

WES PTA General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Beth Satterfield, PTA President, calls the meeting to order. She welcomes everyone and explains the objectives of the meeting: 1) to discuss the PTA's two core initiatives for the year 2) to discuss and vote on the proposed budget for the current school year.

Beth enumerated several ways PTA funds are utilized including: student planners, elmo projectors, computers, movies, library books, cultural arts program, community helper day, information sign, fence extension on field, regulation soccer goals on field, Explorer Express (newsletter), hospitality efforts, new web site and spirit wear. There are many more examples, these are the ones that were mentioned.

Beth described the WES PTA as a "partnership with the school." The national PTA campaign is "every child, one voice." Beth introduced Robin Wahl, WES Principal and Tim Chadwick, WES AP.

Beth reported that we now have 165 members of the PTA. This is about 35% of our families. Beth urged those who have not joined to do so in hopes of meeting a 50% goal. She issued an invitation to all those present to attend the PTA monthly meetings. The schedule for those meetings is on the Google calendar on the PTA web site.

She introduced the Executive Board members and gave brief descriptions of their current activities and programs.

Elizabeth Humphries – Secretary/Room Parent Coordinator

Kathy Cawley – Treasurer

Nichelle Weintraub – VP of Membership

Kira Wolfe – VP of Communications

Jen Ellerbe – VP of Parent Involvement

Michelle Counter – VP of Academic Programs

Catherine Smith – VP of Fundraising

The two core initiatives were then explained.

- 1) 21st Century Explorer Projects (technology)–In keeping with this initiative, the school just purchased six new smart boards to add to the two we already have. The PTA will also be purchasing 3 additional smart boards this year. Beth briefly discussed the Partnership in Education, where schools partner with local small businesses. There may be opportunity to obtain more smart boards through business donations. The PTA will also continue and expand writing grants to obtain additional funding for this initiative.

- 2) Outdoor Explorer Projects – This initiative encompasses a total campus improvement that fits into the academic curriculum. Faculty representatives have been identified to assist in the making of Master Plan to develop an “outdoor classroom” and in so doing, to improve the overall campus of WES. The PTA has been awarded a matching grant to pay for half of the expense of having a Master Plan developed for WES.

Katherine Peele – Chair of Campus Improvements gave some background information on the idea of a Master Plan for WES. This is a long term plan to be implemented in steps. She is working with CLH Design, faculty members, Wake County school officials and WES PTA to identify and meet the needs of our school. CLH Design will create the Master Plan with input from all sources mentioned. The MP will integrate outdoor learning with the new DPI. The PTA’s role in implementing the plan will include funding, engaging the school community and teacher support. One idea for the plan is to create a program of a fifth grade legacy project. The ultimate goal of the plan is creating dynamic outdoor learning environments for the long term.

Kathy Cawley, WES PTA Treasurer, Treasurer’s Report

Kathy presented the proposed budget for the current school year. Copies of the proposed budget were distributed to those in attendance. Kathy explained that the WES PTA began the current school year with \$30k in the bank. The projected revenue for the year is 79k, and projected expenses are 100k. That will leave approximately 10k in the accounts to begin the next school year. The budget was put to discussion. There were no questions. Beth Satterfield, PTA President, called for a motion to be made to adopt the proposed budget. A motion was made and seconded. Beth called the vote. All voted “aye.” The motion was carried and the budget was so adopted.

Jen Ellerbe, WES PTA VP of Parent Involvement, Volunteer Report

Jen stated that we still have volunteer opportunities available for those parents who are interested. She directed them to www.weatherstonepta.com for more information. She also reminded everyone to register or re-register in order to be cleared to volunteer.

Kira Wolfe, WES PTA VP of Communications, Communications Report

Kira reminded everyone that the Explorer Express is now electronic, and parents can sign up to receive the newsletter via email. They can sign up on the PTA web site. She said the newsletter can be translated into 20 different languages. She also announced the PTA now has a twitter account, and requested that the parents “follow” it. @WeatherstonePTA

Catherine Smith, WES PTA VP of Fundraising, Fundraising Report

Catherine and Sue Reilly announced some of the upcoming fundraising events including Family Fun Nights, Boosterthon, Citipass Coupon Books and Spring Carnival. Catherine stated that there is an emphasis this year on “passive, no fuss fundraising” this year. One way to do that is for parents to link their store cards to our school. More information can be found on the PTA web site.

Michelle Counter, WES PTA VP of Academic Programs, Programs Report

Michelle gave information regarding the Reflections Program that will be beginning soon (9/27). Reflections is a national PTA Cultural Arts contest that is open to all students. This year’s theme is “Diversity Means...” Students may create an interpretation of the theme in mediums such as visual arts, dance choreography, literature, film and photography. Competition is at the school, county, state and national levels. WES had 3 county level winners last year.

Beth Satterfield, PTA President, conducted the drawing for a gift card from Southpoint Mall. The names were those who have joined the PTA this year. Donna West was the winner of the gift card.

Robin Wahl, Principal of WES, welcomed the parents and gave a brief explanation of the information sessions in the classrooms. She also introduced our new AP, Tim Chadwick.

Beth adjourned the meeting.