

Westbrook + Glen Grove PTA

Board Meeting November 12, 2019

Glen Grove 6:30PM

Minutes

Attendees: Chaula Desai, Heidi Bicking, Helena Vena, Patrick Hoeft, Carmela Bondad, Meghan Czechowski, Kate Ahmed, Jenny Jarosick and Elaine Carrozza

New Business

- Thank you to principals for helping organize the writing curriculum talks at WB & GG. Feedback was mainly positive. It was appreciated by parents. Consensus is to continue these with perhaps more info regarding the talks going out to parents i.e. what is it, how can it help.
- Great attendance at Spirit Night and Parent Night Out (earned about \$250 each) Your pie had highest attendance. We will revisit spirit night after the holidays in January.
- Costume drive at WB resulted in about 50 costumes. Amazing turn out, PTA was contacted by WB counselor and parents really came through with costumes for those who may not be otherwise able to dress up for Halloween.
- PTA is posting photos, information in teacher lounges in continued effort to communicate. More photos, copy of newsletter, postings of upcoming events and format will be updated to be more user friendly
- Veteran's Day Feedback. Great feedback, both events at WB and GG were well attended and went very well. Many Veterans in attendance had mentioned that this was the first recognition of this type they received since living in our area. The PTA also expressed their gratitude to both custodians at the schools. Jenny asked the principals for ideas on how to show their appreciation.
- 11/14 Devorah Heitner (author of *Screenwise*) speaking @ Attea 7pm, PTA-sponsored event; D34 offering child care services with RSVP
- International Night This Week! Need Volunteers. Mexico booth just added by two enthusiastic WB parents
- Holiday Helpers Has Begun, there is a sign-up genius for wish list
- PTA discussed accessing PTA funds with Brian Engle. If it's just a couple of items, send to Matt Silverman first and he can assess the longevity of items

(how often we need new cones, etc.). If it's a larger order or several items, write a grant and submit to D34, D34 will confirm if there is any plan to purchase items, if not, district will pay and then invoice PTA. The goal is to be on the same page as to not overlap on what is gifted.

- We plan to announce the directory for 2019-20 soon. Parents may need to verify their information on AtoZ (many emails are switched within households) it's a small glitch that the PTA is trying to fix otherwise they may either ask for email verification or possibly another service.
 - **PTA Council Updates**
 - Council asks for \$200 from each cluster for annual fees and advertising.
- D34 reviewing school photography contract and deciding on vendor. Tracy Kellner will be PTA representative in process
- Springman is handing out tickets for positive/kind behavior. Teachers have tickets in their lanyards and kids can collect and exchange for items/ experiences in the school store (including reading announcements, etc.)
- Mr. Dorken (Principal Lyon) briefly discussed the benefit of having assistant principals, so that principals can focus more time on instructional leadership, including writing curriculum
- Need to Clarify Parent Connect Discussion Group Times via Family services. Try to help with this in PTA newsletters
- BPAC looking for new president for 2020-21
Hoping to find new candidate by February 18 (BPACs Next Meeting). Contact Alan Hernandez at D34 with candidate ideas. It meets 4 times a year and allows parents who are bilingual the opportunity to meet other parents, connect and feel a part of the community.
- Student Services hosting Associates breakfast/lunch-depending on what building.
Idea for fundraiser -- host a parent or student event at ArLight Cinema. Was very profitable for Middle School. Heidi suggested Zanie's in Rosemont.
- D225: Wednesday, November 13 @ GBS – screening of *Screenagers: The Next Chapter* 7pm
- **Glen Grove (presented by Mrs. Vena)**
 - Thank you, for all the PTA's assistance with so many of the school's activities from Halloween to Literacy night, the cultural arts programs

and Veteran's Day. Those are all events that are so important but the teachers just don't have the time to do. With fall assessments and the new curriculum, the teachers have a hefty load, which they are doing great with. Soft starts are being implemented in all the classrooms, students are more likely to start their day in a calm and organized way with soft starts. They are not delaying the start of their day by hanging in the halls, using restroom etc. Lastly, fine arts week for the 3rd graders will be starting. This is done to give the 3rd graders an opportunity to showcase their fine arts skills and accomplishments since they normally don't have other fine arts concerts or shows in 3rd grade.

- **Principal's Report Westbrook (presented by Mr. Hoeft)**

- The most recent cultural arts program was a huge hit at Westbrook, even the EC students loved it. Veteran's Day was really a special and touching morning. It was great to see the excitement of the students, the emotions of the teachers and staff and the pride of the Veterans. Lastly, writing workshop is going to be looked at a little differently instead of looking at only K-2nd grades WB will be expanding the skills to the EC development students as well.
- Kate is hoping to put together a newsletter to showcase our budget/donation/spending, like a tracker to show where everyone's money is going. It's a nice way to show parents how they are helping.
- Kate and Jenny are in discussion on how to handle gifts to teachers this year. Teachers use these gifts to help with supplies in class but really can be used for anything. PTA is planning on giving gift cards to all teachers, the difficulty lies in how to handle the EC team. EC teachers receive gifts but parents of EC students are not currently enrolling in the PTA. Currently looking for suggestions on how to better tap these parents and bring them into the PTA.
- Chaula asked for a more streamlined set up for school parties. It seems that some room parents may need assistance in utilizing their class funds better. There can be less waste by centralizing supplies, snacks and ideas. Jenny and Kate agreed and asked Chaula if she would be willing to be a part of a new committee to put these ideas into effect.

Next Meeting: **December 10 @ 9:30AM Glen Grove**