

Westbrook + Glen Grove PTA

Board Meeting
December 10 , 2019

Glen Grove 9:30AM

Minutes

Attendees: Laura Beahart, Marie Ratajczyk, Heidi Bicking, Helena Vena, Jeannie Sung, Kate Ahmed, Elaine Carrozza

Minutes from previous meeting approved

Treasurer's Report

- Cash balance of approximately \$99,800. Still need to deposit some funds approximately \$800. Expenses from International night \$150 to still be reimbursed.
- International night turned a profit of approximately \$164.00 but we will confirm.
- Veteran's Day celebrations expenses were very low, only \$55.00, so far, for flags. All else was donated.
- Holiday Helpers had great success in raising funds of approximately \$1500 but we are probably closer to \$2,000 once all the numbers are in.
- Filed an extension for our 2019 tax return. Have sent documents to accountant but waiting for confirmation that return will be completed before deadline.
- IRS had assessed a penalty (\$2,300) for the late 2018 return. Our external CPA sent a letter appealing the decision. We haven't heard back yet
- Haven't seen an Amazon deposit since September 30th - will look into why. Please use Amazon Smile if you are an Amazon shopper. We have had several more people sign up. Not certain what the cash return is yet, but even the smallest amount helps!

New Business

- Thank you to Jenny for organizing not one, but TWO amazing Veteran's Day Breakfasts! PTA will plan to sponsor these breakfasts next year as well!
- Thank you to Tanya Klatt, Marianna Memmos, and all of the wonderful parents, staff, students, and performers who helped make our 4th annual International Night a success!

- Also, thank you to all of the teachers and principals who volunteered experiences for our International Night Teacher Experience Raffle!
- Thank you to our student volunteers who made a Holiday Helpers carpool karaoke video!
- PTA sent a “Special Thanksgiving Message” email to parents, noting that we are so thankful for our wonderful school community and our parent volunteers! We linked to another video we made which expressed thanks to parent volunteers and showed photos of some of those volunteers at various events from Fall 2019. In this same email, we also noted the Amazon Smile opportunity ahead of Black Friday :-)
- Thank you to principals allowing us to host “Melt Their Hearts” bulletin boards near the office at each school. We are seeing a lot of wonderful messages about students, staff, and teachers and it is nice to have these positive comments visible in the school. There were so many compliments during class. It was really great! Next year, we will add to the hand-out that this is a PTA sponsored event :-)
- Holiday Helpers - All 203 kids sponsored, which is 77 families (probably more) We had over \$1,000 in cash and more than \$1,900 in gift cards but we will share the confirmed amount this week.
- We will share the WB/GG directory publicly in January. Kolla Fass will be leading effort. It is available but Kolla who is volunteering to do this is a little busy at work so it’s a little slow moving but she is on it and it will be ready soon.
- Power Hour will begin in January at Westbrook. Looking for parents to help teachers and Glen Grove is interested in doing this soon too.
- We will try to schedule another Spirit Night soon once the holidays are over.
- We are working on a new online form for teacher grants aka wish lists. Teachers wanting to request PTA money for their projects or classrooms can fill out a straightforward online form, which is then reviewed by the principal, D34, and PTA. D34 and PTAs are hoping to create a consistent grant process across D34. Teachers really love this but the goal is to find the best way to allocate and distribute funds.
- Thank you to the principals for their feedback on our newsletter. We are working on making it an easy quick read. Immediate items will be upfront. We also plan to print hard copies for the teachers and ask that maybe principals at it to their weekly note, Jeanie and Helena agreed.

