

Board Members

Cindy Hutcheson, President /Katie Felmlee, 1st Vice President /Siobhan Hummel, 2nd Vice President/ Alan Scholl, Treasurer/Misty Cebry, Corresponding Secretary/ Anne Strawbridge, Recording Secretary/ Ed Smith, Principal

Call to Order /Welcome & Introductions/Last Meeting's Minutes Cindy Hutcheson

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. The Board was introduced, and the minutes were approved as presented.

President's Report:

Cindy Hutcheson

Cindy Hutcheson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting on spring break week. She reported that there is a lot going on! Steven Courtney put on a great show for the kids who were very enthusiastic. Yearbook is done!!! Nominating and Budget Committee Meetings have been held. Daddy Daughter Dance was a great success, and we had a new Spirit Night at Freddy's. We had our final All Pro Dad breakfast with Mike and Cherye Frederick. NBC aired two clips about it, and Dr. Lloyd attended and was very impressed with the program. Lastly, Spring Spectacular is coming soon! It's a fun evening event for everyone, so plan to join us.

Principal's Report

Ed Smith

Mr. Smith reported that this is the time of year when the kids are at the beginning of the crescendo! PSSA assessments schedule is dictated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education 2 years out. This year's schedule starts PSSA's the Tuesday kids get back from Easter Break, and the schedule has been posted on the website. Mr. Smith does not emphasize PSSA's with kids or staff as he prefers to emphasize day to day scope and sequence and curriculum. Most kids like PSSA time since there is no homework. Take Your Child to Work day falls during PSSA testing time and is not an approved absence. There are no approved absences until makeups are completed. They will show up as unlawful in Skyward.

Mr. Smith talked about our Steven Courtney assembly. You can watch a clip on Facebook. He does a great job getting the kids up and dancing and having fun and teaching/reminding them SEL skills.

Mr. Smith doesn't like to get into politics, but strongly encouraged parents to pay attention to the 6 open seats for the OJRS School Board. Know the issues and be informed. Advocate for WV, OJRSD and public school! Be active, go vote, come to meetings and ask questions to help direct the School Board.

Mr. Smith reported that West Vincent was recommended for Blue Ribbon status by Dr. Bland from the Department of Education. Only 13 PA schools K – 12 (public and parochial) were nominated, so it is a big honor. It's great to have this kind of 3rd party validation recognize what is going on at WV. Due to an email mix up, Mr. Smith and his team only had about 2 weeks to compile their 17 page submission.

Mr. Smith thanked the PTA for their help writing and reviewing the entry. We should know the results sometime this summer.

Mr. Smith talked about the Middle School's decision to change their curriculum and drop 7th Grade Honors Science. Principal Corbin responded to the parent reaction by delaying this change until next year so that there is more opportunity to communicate with stakeholders. This was discussed at last night's School Board Meeting, and they are planning to have a public stand alone committee meeting potentially scheduled on May 28. There is not a lot of distinction between the honors/general science classes, and there are pros and cons to homogenous and heterogeneous approaches. Plan to attend the meeting to learn more about it. In general colleges are interested in students' performance and classes in grades 9 – 11 and some 12, their ability to write and think critically, and their activities outside school which demonstrate their leadership capabilities. Class rank and ACT/SAT scores are secondary. They do check prospective students social media.

Mr. Smith reported that the PTA Annual Project's new mural will be going up in the next week or two and showed renderings of how it will look. Our other 2018/2019 PTA Annual Project Daffodils is currently in bloom and looks beautiful!

Mr. Smith thanked Alan Scholl and the Budget Committee for their detailed work preparing a balanced proposed budget for 2019/2020 school year.

Mr. Smith encouraged parents to check out the Feasibility Study. WV is looking at moving the berm to create a 3rd lane of traffic in and out of school to facilitate pick up and drop off. Other district issues include the Middle School Cafeteria and French Creek's traffic issues.

Treasurer's Report

Alan Scholl

Alan Scholl reported that our finances are reconciled to the latest statements, and they are strong with approximately \$85,000 in Total Assets. The largest financial transactions were \$2,600 for the PTA Project Artist in Residence mural, \$1,200 for the Steve Courtney Assembly, and \$693.04 for Daddy/Daughter Dance. Last Monday, the Budget Committee met to develop the proposed budget for 2019-2020. Alan reported he was very pleased with the process and the product and thanked all of the members of the committee: Nirav Shah, Tara Solomon, Katie Felmlee, Cindy Hutcheson, and Ed Smith. The three primary goals for the budget were that it be realistic, balanced, and provide for long term goals. The Budget Committee succeeded on all fronts. The handout provides a more intelligible, streamlined presentation of the proposed budget, as well as the spreadsheet that the committee worked on which allows people to see past budget and future changes. Many line items carry over from past years. The most notable additions are lines for a mother/son event (25), and for a large playground structure planned for a few years from now (43).

Correspondence:

Misty Cebry

Misty Cebry read a thank you note from Ashley Hineman thanking the PTA for Family Fine Art Night. Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Day, and Mrs. Hertzog thanked the PTA for their field trip sponsorship to Paradise Farm which ties into the 4th grade SEL and Ecosystem curriculum.

