

Fort Washington Elementary School PTA Minutes
Wednesday April 8, 2015

President Pamela Olshefski opened the meeting.

School Nurse Report: *Sue Houseman spoke regarding school health issue*

- There has been a reported case of whooping cough (pertussis) with a student at FWES. Because it is a reportable disease, the state and county health department supercedes the school in notification and other protocols and all precautions have been properly taken. Children should receive a booster of this vaccination around age 11-12, so 4th and 5th graders seems to be the most susceptible to whooping cough as they approach the age to get the booster. It is usually not very dangerous to this age, but will show a very strong cough with uncontrollable coughing fits that may leave the child struggling to catch their breath. Babies are most at risk since they have not been fully vaccinated against whooping cough.

School Board Report: *Mark Sirota spoke on behalf of the school board*

- The support staff contract is almost complete and will be voted on this month.
- The teacher contract is in the process of being finalized but will most likely not be voted on this month.
- A new technology initiative is now in its final phase, which will give each student in grades 5-12 their own device. Chromebooks have been chosen and this will start in September of 2015. 6th 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. There is currently a \$475,000 technology budget, which has not changed in many years. This budget number doesn't include the cost of the Chromebooks. The Education Foundation has been looking for grants to cover some of the related costs. Students would be able to bring their own laptops but teachers would not be able to help them on them due to lack of training on other devices and the programs wouldn't be uniform on a different tablet. Chromebooks were chose because they require less staff to manage. Both teachers and students will be trained on how to use them. Librarians will play a key role in managing them and will house the loaners. The laptop carts that will no longer be needed by these grades will be given to the elementary schools.

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

- 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 would have to get moved around to bring the office closer to the entrance. The front office could possibly be moved into the front conference room and people would be checked in before entering the building while still keeping a sense of openness. It would have to be done over the summer if possible and hopefully the district will help in funding it.
- PSSA's to start next week. The PTA provides snacks.
- Open house will be held from grades K-2 on 4/9 from 6:30-7:30

PTA Liaison Report- *No one was present.*

Business Meeting

- **Minutes from March's meeting were approved.**
- The 2015-2016 PTA board was voted in at the meeting as follows:
 - Michelle Haggerty- President
 - Julie Clark- 1st Vice President
 - Jennifer Penna – 2nd Vice President
 - Christina Sunday- Treasurer
 - Mia Payne- Secretary
- Christina Sunday gave the **treasurer's report** and major items are as follows:
 - Income –BFL 5k \$1,100, trivia \$2,202, Book Fair \$1,791 (net income)

- Expenses- ASA Engineering class \$1,596, Bus for 1st grade trip \$557, Smart Apple Media Book (Book Buddy) \$418, bus for 4th grade \$524, trivia night DJ \$400, Post Prom \$250
- The current year's budget was passed around for discussion. Comments and suggestions were welcome to be used by the PTA board who will soon be working on next year's budget.
- Michelle Haggerty presented a school supply kit that could be used as a fall fundraiser next year. Teacher supply lists are used to compile boxes of supplies that can be bought and delivered to school.
- 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 \$2000.

Committee Reports:

- **4th and 5th dance party-** 4/10 from 7-8:30. Cost is \$5. 40 kids registered so far and 10 chaperones.
- **Book Fair** update- there was \$7,000 in sales, \$296 PTA donations, PTA funded 5 low-income kids so they could get books and parents donated 80 books.
- **ASA-** registration for spring session closes 4/9
- **Burning for Learning-** will be held on Sunday 4/26. Mr. Green's Fun and Games will be coordinating the kids' fun run this year for free. Thanks Mr. Green! A sign up genius will be coming out this week to ask for volunteers. Sponsorships are coming in and we have already matched the number of registrants from last year. Room parents are encouraged to promote the run and there is an ice cream party for the class with the biggest participation! There will be a Dine and Earn at MaGerks on Thursday 4/23 from 6-8 where 15% of your bill will go towards the run.
- **C2C-**Donations are collected- each grade asked to bring specific items.
- **Field day** will be held 5/22.
- **Spirit wear** sales end this Friday.
- **Spring Fair** will be held 5/15. Party Magic inflatable games will be there. The theme is Patriot Pride, and there will be raffles by grade- information coming soon.
- **Open committee chairs for next year-**There are several committees that will need a chair for next year. If interested in any, please contact Jennifer Penna (jennypenna@verizon.net)
 - After School Activities
 - After School Activities Snacks
 - Cash Back
 - Distribution
 - Spirit wear
 - Silent Auction
 - Jump Rope for Heart
 - Fall Fundraiser
 - 5th grade picnic
 - 5th grade field trip
 - 5th grade time capsule
 - Friday pretzels

Thank you-

- Heather Rudalavage and Sandra Atherholt for Book Fair

President Pamela Olshefski adjourned the meeting. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 in the library at 7:00 p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Penna on 4/16/15.