

WES PTA Monthly Meeting
October 18, 2011

Beth Satterfield, PTA President, called the meeting to order. She asked Robin Wahl to give the Principal's Report.

Robin Wahl, Principal's Report

Robin brought everyone up-to-date regarding the Wake County Reassignment Plan. The green and blue plans have now been combined in to one plan containing parts of both the former plans. The School Board meets tonight to vote on the plan. If it passes (which it is expected to do), Kindergarten registration will begin on November 28th. At the beginning of November, Mrs. Wahl would like to conduct school tours for prospective families. She requested the PTA's help in making that happen. Since the new plan gives families choices in schools, Mrs. Wahl wants to make WES visible. The plan allows for families to choose between 5 Elementary Schools and 2 Middle Schools. The Middle Schools will feed into specific High Schools.

Under the new plan, preliminary assignment choices will go home to parents. If families want to stay at their current schools, they do nothing and they will be automatically re-enrolled. In January, those wishing to choose a different school will make their 1st round choices. They will be notified of acceptance (or not) in February.

Under the new plan, Magnet School applications would be taken December 5-19th. Families may only apply to one Magnet School, and if they are accepted they must attend.

Right now, transportation is a big question with regard to the new plan.

For more information and details, go to the Wake County Schools web site.

Mrs. Wahl stated in response to a question regarding WES's capacity, that our capacity is 903 students (includes the trailer space).

Mrs. Wahl mentioned that the new Smart Boards had been ordered, and there is a work order in to install electrical outlets in the ceilings in order to install the boards. Beth Satterfield, PTA President, added that we are paying the \$500 installation fee for the boards in order to have them under warranty and to be assured it will be done correctly and in a timely manner.

Catherine Smith, Fundraising Report

Catherine turned it over to Sue Reilly, Chair-Citipass Committee. Sue reported that the income for the Citipass fundraiser was \$6100. Jennifer Ellerbe, Chair-Bingo

Committee, reported the earnings from Bingo Night were \$1700. Both events were successful.

Sue Reilly, Chair-Boosterthon Committee, reported that as of 10/17, we are at 60% of the targeted pledges for the Boosterthon. Mrs. Wahl asked about the map showing the pledges geographically. The Boosterthon rep stated it would be put up later today. Sue continued her report, saying there is a Door Contest ongoing to see which class comes up with the best team name and the best team-oriented door design. Sue requested that parents come in to help with judging. The Fun Run takes place on Thurs., and collections of pledges will begin on Fri. Parents and sponsors will be able to pay online.

Catherine Smith gave updated numbers on collected Box Tops. Over 1700 have been collected already. She also mentioned that if parents/friends want to link their Target cards to WES, it is easiest to that by calling the number on the back of the credit card rather than trying to do it online. Some people have had difficulty in doing it online.

Catherine presented information on the upcoming McTeacher Night at McDonalds (October 28th). McDonald's would like to provide hats and/or Tshirts to participating teachers. They are also going to provide free ice cream for the kids the night of the event. Catherine suggested that a teacher might be willing to operate the ice cream machine.

Kathy Cawley, Treasurer's Report

Kathy stated that both the Bingo and Citipass events had beaten the budget numbers. She also said she is currently working on the tax filing for the WES PTA. It is due November 15th. Kathy reported that the monthly membership payments are successfully being made by the 15th each month.

Jennifer Ellerbe, Volunteer Report

Jennifer reported that Jennifer Newnam is the PTA Volunteer of the Month. Jennifer is the former PTA Treasurer, acting Running Club Chair and Room Parent for her three WES students. She was spotlighted in the Explorer Express.

The Book Fair is approaching, and a sign-up genius link was included in last week's EE for volunteers to sign-up. The Book Fair dates are 11/14-11/18 with the Family Magician Night on 11/17. There are many shifts available throughout each day during that week. Parents are asked to help as much or as little as their time allows. Historically, this is a fun event which greatly benefits our school.

Jennifer also mentioned the need for more help with Grounds Clean Up Day this Saturday.

A sign-up genius link was also sent out for parents to volunteer during Popcorn Parties. It is a great chance to be trained on using the popcorn machine. The

popcorn parties are held once a month usually on the school spirit Friday of each month.

Nichelle Weintraub, Membership Report

Nichelle reported that we currently have 231 paid PTA members, 56 of whom are staff. The class parties for having the most parents sign up for membership were all held last week. Nichelle plans to figure out the percentage of families who are members. The goal is to reach 50%. Currently, there are 455 families at WES.

Kira Wolfe, Communications Report

Kira announced that she has completed putting red dots on all “youngest & only” Tues. folders. The paper coming home from WES will now go to youngest sibling or the only child attending WES, thus saving a lot of paper and making WES greener. Kira asked that parents give her feedback to be sure that only one child is receiving the paper from school.

Some ideas tossed around for the name of the program are: The Not Dot, The Stop Dot.

Kira announced that a copy of the newsletter will be printed each week and put in the pocket on the bulletin board. A Spanish copy will be included.

Kira stated that she would like to contact WRAL News in order to submit an article/photos about WES’s Running Club in order to give WES some positive community exposure.

WES PTA’s newly formed Information Sign Committee falls under Kira’s area. The members include: Melanie Farrell, Allison Haines, Cindy Korabik, Shelia Martin, and Krissa Sotomayer. This committee will keep the information sign updated throughout the year. The info will be changed every Friday morning at 9:15am.

Melanie Farrell, EE Editor, reminded everyone submitting articles for the EE (Explorer Express) that the deadline is COB (close of business) on Wednesdays. The deadline cannot be extended.

New Business

Sue Reilly, Chair-Hospitality Committee, wrote a thank you note to NY Butcher for providing the lunch for the staff this month.

An update on the Outdoor Classroom project: Mrs. Wahl met with the architect and toured the exterior of the school. The project team also met with 10-12 teachers at the beginning of October, and heard positive reactions from the teachers. The teachers are also expressing a willingness to participate. Beth S. attended a training workshop, and got to hear some of the trial and error experiences of other schools as they implemented their Master Plans. Beth plans to apply for another matching grant from Wake County in November. She will also apply for available grants.

Mrs. Wahl announced a new pilot program at WES. It is a work in progress. The "Path Program" is being instituted at WES to benefit ED students (emotionally disabled). WES has a new staff member, Bud Land, who will be implementing the program here. It is a regional program and children will be selected from area schools to participate at WES.

A suggestion was made to evaluate the pathway near the drain leading up to the playing field. Parents are concerned about it's safety.

Beth S. adjourned the meeting.