

# Westbrook + Glen Grove PTA

January 14, 2020 @ Westbrook, 6:30PM

## Minutes

**Attendants:** Jenny Jarosick, Stephanie Shefler, Jeannie Sung, Kellie Yusifi, Arif Ahmed, Kate Ahmed, Elaine Carrozza

### Treasurer's Report -Arif

- Current cash balance of about \$99K,
- Amazon Smile haven't received a check from Amazon for this month. Try to get the word out on Amazon smile, this could be a great way to bring in easy extra funds. Last month's check was only \$31, we need to encourage more people to sign up.
- IRS has agreed to waive the penalty for the delayed 2018 tax returns. We have also been granted an extension for the 2019 tax return to March 2020 (was due December 2019).
- Holiday Helpers received \$1660.00 in cash/check contributions.
- The Cruz family donations were at \$7,500.

### New Business

- Thank you to parents, teachers, students, and community for supporting Holiday Helpers! Special thanks to organizers Jen Crouse and Anne Engro. They really took charge and made some great things happen. They will need someone new next year; Jen is moving on but Anne is staying on.
- Thank you to the community for supporting the Cruz family as stated earlier we raised \$7500.00
- Announcement: PTA will be providing all teacher funds via grant process. Teachers are encouraged to apply for a grant for anything they will need. Grants will be reviewed and chosen to be approved by PTA with guidance from principals. This will eliminate the need for us to dip into our savings each year to cover the funds which is not sustainable. Per Jeannie, after staff meeting at WB the teachers seemed to ok with it. Per Stephanie she is not certain the teachers at GG have received the grant application on-line form. Stephanie indicated she would follow up with Mrs. Vena about the grant application.
- Egg Harbor Parent Social - January 28 @ 9:30AM
- Looking for WB Yearbook Team -We have someone at GG who is handling the yearbook and is willing to teach/help the WB volunteer.
- Directory has been officially released to parents (after delay due to database glitches) -Now available on A to Z app
- Power Hour Roll Out Discussion. There has been a lot of discussion on how to make this happen without it backfiring or making it stressful for teachers. The idea is to get parents to

volunteer one hour of their time to help teachers. The problem is sometimes teachers can't plan exact dates/times they need help. The PTA was planning on a trial for February but it was agreed to be put on hold for a while. The possibility of offering this at the beginning of the school year when teachers are setting up their classrooms came up. Everyone agreed to continue to consider options of how to make "power hour" happen.

- Upcoming: No Fuss Fundraiser. We would like to do a brief interview-style video asking why we love our school. What, if any, participation can teachers and students have? They will not be asking for funds, just stating what they love about the school. Show your love, donate!

## PTA Council Updates

- Anxiety 2.0 Presentation Wednesday, January 15 @ 7PM, Attea. Childcare provided. These discussions/talks are getting great responses from parents.
- Still need parents to complete 5 Essentials Survey (link in PTA email as well as D34 email). It was brought up that many parents don't realize that this survey affects our school's rating. Another email blast will go out trying to make it very clear.
- Discussion about Associates and their crucial role. While School Board negotiates new contract, PTA Council Members noted that more training for Associates would be hugely beneficial since they are in charge of key social situations (lunch/recess). While we value the Associates, they are using language with the children that is not in line with D34 character standards, and, often not able to coach interactions during lunch/recess in a way that best supports students. Per Jeannie, the associates (through the district) do receive some professional development training with social and emotional training. These are things the district seems to be addressing.
- Referendum will be on the March ballot. PTAs are encouraging parents to be informed on this issue, attend information sessions with neighbors and grandparents who live in Glenview, and mark their calendars to vote (early voting is a great idea to ensure it gets done!). Dates and information are in the January D34 newsletter.
- GEF Trivia Night January 25, , we believe it is sold out. A new event will be a scavenger hunt – May 16 . We are waiting for more details.

## Principal Reports

### WB-Jeannie Sung

- First week of school we hit the ground running starting with NWEA testing.
- We would like to thank the PTA for the microwave.
- WB has professional development (PD) training that comes through the district that is contractual. In addition to the contractual PD, WB teachers have agreed to use ALL the funds that the district gives them to add on to that PD training for the Writing Workshops

that will/are being rolled out. These programs will help the teachers be prepared and fully trained to execute.

- On-line school registration starts February 3<sup>rd</sup>. early enrollment is important to classroom planning. Knowing how many students are enrolled helps with planning the number of classrooms as well as hiring of new teachers. Sometimes hiring teachers in August can be challenging. With more people completing early registration it helps principals plan better. There was discussion on the best way to encourage parents to complete early registration.

#### GG-Stefanie Shefler

- Thursday PD's started, inquiry was first topic and these will continue each week.
- NWEA finishing up. All went smooth with that. No glitches this year.
- Axis testing will be starting next week-English Language Learners are tested every year in January.
- Valentines Day Party planning has begun.
- Holiday Helpers had such a huge impact on the recipients. There was one recipient who cried when picking up her gifts. Seeing the students wearing their new gear after the break was another rewarding part of it. Per Jenny-it was truly like a hallmark movie channel at this event. It was full of love!

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 11 @ 9:30AM, Glen Grove -Dane Delli and Cathy Kedjidjian will be presenting a Referendum Information Meeting.**