



Fort Washington Elementary School PTA Minutes
General Membership Meeting
September 9, 2015

PTA President Michelle Haggerty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established with more than 20 PTA members in attendance.

Principal Stephanie Hultquist presented her report.

- Reviewed staff changes, including Shawn McAleer as Assistant Principal for FWES and MGES.
- Introduced theme for the year, “Inspiring Growth.”
- Teachers will be continuing Multicultural Program and Curriculum
- PA Dept of Ed pausing School Performance Profiles for one year. FWES scored above average under the new benchmarks. PSSA scores will be in on September 14th.
- Technology update: Chromebooks for 5th graders, new tablets for Kindergarten and 1st for reading center use, and grades 2-4 will now have access to more devices because of one-to-one initiative.

Teacher/Staff Liaison Report: *Ali Hammarquist, Liz Padova*

- Teachers will now be rotating attendance at the monthly PTA meetings, via sign up genius.
- Mrs. Hammarquist thanked the PTA for generous donations, especially the back to school funds for classroom supplies.

School Board Report: *Superintendent Deborah Wheeler was in attendance, as well as school board member Sara Rothman, both gave district updates.*

- The board has created sub-committees including Curriculum/Assessment, Facilities, Finance, Personnel, Policy Pupil Services and Technology.
- PTA/PTO Summit planned. Chance for schools to communicate, learn and share ideas.
- New district website in development
- Volunteer requirements have changed again, see the district website for more information about clearances.
- Facilities are being reviewed as infrastructure continues to age, issues include very old boilers and lack of air conditioning in most schools.

Assistant Principal Report: Shawn McAleer

- Shawn McAleer discussed his new position which will include curriculum development, new teacher mentoring and discipline.
- He will be at FWES Mondays and Fridays, at the UD Administration Building on Wednesdays, and at Maple Glen Elementary on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Business Meeting:

- Audit and June minutes were unanimously approved.
- PTA Treasurer Christina Sunday gave her report (attached).
- President Michelle Haggerty summarized some of the school wide gifts made possible by PTA fundraising. These include: a kiln and a drying rack for the art room, the purchase of 40 tablets for Kindergarten and First Grade, as well as agenda books, speakers, rugs, textbooks and other classroom supplies requested by teachers.

PTA received many notes of thanks from the teachers. The PTA also ordered Friday Folders for all students, which will be delivered within a month.

Committee Reports:

- **Big Strides** is returning. It will begin September 22nd and run on Tuesdays and Thursdays during each recess. Volunteers are welcome and needed, a sign up genius will be provided. Individual and class recognitions are planned.
- **Trivia Night** is October 3rd, information to come shortly.
- **Books & Bagels** is October 7th at 8 AM in the Cafeteria. Gently used book donations will be collected and bagels provided. All parents/caregivers and children welcome.
- **Cash Back** committee chair Justine Shervin presented an ADT referral promotion that will be distributed as part of the cash back program. Continuing Giant A + Rewards (You can register your card starting September 14 at <http://giantfoodstores.com/savings-and-rewards/rewards-program/aplus/>), Target Red Card, as well as Box Tops for Education, Tyson's Project A+, and Campbell's Labels for Education collections. A Dine & Earn is scheduled for October 12th at Fireside, during lunch and dinner.
- **Patriots Auction Night** is Friday, November 13th at MaGerk's. Tickets to the event now being sold and it will feature entertainment, food, beer and wine. Advance tickets purchased before October 28th, are \$35 and include 10 raffle tickets.
- **ASA:** There will be one session of After School Activities during the winter.
- **Yearbook:** Orders will be done online via Lifetouch this year, information to come.
- **Welcome Packets:** Important reminder to get your welcome packet information back to school by this Friday.

Announcements:

- **School Store:** Starts next Wednesday, and will be open each Wednesday before and after school.
- **No school** September 14th and 15th for Rosh Hashanah.
- **FWES Back to School Night:** September 16th at 6 PM for grades K-2; 6:30 for grades 3-5 in classrooms
- **Blood Drive:** Scheduled for November 4th in the gym.
- **Welcome Back Social:** Friday, September 18th at 6:30 PM on the lower playground. The committee is looking for volunteers to help during short ½ hour shifts.
- **KidStuff books:** All orders, money and books not being purchased need to be returned to school by September 18th.
- **No school** September 23rd for Yom Kippur.

Thank you:

- President Michelle Haggerty thanked teachers, office staff, PTA Board, chairs and volunteers for their good work, time and effort:
- She also gave a special thank you to Ginny Heiss, Donna Murphy and other volunteers for their hard work getting the Welcome Packets completed and distributed.
- Additionally, she thanked the Kindergarten teachers, Superintendent, Principal Hultquisht, Shawn MacAleer and the parents and children who attended the Kindergarten Get Together. The event was very well attended and received.
- The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th, 2015, 7pm in the library.

PTA President Michelle Haggerty thanked all for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

PTA Treasurer's Report September 2015

Deposit:

School Store:	\$ 303.00
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Checks Written:

Sportswear:	\$1,355.80
5 th Grade Picnic:	\$ 146.61
Garden:	\$ 258.43
Book Buddy:	\$ 138.13
Pretzels:	\$ 162.50
MaGerks Deposit:	\$ 100.00
Book Buddy:	\$ 196.50
Yearbook:	\$2,059.94
4 th grade Map Skills Books:	\$1,165.50
Rugs and Couches for Kindergarten:	\$1,815.68
Play Fit Ed. Assembly:	\$ 995.00
Drying Rack for Art Room:	\$ 607.55
Tablets for Kindergarten and First Grades:	\$9,990.80

Withdrawals:

5 th Grade Picnic:	\$ 270.00
Teacher Beginning of Year Gifts:	\$2,945.00