PTA Council Updates

- 3 PTAs (WB/GG, LY/PR, and HE/HO) will share the maintenance cost for GEFfunded Learn-to-Ride (bikes) program. Total bill \$1,230.70. We will receive invoice from D34 for our 1/3 (\$410.23) for maintenance. It's a great program and we would like to maintain it.
- Paid PTA Council annual fees and advertising - \$200
- Superintendent Dr. Delli addressed LATE START for next year
- The need for additional time in the school day has been discussed since 2007
- There is no common planning time across any given grade level
- Reasoning behind placing professional development (PD) time in the morning is that it is when teachers are fresh, i.e., late start for students -studies show students are more productive in the a.m.
- Will be adding 100 minutes per week, then taking 60 for PD.
- Superintendent Dr. Delli addressed REFERENDUM
- Board is asking D34 to "tweak" the funding so that full day kindergarten can still be added, but tax payer increase will remain below \$499/10K
- Informed voters support the referendum - the basic need for new buildings is very clear. Key question: if not now, when?
- 70% of voters do not have children in D34
- Not from Dr. Delli, but key sound bite about referendum: Firehouses (3), Police Station/Municipal Center, Train Stations (2), Library, Ice Rink, Park Center, and The Grove have all received upgrades or been reconstructed since 2001. What about the public school buildings?
- Cathy Kedjidjian asked PTAs to promote 5 Essentials Survey. The response rate impacts our school rating. There is a attendance response rate. Standardized tests for Westbrook are not included. (Most didn't even know how ratings were made) Parents with kids in multiple schools asked to take the survey 1x per school.
- BPAC looking for new president for 2020-21 This program is a great way to connect and make steps to integrate all parents into PTA.
 - Hoping to find new candidate by February 18 (BPACs Next Meeting). Contact Alan Hernandez at D34 with candidate ideas.
 - Smie Zepeda attended the meeting and noted that BPAC and PTAs should come together and focus on full community initiatives
 - PTA should post translated information to BPAC Facebook page to reach bilingual parent population most easily
 - Next BPAC meeting is in FEB, will host workshop on nutrition and finding healthy food for your family. Will also be meeting in April and May. May theme will be Family Game Night.
- Cori Mohr noted that NSSED will be hosting a FREE parent seminar by Ross

Greene, child clinical psychologist and author of *The Explosive Child*, *Lost at School*, *Lost & Found* and *Raising Human Beings*. The seminar is open to all, free, and will be held on February 26 from 7PM-8:15PM at the Molloy Education Center in Morton Grove. Not sure if there is a sign up.

- Titans Helping Titans program generated cash as well as over 1,000 clothing items for GBS students
- Pleasant Ridge school will be hosting a Science Fair January 25
- Middle School, Springman, will be hosting an OPEN GYM on Saturdays in the winter to create a community space to gather during cold months. In addition to games (basketball, ping pong, etc.) they will offer homework help and free snacks. Funding for Open Gym comes from building funds, not PTA, but PTA definitely wants to help promote this event to families.
- Thank you to Mrs. Sung for attending the PTA Council meeting and offering her support to the WB/GG PTA! We are so excited to be connecting so many families this year, and Kate & Jenny look forward to building more community in the coming 1.5 years.

Principal's Report Westbrook (Jeannie Sung)

- wants to inform parents about EC community, today they had therapy dogs!
- hour of code -finally for 2nd grade. Bot is coded with story and paraded through LRC next week. Very exciting and it's a thrill to watch the kids.
- Survey, they are trying to remind parents to get on it, we need it returned for the rating.
- Microwave in the school's kitchen is broken. They have two for the teachers, can PTA donate? -Kate agreed to looked into replacing.

Principal's Report Glen Grove (Helena Vena)

- Recess equipment requested from district, waiting for approval.
- December GG is very heavy into writing program; the students choose some deep topics that really impress!
- Coding-make/space module is currently underway

Questions & Any Additional Items Questions

for principals:

1. Can we create a voiceover for the GG Writing Curriculum Video so that we can share both the WB and GG videos with parents on our website? -Per Helena, maybe it can be on a district level to benefit all parents.
2. Can we forward our PTA emails (weekly, to parents) to Pam/Natalie and have them send it out to teachers? We don't have the resources right now to create an another email, but, this will allow teachers to know what we are communicating to parents if they would like to know.
3. Feedback on International Night in terms of how it functions as a community event. Does it accomplish the goal of connecting families? Are there opportunities for growth/development? We are brainstorming for a way to teach/learn more.
4. Kate and Jenny are tossing around the idea of a new event idea. Worldwide Kidness Day and Read Across America.
5. For teacher appreciation, could we get students to sing
6. For teacher appreciation week, is it possible to have small groups of children sing to teachers? -The problem would be practicing, would a teacher be involved? Also the possibility of raffling off gift cards to teachers was discussed.
7. PTA funds for teachers. What is the best way to share funds? Per Jeannie keeping it even is important, we want to keep the "one school community" idea. There are some educators who don't have or manage a classroom, would they too have an opportunity to receive funds?

Next Meeting: January 14 @ 6:30PM Westbrook