

**Fort Washington Elementary School PTA Minutes**  
**Wednesday May 6, 2015**

*President Pamela Olshefski opened the meeting.*

**Principal's Report:** *The following are highlights from Mrs. Hultquist.*

- Debbie Einhorn has been out due to health issues and will be returning to FWES on 5/18. Her workload is being covered by Mrs. Hultquist, who also has a guidance certification.
- The teachers have been working on student placement for next year and as always at this point of the year there is still ambiguity about staff and amount of classes. Parent input is looked at, but staff can't always adhere to it as there are many factors that need to be looked at, including teacher recommendations.
- Open house for grades 3-5 will be on Thursday, May 7 from 6:30-7:30.
- Due to the recent events in Baltimore, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip was quickly (thanks Pam Olshefski!) changed to New York City. Beth Nixon was also quickly able to change the shirts!
- The central office will have a timeline of the food policy changes available soon. Dr. Jack Becker, Director of Allergy for Main Line Allergy, is speaking about Food Allergies at UDHS Auditorium on 5/26 from 7:00- 8:30 pm.
- Background checks need to be completed to volunteer at school for the 2015-2016 school year. See Ginny Heiss with any questions.
- Jason Gerderman (Director of Facilities), along with the district, is currently looking at options regarding security at the front door of FWES to have restricted access into the school. Because of where the current office is located, things have to get moved around to bring the office closer to the entrance. The front office will be moved into the front conference room and people would be checked in before entering the building while still keeping a sense of openness. The bulk of the work is planned to be done by 6/30. It will have an impact on PM pickup.

**School Board Report:** *Sarah Rothman spoke on behalf of the school board*

- The support staff and teacher contracts have both approved.
- A new technology initiative has been approved, which will give each student in grades 5-12 their own device. Chromebooks have been chosen and this will start in September of 2015. 6<sup>th</sup> graders are using Chromebooks this year in science. The cost to the district will be \$0 in the first year (thanks to the Education Foundation) and \$300,000 per year after that. There will be a rent to buy agreement where they can be purchased for 2/3 the cost of the device which would be \$70 / year for 3 years complete with accidental insurance. Payments can be made online.
- A new digital platform for Eureka math called ZEARN is being looked into. The district is hoping to partner with ZEARN and implement it next year. The curriculum would be the same, but the students would use computers in math. This would be for grades 2,3 and 4.
- Transportation software is being voted on at the next meeting, which would help with the lack of technology used for the buses. Currently, they use pins on a board to map the bus routes.
- It has been acknowledged that the district has problems communicating to the community and administration. They are currently interviewing consultants to help with communication matters because help is obviously needed.
- George's Foundation Day was held on 5/6 and is a great fundraiser for the UDEF.
- Next Monday there will be a "policy meeting" to update policies such as harassment and discriminatory, which need to be constantly reviewed.
- Next Monday 5/11 there will be a school board legislative meeting.

**PTA Liaison Report-** *Keely Clauson and Lisa Ropski were present.*

- They thanked the PTA for the teacher appreciation lunch.

**Business Meeting**

- **Minutes from April's meeting will be approved at the June meeting since they have not been posted on the website yet.**
- A representative from **Claire's Gourmet** came to the meeting with samples of his products. This could be an option for a fall fundraiser.
- Christina Sunday gave the **treasurer's report** and major items are as follows:
  - Income –BFL 5k \$7,749, Spirit Wear \$1,044, Book Fair \$1,791 (net income), Spring Fair Sponsorship\$650, Box Tops \$987, ASA \$8,788
  - Expenses- Bus for 5th grade trip \$3,765, Spring Fair (Party Magic) \$383, B4L T shirts \$2,030, B4L DJ \$225, Spring Fair DJ \$300, Sales tax \$351
- Debbie Rothkopf was appointed as a **new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP** for the next school year. The Penna family won't be returning to FWES in the fall so a replacement for Jennifer Penna was needed.
- **The next town hall meeting** will be on 5/29 and 1<sup>st</sup> grade is presenting.
- The proposed **2015-2016 budget** was passed around for discussion and was approved. One item of interest brought up by Michelle Haggerty in the budget discussion was the new budget line items for clubs. A few years ago, all clubs were stopped due to the district no longer funding them. Over the past few years, the PTA board has discussed possibly bringing these clubs back and having the PTA itself fund them. It was decided to bring back the clubs most beneficial to all students: service council, garden club, and magic mailbox. The teachers that ran these clubs were paid a stipend based on their salary/ tenure. Assuming the same teachers would want to run those 3 clubs again, \$2,500 was added to the budget to fund them.
- The PTA and district facilities manager have been looking in to **purchasing a kiln** for the art room. Because of the layout of the art room, there are ventilation issues that will have to be worked around. The estimated cost of a kiln is \$4000 for the purchase of the kiln and installation. Justine Shervin made a motion to approve the purchase of a kiln and Jill Moskovitz seconded the motion. The purchase was approved.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Field day** will be held 5/22.
- **Burning for Learning** numbers aren't final yet and will be presented at the next meeting. There were 75 more runners this year than last year. Mr. Green ran the fun run for 50 kids. New this year were tech shirts and holiday discounts for registration. Over 50 local businesses sponsored the race.
- **Spring Fair** is Friday, May 15. There have been generous sponsors this year, allowing for lots of new games and crafts. Friday 5/8 is the last day to preorder wristbands. Room parents are asked to ask parents to volunteer at their assigned class activity. Anyone in grade 8 or above can volunteer. Party Magic inflatable games will be there. The theme is Patriot Pride.
- **C2C Giving Factory** will take place on 5/21. Each grade is asked to bring in specific donations.
- **Field day** will be Friday 5/22. There is still some spirit wear left to purchase.
- **Open committee chairs for next year**-There are several committees that will need a chair for next year. If interested in any, please contact Debbie Rothkopf at [debbierothkopf@aol.com](mailto:debbierothkopf@aol.com)
  - After School Activities
  - After School Activities Snacks
  - Silent Auction
  - Burning for Learning
  - Fall Fundraiser (co-chair needed)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade time capsule
  - Friday pretzels

#### **Thank you to...**

- Jenny Anderson and Donna Murphy for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance
- Ashley Frearson and Trish Menszak for the Teacher Appreciation lunch and breakfast
- Amy Coffey, Sandy Fiore and Jill Luviano for the Burning for Learning

*President Pamela Olshefski adjourned the meeting. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 3rd in the library at 7:00 p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Penna on 5/11/15.*