

Whittier International Elementary PTA Meeting  
November 13, 2017

# of attendees: 10

## Welcome & Introductions

### Administration Updates (Principal Norma Gibbs)

- Site Council will hold their first meeting on 11/21 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
  - All Minneapolis Public Schools are required to have Site Councils (separate from PTA) to support site based decision making to increase academic outcomes and partner in reviewing funding, policies, practices and programs at our schools. Policies and definitions are online at [http://osfce.mpls.k12.mn.us/site\\_councils](http://osfce.mpls.k12.mn.us/site_councils)
  - In Pre-K- Grade 8 schools site council membership should include:
    - The Principal or Site Administrator
    - Parents that reflect the racial, ethnic, and cultural, language and ability diversity of the student body.
    - Licensed employees that represent the various bands of grades within a school, (e.g. primary, intermediate and middle grades), special education and English Language instruction as well as the racial, ethnic and cultural diversity of the staff.
    - Unlicensed employees that represent the racial, ethnic and cultural diversity of the staff.
    - At least one local community member who resides near the school or whose business is in the school neighborhood.
    - In Pre-K – Grade 8 schools, students may be included on the school site council.
    - In elementary school site councils school staff shall constitute no more than sixty percent (60%) nor less than forty percent (40%) of the membership.
  - Approx. 6 to 7 more parents are needed to participate on this year's site council.
  - Request to Norma for more communication from school to parents/caregivers around the role of site council, requested commitment, meeting schedules, etc.
- **"Parents in Action"** event on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. This is an evening parent night being led by Jeff C. It will include a family forum as well as a presentation from Safe Routes to Schools.
- All parents/caregivers are asked to take the MPS District budget survey which can be found online: [http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/mps\\_budget](http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/mps_budget) then look for "Take the MPS Values Survey" in the lower right.

### Events & Fundraisers

- Recaps:
  - **Book Fair** (Dave) — Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this year's book fair a reality. We brought in \$63XX (which is lower than \$82XX last year and \$94XX prior year. Discussion:

- Potentially move to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor hallway (adjacent media center in sunny hallway)
  - Move up to late September
  - Include an evening event
  - Explore option with another vendor e.g. Half Price Books.
  - Dave is open to chairing again next year and will put together a proposal.
- **Project Whittier: Nightingale** (Erin) — we raised just over \$700. Thank you to everyone who came out to support PTA.
- November 16 **Give to the Max** (Dan) — Dan will have a table at parent pickup and drop off collecting donations and giving out stickers. There are challenges around media releases and what photography of kids we can use. Dan is also publishing facebook so watch for those leading up to 11/16.
- November/December **Spirit Wear** (Alissa) — orders are due 11/20 for delivery before Winter Break.
- December **Staff Appreciation** (Volunteer needed)— Jen A volunteered to organize this. Best approach to selecting date is give Norma a few options and have her choose the best for staff meeting schedule, etc. Budget for rest of year is \$350. Set up by 8:00 a.m.
- December Community Event (Jacques) — Jacques to look into what this could be, e.g. community potluck.
- Holiday Helpers (Jennifer P) — while not sponsored by PTA, PTA members help facilitates this annually working with school social worker. Families remain anonymous and “helpers” are invited to shop from a list that is sent out via email.

### **Treasurer Update (Emily)**

- Funding Requests: Online puzzle games, Flocabulary reading software, IXL math software, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Ordway field trip, wobble stools, art class supplies.
- Balance: \$6,757 (includes \$3334 Scholastic passthrough).
- Financial highlights
- Vote: Treasurer position. Members present voted unanimously to have Jacque fill the open Treasurer position.

### **Feedback/Questions (All)**

### **Current Volunteer Needs**

Read-a-Thon (February) — Jen A will co-chair possibly with Kurt N.

### **Next membership meeting**

January 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 in media center

Reminder no meeting in December

### **Stay Informed!**

- Sign up for the weekly e-news to get updates from school, PTA & community partners. Go to <http://whittier.mpls.k12.mn.us/whittierpta> and enter your email address.

- Follow us on Facebook; search Whittier International PTA.