Old Business

- Daddy/Daughter Dance: Katie Felmlee reported that it was one of the best events ever. There was so much excitement, and it was very positive about school and community. Last year's survey requested this event and an event chair (Allison Jensen) stepped up to run it. Allison Jensen, Ariel Greco, Siobhan Hummel and Misty Cebry did a great job. We had over 300 people attend, many of whom were new to PTA events. Thanks also to the many volunteers who baked goods for the dessert table, and the notes were a big hit.
- Freddie's Spirit Night: Misty Cebry reported that it was hard to estimate headcount due to the length of the event. Profit from food sales was \$175, not bad for a 1st time event. Misty suggested maybe we can have some sort of game next time like the wheel for Chick-fil-A.
- Distracted Walking PA PTA Poster Contest: Anne Strawbridge reported we received 4 submissions to send to Harrisburg. Good luck artists!
- Family Fine Art Night: Anne Strawbridge reported that we had over 130 artists paint Van Gogh's Chrysanthemums under the guidance of Anna Cunningham from Hop Toad Studio. Thanks to Anna as well as our many volunteers who helped make the evening go smoothly. Anne reminded families to please let us know if they can't make it as soon as possible since there is always a waitlist for this event.

New Business

- The Nominating Committee: Siobhan Hummel announced the proposed slate for next year's officers, all of whom have agreed to accept the nomination. Additional nominations may be accepted from the floor in our May Meeting and voted on. The nominations are President, Cindy Hutcheson; 1st VP, Katie Felmlee; 2nd VP, Siobhan Hummel; Treasurer, Alan Scholl; Recording Secretary, Chanelle Gilyard; and Corresponding Secretary, Misty Cebry.
- Playground Initiative: Mr. Smith reported he has been at WV for about 7 years, and the children never fail to express how important recess is! Playground equipment is the most expensive thing in a school. The PTA sponsors over 30 different programs and events annually, and with roughly \$62,000 on hand going into next year, the Budget Committee and the Executive Board wanted to come up with a significant project that would be a good investment. Our project objectives included something tangible, permanent, and adds value to the overall facility and student and community experience.

Mr. Smith announced a new multiphase proposal for outdoor equipment. Phase 1 would begin with the addition of a set of 4 new swings (\$4,036 equip, \$2,700 individual install quote). The second part of Phase 1 is a Sensory Dome (\$10,500 approx equip, \$3,900 individual install quote), and the third part of Phase 1 is Walk the Plank (\$1,700 equip, and \$1,100 individual install quote). The PTA would fund approximately \$17,700 for equipment, and the installation of all three pieces at the same time would lower installation costs to about \$6,000. Mr. Smith is looking to fund excavation and installation from his school budget and through the district office. Implementing the 3 parts of Phase 1 simultaneously decreases installation expenses significantly.

Phase 2 would happen over the next 3 – 5 years. It would include expanding our structures with a larger piece of multi purpose equipment, approximately 40' X 30' at a cost of roughly \$35,000. It is important to remember that shelf-life for these playground structures is approximately 15 – 18 years, and WV's current equipment is already 10 years old.

Cindy Hutcheson made a motion to purchase the equipment in Phase 1 (\$17,700). Alan Scholl 2nd the motion, and it will sit for 30 days to be voted on in May's General Membership Meeting. The proposed equipment would be at West Vincent in July, installed in August, and ready by the start of the school year.

Meanwhile, out on the playground, the kids are having a great time with balls and hula hoops and life- size Checkers and Jenga. Mr. Smith is buying a storage cabinet for this equipment out of the PTA Wellness Budget.

- Spring Spectacular: Katie Felmlee reported that on April 26 from 5:30 – 7:30, we are hosting our great spring party. Come enjoy Food Trucks, DJ, Games, Chalk, and take a chance on winning Class Raffle Baskets and bidding on Teacher Treasures. Student Council will be collecting food for the North Coventry Food Pantry for their Backpack Program. This fun event is held rain or shine.
- Spirit Wear Spring Sale: Katie Felmlee said this sale is held online and now open. There are WV and ORJSD options. The sale runs until May 2 and items will be passed out before the end of school. They make great graduation gifts!
- Game Day: Anne Strawbridge reported this fun day is being held on May 10. We will need volunteers and cut fruit. Please consider helping out.
- Muffins With Moms: Jamie Williams reported that this event is being held on Monday, May 13 from 7:00 – 8:00 am and is paired with an SEL speaker. The message will be about positivity and kindness to self and others. Please RSVP for a headcount so we can gauge how much food we need. DADS—this is a great chance for you to sign up to help.
- Spring Scholastic Book Fair: Jamie Williams reported that this BOGO book fair runs May 13 – 17 with set up on May 10 from 2 – 5. There will be a sign up genius that shows class shifts so volunteers can schedule to be there when their kids are. There will also be an evening event coinciding with French Creek/West Vincent Spring Orchestra Concert on 5/15/19. This is your opportunity to stock up on books for summer reading!

Committee Reports

- Membership and Unfundraiser: Anne Strawbridge reported no new members.
- All Pro Dads: Katie Felmlee reported this was the last APD with the Fredericks and there was a huge turnout. 2 segments were highlighted on NBC news. The Fredericks were presented with a letter from Tony Dungee along with a signed football. Dr. