



General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

7:00 pm in the LMC and via Zoom

1. Welcome / Call to Order
2. Meeting Ground Rules
 - a. We are all volunteers, and we try our best.
 - b. Everyone is treated with respect.
 - c. Participation is encouraged - everyone's input is valuable.
 - d. Remember the mission of the PTA in all that we do: "To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."
3. Principal's Report - **Ann Buch**
 - a. Dr. Buch reminded parents to please send your child to school with warm weather gear and snow gear when it snows, especially for recess. She also announced that the 5 Essential Survey will be sent out shortly. It's an important survey and she values parents' feedback. Please fill out the survey! Regarding kindergarten for next year, plans are already underway and approximately 40 families have requested kindergarten information packets. Dr. Buch will offer two storytimes for incoming kindergarteners. There will also be a Kindergarten Parent Night on Thursday, March 23rd, at 6:30 for incoming families of kindergarteners. The parent teacher conference signup went out on 1/24/23. Thank you to the PTA in advance for providing lunch and snacks to the teachers during conferences. Two Coffee Talk sessions with Dr. Buch will take place with parents (one in winter and one in spring). Dr. Bein will be at the next PTA meeting in March to talk about the construction plans.
4. Teacher's Report - **Jen Carney**
 - a. Jen Carney reports that it's been a great start to the new year. Also, this week, the Digital Citizenship spirit week is underway!
5. Treasurer's Report - **Samme Nowakowski**
 - a. Mid-Year Report Review - we currently have an approximate \$5K gap in our budget (we need to raise approx \$5K more to cover the costs of the remaining PTA events for this school year).
 - b. Updated budget published by mid-Feb with goal to approve at next general meeting
 - c. Payment Research with D25 PTA Treasurers
 - d. AmazonSmile is going away on February 20th but there's still time to order from AmazonSmile for the Valentine's party.
6. Secretary's Report - **Kim Hedstrom Nickl**:
 - a. Review & Approval of 11-16-22 minutes - Motion was approved unanimously.
7. Vice President Social & Enrichment - **Abby Harkey**

- a. Movie Night committee: **Kari Beyer** reports that the 1st and 2nd grade movie night is set for Friday, February 3rd, and registration is open. We have received 78 responses. A sign up genius for event volunteers and food donations will be sent out next week.
 - b. Walk & Roll to School Day: **Colleen Palmer** reports that plans will soon be underway for the next Bike & Roll to School day on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Stay tuned for more info!
 - c. Room rep committee: **Shelly Daley** reports that the Valentine's day classroom party will be on Tuesday, February 14th, and room reps are in the process of planning the parties. Classroom decorating will be on Monday, February 13th from 3:35pm-4:30pm. Westgateroomreps.weebly.com is always available with a plethora of information regarding the Valentine's Day party, and much more. Thank you room reps!
 - d. Art Club - **Shelly Daley** reports that the third art club class for 4th & 5th graders will meet in January. Information on Art Club can be accessed anytime at westgateartclub.weebly.com.
 - e. School Enrichment Committee - Cultural Arts: Super U! is scheduled for 3/14/23 from 9:15am - 10am and 10:15am -11am.
 - f. Reflections: **Karen Radek** reports that all of the Westgate Reflections projects advanced from Council to the regional level last month! The regional results are due any day now, but we are still waiting to hear the results.
 - g. Chess Club: **Lisa Szydlowski** reports that the winter session is wrapping up. Session 1 had 28 students, and Session 2 currently has over 30 students. A few children have also participated in chess competitions. Trying to determine if there is enough interest in a spring session. If so, it would be another 8-week-long session led by chess master, Paul Rasso, and a few more volunteers would be needed. More information to come. In addition, Paul Rasso reports that he is so proud of the students and how much they have learned. We are grateful for the help and support from Westgate, parents, administrators and PTA members.
 - h. Ice Cream Social - We are brainstorming ideas on how/when to do an ice cream social. More details to come.
8. Vice President Ways & Means - **Autumn Jenks**
- a. Westgate Cares - **Heather Walsh** reports that the final totals for the Toys For Tots collection yielded 230 donations: 178 toys, 42 stocking stuffers and 10 books. Thank you Westgate for your generosity and kindness! Stay tuned later in the Spring for the next Westgate Cares project!
 - b. Spirit Wear - **Mandy Barton** reports that the online store is open and seems to be going well. We have sold 157 items so far. We make \$1 per item as a fundraiser for the PTA. The store will continue to be open all year. If anyone has placed an order and has any feedback, please let me know.
 - c. Westgate Parent Night Out - Rock and Roll Bingo took place on January 24th at Hey Nonny and it was great fun! Thank you to **Kari Dwyer and Jen Bates**! Hey Nonny will give us the ticket donations back as our donation! Stay tuned for more future Parent Night Out events.
 - d. Staff Appreciation - **Katie Bjes** reports that her committee has some great ideas for staff appreciation week, but she is keeping these ideas as a surprise for the teachers! There is more to come on this.
 - e. Fundraising: **Autumn Jenks** reports that the Mindful Kitchen fundraiser is set for the week of 2/20/23. 20% of sales will be donated back to Westgate for the entire week for

in-store or online purchases. In addition, the Boston Market fundraiser is set for March 7th from 4pm-8pm (20% of sales will be donated back to Westgate).

- f. School Supply Kits: **Lisa Szydlowski** reports that we are using EPI again this year. We recently shared information with the school, and supply lists will be distributed to teachers for approval and modifications soon. More information to come.
 - g. Yearbook: **Chrissy Kordalewski** reports that you should buy your yearbook and customize your pages by 4/1/23! If we extend the date, the price will go up by \$5. So please get those orders in now.
 - h. Scholastic Book Fair for the spring - We are looking forward to doing a spring Scholastic book fair. This is a great event for the students, teachers and PTA! More details to come in the future.
9. President Elect's Report - **Kim Powers**
- a. Thank you gifts for the committee members / volunteers that could not attend the holiday party
 - b. 2023 National PTA convention will be virtual March 7-8th, 2023 and registration is \$50. Anyone interested?
 - c. 2023 Illinois PTA Convention virtual - When: Thursday, April 20, 2023 (7:00 pm – 9:00 pm); Saturday, April 22, 2023 (9:00 am -2:00 pm)
 - d. If you have something that needs to be shared on social media, please email Kim Powers at Kimpowerspta@gmail.com at least 24 hours in advance
10. Presidents Report - **Shelby Gajos**
- a. 2 goals this year (updates)
 - i. Fundraising
 - 1. We can do some awesome things this year like host a big parent's night out fundraiser. We need a new committee (maybe 4 or 5 people) for this. Please let us know if anyone is interested.
 - ii. Community
 - 1. Thank you to our Westgate community for your involvement and support of the Westgate PTA. We want to offer events to bring this great community together!
 - b. President's Committees:
 - i. **Election:** Need nominating committee ("Nom Com") for open positions at the end of this term. The Nom Com consists of 5 members, 3 of whom the Executive Board elects and 2 are elected by the association at a general membership meeting at least 2 months prior to the election. Nom Com shall select 1 nominee for each office to be filled and report at least 30 days prior to the election meeting. We expect the election meeting to occur at the May General PTA meeting, so we must elect the Nom Com at the March meeting. Samme Nowakowski, Sarah Baird, and Katie Bjes volunteered to be on the Nom Com.
 - ii. School Board Liaison: **Ryann Uden** reports the following from the January 10, 2023 Board meeting: A discussion was held about Summer U academic review courses. In the previous two summers, these courses were paid for by ESSER funding (though not the enrichment courses). Although the discussion seemed to lead towards returning to a cost for academic review courses, school personnel will continue to outreach to families in need to make other arrangements as needed. Full discussion [here](#). A presentation was given about the district's library media centers and program. Discussion of library media

policies followed and can be viewed [here](#). Discussions will continue at a future committee meeting. A discussion was held about whether or not the District would move to abate property tax refunds. The Board will move forward with the resolution to direct the Cook County Court Clerk to abate the increase in the 2022 real estate tax levy. The discussion on this can be found [here](#). Full information about the meeting is [here](#):

- i. AH Council update:
 1. Kindergarten & 5th grade committees (Plan for next year & sign up genius) - Let's start forming our Kindergarten and 5th grade committees! Parent's of 4th graders and parents of incoming kindergartners, please let us know if you are interested in helping.
 - a. [Exec and Committee Chair Roles](#): Please click on this link to see descriptions of each exec and committee role. Share these roles with anyone interested in volunteering!
 2. Multicultural Fair - contact Dr. Bein if interested! This is a district-wide initiative for the future.

11. New Business

- a. Get involved: Please consider volunteering for one or more of our communities! Our needs include: a new fundraising committee (4 or 5 people) to plan a large parent night out fundraiser for this spring, a social media person (to help Kim Powers), the Scholastic book fair needs 2 shadows, School supplies will need a shadow and someone to take over for the '24-25 school year. We may need to pause the Fun Fair, find a new location for it due to construction, or reimagine a new school-wide event. There is more to come on this. Due to the construction, we are looking to do smaller indoor events this school year; for example: movie night for 1st and second graders, something special for 3rd and 4th graders (such as a glow party), and a special event such as an ice cream social for the kindergartners. We are still working through the details! The 5th graders have their special 5th grade celebration to look forward to. We also want the same events to work year over year. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers! We couldn't do this without you and we appreciate all of your dedication and support!

12. Unfinished Business

13. Adjourn

Approved by Shelby on 1/30/23