

Fort Washington Elementary School PTA Minutes
Wednesday March 11, 2015

President Pamela Olshefski opened the meeting.

Superintendent's Report: *The following are highlights from Deborah Wheeler*

- The district website will be getting a complete overhaul this summer and the district calendar will no longer be printed and mailed to the community. The calendar will be available on the new website for individuals to print as needed. There will be a small number of published copies that will be available at the Library, the Township Building, and Dr. Wheeler's office for those who are unable to print the calendar from the website.
- A tentative agreement has been made with the support staff and so outsourcing of Transportation does not look likely at this point in time. Transportation schedules will be done by the beginning of the summer for distribution to parents for review. There will not be significant changes in the bus routes. There will be 3 separate tiered runs keeping Elementary, Middle and High School children separate.
- Due to budgetary constraints and the new Science curriculum, the number of trips to Robbin's Park will be reduced and the Robbin's Park experience will directly correlate to the new Science curriculum. Grade level classes going to Robbin's Park will be combined. The District spends well over \$200,000 per year on the Robbin's Park program and the District is looking to reduce those costs, in part, by asking the PTA/PTO's to help contribute towards the transportation cost.
- Science Kits that are aligned with the new Science curriculum were purchased through donations.
- There will be a 'special' budget work session on March 23 that will be open to the public; starting at 6:00 at the High School.

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

- Mrs. Hultquist will be meeting with the Director of Facilities and the Safety Coordinator consultant on Friday, 3/13 to do a walkthrough of the building to help address and resolve issues and concerns.
- Please adhere to the a.m. drop off rules. Do not drop off children along Sunday Drive where the busses are.
- PSSA dates have slightly changed. There will be 4 days of Language Arts, 3 days of Math and 2 days of Science. Language Arts will start the week of 4/13- Monday through Thursday; Math will be held the following week and will be held on Monday 4/20, Wednesday 4/22 and Friday 4/24; and Science will be on Tuesday 4/28 & Wednesday 4/29 for 4th grade. There will be a data presentation meeting the beginning of the next school year to preview PSSA scores and PVAS projections.
- The investigation regarding Mr. Lynn is still ongoing, but Mr. Lynn will not be returning to FWES this school year. Miss Padova will be the permanent substitute for the remainder of the year.
- UDEA was not present as previously advertised due to an unforeseen meeting.

School Board Report: *Rev. Robert Kim spoke on behalf of the School Board.*

- Rev. Kim introduced himself and gave a brief bio:
He is a former FWES parent. He and his family moved to Upper Dublin from California primarily for the School District. He has 3 children currently in the district; one at the Middle School and 2 at Jarrettown. His vision for his role on the Board is to provide an accurate

representation of our voices so that they are heard and conveyed to the Board. He feels that we are moving in the right direction and are striving towards excellence in Education.

PTA Liaison Report- *Mr. Ed Bush spoke on behalf of the Teachers.*

- Report cards go out on Friday 3/20.
- Conferences are on 3/24 & 3/25. Teachers will be contacting parents for conference sign-ups.
- On behalf of the Teachers, they wanted to thank the PTA for all of their continued support.
- The Teachers (Uptown Funky Teachers) had a blast at Trivia Night!
- A Teacher, who was not in attendance, wanted to thank PTA members that came out to the School Board meeting on Monday night to show their support.

Director of Technology Report: *The following are highlights from Philip Vinogradov.*

- As the Technology department looks toward moving to a globally connected platform, they will look for efficiencies that will provide the best educational technology (ed tech).
- They are looking into a lease-to-own option for Chromebooks as a future endeavor which would be \$90 per person/per year for 3 years.
- The Technology department will be working with the public Library, who received a STEAM grant, to leverage the monies from that grant to build the program.
- Current devices, as long as they are compatible and accessible to the internet, will be utilized and maintained as long as the lifecycle of that device will allow.
- Mr. Vinogradov will have a comprehensive presentation for the April meeting.

Business Meeting

- Minutes from February's meeting were approved.
- The nominating committee of: Heather D'Angelo, Donna Murphy and Ginny Vitella have chosen the following slate for next year's board:
 - President- Michelle Haggerty
 - 1st Vice President- Julie Clark
 - 2nd Vice President- Jen Penna
 - Treasurer- Christina Sunday
 - Secretary- Mia Payne

The 2015-2016 PTA board will be voted in at the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report: *Christina Sunday gave the treasurer's report.*

The major items are as follows:

- **Income-** 2nd Grade Class Trip \$852, Pretzel Sales \$191, Burning 4 Learning Sponsorship \$2040, ASA Snacks \$90, From the Boot \$275
- **Expenses-** Book Buddy \$317, School Store Supplies \$329, ASA Snacks \$172, Keswick Theater (2nd grade) \$852, Shining Knights \$1088, Philly Soft Pretzel \$210, Trinity Episcopal Church \$100, Fun and Game Solutions \$3224, Keswick Theater \$269,
- PayPal transfer (Trivia Night)- \$2202

Committee Reports:

- **Book Fair-** will be held the week of 3/23 in the Library, with a preview day for students and teachers on Friday 3/20. Please contact Heather Rudalvage or Sandra Atherholt with any questions.
- **Cash Back-** Fireside Dine and Earn Tuesday 3/24 (half day).

Please send your Giant card number to Jesse Conte at nittlylion@yahoo.com. You can also register your Target Red Card. Please also continue to collect BoxTops, Tyson Labels and Labels for Education. These are easy ways to raise money for FWES!

- **ASA-** The Spring ASA session will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning April 15 & 16. Look for information to come home on Friday 3/20 about classes and registration. Registration will open on Friday 3/27.
- **Burning for Learning-** will be held on Sunday 4/26. There will be a one day registration price break offer on St. Patrick's Day of \$20 for the 5k and \$10 for the fun run. Mr Green's Fun and Games will be coordinating the kids fun run this year for free. Thanks Mr Green!
- **Spring Fair-** will be happening in May. There will be raffles, games & Fun!
- **Spirit Wear-** will be available for purchase in April. A new logo design was created by FWES parent Adam Zipfel in order to create cohesive branding for FWES.
- **Beautification Committee-** is still requesting light weight, colorful boxes for a recycling project.

Other News:

- The 5th Grade Class Trip will be on Tuesday 5/19. Information will be sent home on Friday 3/20.
- The FWES Speed Stack team won for the 7th year in a row.
- Mr. Kulla has donated the fish tank located outside of the Principal's office. If anyone is interested in maintaining the tank, please contact the school.
- The 4th and 5th grade dance party will be on Friday 4/10, with Mr. McAleer as the DJ. Chaperones are needed. If interested, please contact Jenny Anderson or Donna Murphy.

Thank You!

- Jessie Conte & Lorraine Sheik for the Science Fair.
- Trish Menszak, Jackie Reynolds & Mr. McAleer for Trivia Night.
- The Teachers for coming out to support FWES at Trivia Night.
- The Fireside for continuously donating food and snacks for our special events and PSSA testing.
- The Beautification Committee for recycling the BINGO cards into the creative bulletin boards throughout the school.

President Pamela Olshefski adjourned the meeting. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 8th in the library at 7:00 p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Penna on 3/13/15.