Yous:

- Ginny Vitella thanked the Beautification Committee for the school's front widow decoration.
- Debbie Rothkopf thanked the board for their help with the Welcome Packets.

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 7pm, in the library.

PTA President Debbie Rothkopf thanked all for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Mia Payne, on September 15, 2016.

Treasurer's Report
September 14, 2016

Deposits:

Chromebook fundraiser	\$ 439.79
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Checks

Mindfulness training deposit:	\$ 500.00
Teacher capes:	\$ 627.50
1B schoolwide gifts:	\$ 652.85
Office supplies:	\$ 25.96
Chromebook skins:	\$ 245.54
Chromebook refunds (4):	\$ 79.96
Teacher gifts:	\$ 2800.00
Welcome packets:	\$ 145.69
Schoolwide gifts:	\$ 426.63
Geography books:	\$ 1061.90
Reading Connections:	\$ 408.00
UDSD Standing Desks:	\$ 4599.20
Pebble Go:	\$ 1145.00
Agenda Books:	\$ 1008.20
Sales tax:	\$ 54.08
Bank charge (bounced check):	\$ 12.00

Total:	\$13792.51
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