



Westgate Elementary School
PTA General Board Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2019

Fourth General Meeting of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Lisa Kusumpa, Westgate PTA President

Role Call and Attendance

Eleven (11) members present, including four (4) executive committee members, one (1) teacher and the Principal and Assistant Principal

Principal's Report - Dr. Carter

- We have MAP reports going home this upcoming Friday (1/18) in backpack mail. Any questions, please advise staff.
- Access testing for ELL has started. Testing will last approximately two weeks. Letters to go home by end of the month.
- Kindergarten orientation night is coming 1/23. District has more specific time frame for when some things are to happen. Westgate's presentation will be starting at 6:45 pm in the gym. Updates and details to be sent out along with the kindergarten teachers aware of the itinerary.
- Leadership night is coming up on 1/24 during our open house. This open house will have a different tone to spotlight the Leader In Me program, etc. Book fair is coming up 1/23 and 1/24 as well.
- Valentine's day parties. Kindergarten to come in day before for set up/decorating. Remaining grades to decorate day of party. Time frame is 2:30 to 3:30 for parties.
- School supplies update. We will have 2 week window in February for staff to review their supply lists. Hope to have all grade levels finalized by the end of February. Intend to have grade levels consistent with each other as far as supplies specified. Also intend to maintain a cost-effective supply list as well.
- Lighthouse Review - this is coming up and is considered the Superbowl of Leader in Me. This is the review to gain the pinnacle award of 'Lighthouse Status'. During the audit questions will be asked and we will have the opportunity to share our stories with the goal of obtaining 'Lighthouse Status'. Hope to have results by February.
- Drone Club starting - New 5th grade club starts this weekend.

Teacher's Report - Paula Sullivan

- So much appreciation from all the staff for the cookies and treats before the holiday break.
- Leadership Night and Lighthouse Review - Very excited for this process. Audit will be able to come in to any and all classrooms to ask questions of staff and students. If we are to gain Lighthouse Status this will be a huge accomplishment for Westgate.
- Cultural Assembly - Quintet Attacca in December was a huge hit.
- Staff would like thank you all for the proactive approach for parties etc. as it has helped answer many questions ahead of time, etc.
- PTA Holiday Party - Many were sorry that they were unable to attend but would like to thank the PTA for hosting such a nice event.
- Dave Flanagan - The Heart of Gold Volunteer award was awarded to Dave and he was honored at Westgate for his 11 years of volunteer service. Westgate also would like to put a couple of tables together for the Heart of Gold dinner reception/award banquet. Heart of Gold is awarded through the Chamber for only a few categories and we are extremely happy for Dave and this major accomplishment.

Treasurer's Report - Julie Carlson

- Review of December's budget reconciliation. We are solvent. Reports are there to make it easier for chairs to see how much of their funds are left for their committee to spend.

Secretary's Report - Trish Kalweit

- Reviewed and approved the October 23, 2018 minutes.
- Correspondence
 - Wheeling Township to Westgate Cares - Gratitude for Birthday Baskets
 - Wheeling Township to Westgate Cares - Gratitude for Baby Baskets
 - Debbie Wood and Westgate Staff - Gratitude for Holiday Cookies and Treats
- Revision/Bylaws Committee has been formed
 - Chaired by Trish Kalweit
 - Lisa Kusumpa, Lauren Cruz, Bridget Schank will be the additional committee members
 - First Meeting is Jan 16, 2019

Vice President Ways & Means - Lauren Cruz

- **Book Fair - Jennifer Heffernan & Sandra Albu (Trish Kalweit reporting)**
Location - Westgate Commons. Wednesday, 1/23 (3:35-6:30 PM) and Thursday, 1/24 (6:30-8:30 PM during open house)
- **Staff Appreciation Committee - Michelle Harris (Trish Kalweit reporting)**
Teachers and staff loved the homemade cookies Westgate families provided the week before break. Thank you to all who helped and baked. Staff appreciation week coming in May. If anyone would like to lend a hand/ lead a sub-committee for the festivities please reach out to Michelle.

- **Westgate Cares - Tracy Recklaus & Bridget Shank (Trish Kalweit reporting)**
Update regarding the Adopt A Family project (partnered with Arlington Cares). Very successful! Together with the Westgate Community, we fulfilled the holiday wish lists for two families (16 people) with over 75 donated gifts. Approximately 60 Westgate students then helped to wrap all the gifts.
Feed My Starving Children event took place on Saturday 1/12/19 (4:30-6:30pm) 90 people attended from Westgate and the whole group packed 152 boxes that will be sent to Haiti and Peru.
Project Linus to take place on Saturday, 2/9/19 in Westgate GYM- 10AM-1PM.
- **Parent Game Night - Katy Murray (Trish Kalweit reporting)**
Will take place at Arlington Lanes on 2/23/2019 from 7:30 to 11 pm.
Registration open and will remain open until 2/8/2019.
Looking for donations of wine for wine pull.

Vice President Enrichment & Social - Lauren Rogers

- **Room Rep Report - Lisa Kusumpa reports**
Valentine's Day Parties - will be sending out an email regarding the parties and the time frames along with what is left to spend. Reminder to please spend your budget.
- **Fifth Grade Committee - Julie Carlson reports**
Theme chosen is 'Soaring to New Heights'. Everyone has started their meetings aside from food and beverage. Would like to discuss use of Commons further for Variety Show.
Also still need a 4th grade liaison.
- **Kindergarten Welcoming Committee - Lisa Fischer reports**
Dates have been chosen for the Kindergarten summer play dates and parent gatherings.
Planning to have a committee representative at the Kindergarten Orientation on 1/23/19.
Storytime with Dr. Carter will take place in Spring - will just need to work out dates and times.
Will plan to help facilitate Kindergarten screenings.
Also, March or April of 2020 would like to do a 1st grade Q & A session.
Kindergarten Leader Signs - will discuss with Dr. Carter.
Have set up a facebook page as well to get the word out.
- **Family Activity Night - Emmy Butler (Lauren Rogers reporting)**
Westgate Activity Swim night took place on 11/18/18 at RecPlex in Mt. Prospect. Very fun event attended by 60 members of the Westgate Community.
Food/supplies were collected by the Westgate Cares committee for the Wheeling Township.
Numbers were lower than previous events. Will look at dates and locating the event at Olympic for next year.

- **Fun Fair - Lauren Rogers reports**
Brian Wolf will be chairing the event and first planning meeting has taken place (next meeting is Thurs 1/17). Updates are coming. Brian is very accommodating to all who want to help and to their schedules.
April 5th is date of Fun Fair; emoji theme
- **Primary/Intermediate Movie Nights - Toulia Lipton reports**
Primary movie night on 2/1/19.
Promotion/Registration to start on 1/18/19. Free popcorn and water and treat such as sucker or fruit snacks.
LIM team Web Wizards assisting with vote for movie.
Intermediate movie night on 3/15/19.
Considering 3rd/4th in Commons and 5th in gym.
- **Cultural Arts - Lisa Peters reports**
Dec 20th, Quintet Attica (interactive wind quintet) follow up.
Looking at Spring Cultural event. Tina Finch running past dates with Dr. Carter.
Need a chairperson for next year.
- **Reflections Reception Update - Annette Felho (Lisa Kusumpa reporting)**
2nd annual Reflections Participation Celebration - an event that celebrates the student of SD25 and their 2018/2019 "Heroes Around Us" works of art will be held on Wed. January 30th from 7 to 8 PM at Windsor Elementary School. This event is sponsored by the Arlington Heights Council of PTAs (AHC). The Reflections program is sponsored by the PTA (under the Art Club umbrella).

President's Report - Lisa Kusumpa

- **AHC/PTA Council Update**
Every year the council offers scholarships to high school seniors. Each of the councils will have someone read the applications. It's a blind process with a rubric utilized. 10 winners at \$1000 each. In the Spring, they will hold a breakfast to award the scholarships. Winners have been from South, Westgate, the winners note the influence that a particular teacher in the District has had on their education/life.
- **AHC/PTA scholarships**
Discuss earmarking 10% of end of year excess funds to AHC/PTA scholarship funds.
The council has asked the above question as they are beginning to looking into other ways to fund the scholarships. Mary DeMaria plans to stay on as the AHC/PTA scholarship chair after she exits her position as AHC president.
If utilizing 10% of excess funds, it is noted that we already pledge \$150 toward the scholarship fund.
Point is raised that there is not very much money left at the end of the year to speak of and not sure how much difference it would make.
Another point raised that 10% does not seem like too much to ask if it is going back to District 25 students.

Looking at possibility of asking for voluntary donations at point of registration which seems of interest to several members during this general meeting.
PTA Membership costs - Looking to maintain \$15 for upcoming school year.

- **ACE IT 25 Update**

We have two liaisons at Westgate for the All Children Excel committee. Currently they are identifying events where they would like to provide their input as far as meeting the needs of children with special/sensory needs, etc.

- [PTA Ethical Conduct Agreement for Committee Chairs](#)

- **New & Unfinished Business**

Nominating Committee to be formed (for next year's President and 2 Vice President positions). Required to form a nominating committee of 5 people with 2 alternates. This committee would need to meet at least once and will look for good candidates to fill the above. Slate must be ready to vote on at April 2019 PTA general meeting.

Lisa Fischer to gather a committee to be elected at the February 2019 general PTA meeting.

Scholarship Chair position - a vote is required to add this position to our existing committee chairs.

Motion to approve - Julie Carlson

Second - Trish Kalweit

Vote - 10 Ayes/0 Nays

LHT Liaison Position - a vote is required to add position to our existing committee chairs.

President works with the LHT and meets with the LHT Westgate Staff. Propose a motion to create a liaison for the LHT on the Westgate PTA committee chair list.

Motion to approve - Trish Kalweit

Second - Lisa Peters

Vote - 10 Ayes/0 Nays

Wednesday, February 13th at 7 PM is next general meeting.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm by Lisa Kusumpa.

Secretary: Trish Kalweit*

Reviewed by President on : 1/20/19

Approved by General Board on : 2/13/19

Secretary: Trish Kalweit

Note: Electronic versions of minutes can be found on the Westgate PTA Website

www.westgatepta.com