

Waitsfield Elementary School PTA Meeting

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2010 7:40 AM

Attendees

Helen Ward, (president), Beth Libby (VP), Jenifer Tuck (treasurer), AnnMarie Harmon (secretary), Kaiya Korb, Hillary Downing, Bear Simmons, Piper Stover, Krissa Hammond, Jennifer Stella, and Christine Sullivan

Minutes

Helen stated that there were a couple of additions to last month's minutes. The PTA voted to give \$600 to the LEGO League to support the new program. The PTA voted to give \$300 to the community orchard. Motion to approve minutes: Hillary Downing. Seconded: Helen. Passed.

Babysitting Course

Every year it has been a goal for Sue Dillon to assemble a directory for all the graduates of her program through the years. **Action: Margaret Marble** (not in attendance) told Sue she will volunteer to create this directory. Sue requested that the PTA publicize this document upon completion. There was a discussion to include the fees for babysitting services. There will be a range depending upon the level of the job (number and age group of kids to babysit, if housework is included, etc.). She typically conducts two classes in the spring but this year she wants to do one in the Winter and one in the Spring. The PTA has this course in the Budget. Typically the PTA gives Sue between \$300-\$400. This class is offered to the 6th graders only unless there is a mature 5th grader on a case by case basis.

Ski and Skate Sale

Huge Thank You for the Ski and Skate Sale!!!! We met our budget!!! Krissa, the Chief Organizer did an incredible job once again of course. Jen with all the financial work – all she does with sending out checks to the vendors and to the parents takes hours of her time! Due to the fact that Krissa is working more hours, next fall will be her last year. Therefore, the PTA will have to find someone to shadow her. There will be multiple changes of the guard so to speak next year. If someone is planning on stepping down next year they should find someone to replace them. Next January we should discuss how we should recruit the parents of the younger parents so we have some longevity. Krissa said that the vendors LOVED our sale this year. They love our volunteers helping them load and unload and they LOVED the food!!!

LEGO League

There are hoards of children who have signed up! There is an early primary group of over twenty kids, and a third – six grade group with more than twenty. Piper needed additional volunteers and she got them! The program got off to an excellent start! The theme of the LEGO League will be the history of WES in context with the Town of Waitsfield since next year will be the 50th anniversary of WES.

5th and 6th Grade Musical

Kaiya has been speaking with the Play Director, Ruth Ann Pate, to see how we can best organize parents to volunteer to help with the play and generally how to improve the

experience for the kids. Helen went to the first meeting with Ruth Ann and the kids. Helen was quite impressed with Ruth Ann's direction and the children's behavior considering that they have been in school all day. Ruth Ann may be counting on the parents – at least one at every practice - to help the kids run around for 15 minutes prior to the practice to get them in a better shape to concentrate on the program. Is this a sustainable program if it is so dependent upon parents to make it a success? Do we need to hire someone in addition to Ruth Ann to support the program? When they are not actually doing their drama perhaps those kids could be learning something drama related on the sidelines, for example drama games – perhaps taught by a high school student. It is not possible to expect Ruth Ann to also provide drama games. If she is doing a scene with only the main characters for example, the other kids could be doing something else that is productive for the play. It certainly is a crowd management challenge! Ruth Ann knows the drama High School kids so it may be possible for her to find someone. **Action: Kaiya and Ruth Ann** will be coming up with a contract for the actors so that they can be more serious about the responsibility of this activity – for example to not go to the VG prior to practice to get a power drink.

Another challenge with the 5th and 6th grade play is when the afterschool program and the other afterschool programs like the Hip Hop or LEGO League are meeting AND the practices for the school play – there are times when there are over 100 kids in this building after school! Kaiya made the point that often the most distracting thing are the parents who are not aware of how loud their conversation are in the halls and to spread the word to the parents.

End of the Year Fundraising Requests

There was a discussion regarding asking local business to contribute a portion of their end of the year tax donations to go the PTA. **Action: Piper** offered to create a such a letter that can be used as a starting point each year. **Action: Kaiya** offered to create a data-base of potential businesses so that the PTA can keep track of who donates through the years. **Action: AnnMarie** offered to assist Kaiya with this list. Because we are a PTA and not a PTO we have the non-profit 501(c)3 program so that it can be a tax-deducted donation. This year the letter will only be for the LEGO League.

Movie Night

Amy Rochford suggested that the PTA hold a Movie Night community event. This is an idea for something we can do for our kids to get the Valley Schools together similar the way the dances do at Warren School. Children could be encouraged to come in pajamas. Helen said that Troy Kingsbury has offered to donate his popcorn machine for such an event. The event could be free with a donation jar and the refreshments can be sold with proceeds for the PTA. **Action: Helen** will speak with Amy to see if she would be willing to organize this event.

Ski Program Wrap-Up Party

Candice White approached Helen suggesting that WES hold an End-of-the-Ski Program party at the Gate House Lodge at Sugarbush for the families. There could be a spaghetti dinner (or something else) for \$6 for children and \$10 - \$12 for adults. There was a discussion that this was an excellent idea however, it may not be the right year for it due to the 50 Year Anniversary Party. See below.

Joint Spring Hill/WES PTA Parent Education Class

This would be something like the Parent On Track program. We have access to so many “experts” in this community we should be able to do something with our parents. **Action:**

Krissa has volunteered to organize this event. It was suggested that perhaps different speakers could be brought in to speak on different topics depending upon their area of interest.

50 Year Anniversary of WES

The WES staff has been having discussions regarding having some big “bru ha ha” evening gathering for the families of WES past and current. Perhaps there is some big musical group that could be hired for entertainment at this party. There could be guest of honor from people who used to attend this school. Kaiya mentioned that different classes are going to present ideas. Perhaps there will be a movie put together of photographs from graduates in the Valley. There could be stories told at this event on what is what like to walk and ride bikes to school as this would assist in our current efforts to promote more pedestrian commuting. There apparently is a time capsule or two buried that could be brought up and presented.

Adjourned

9:00 AM. Next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2011 7:40 AM in the WES Library.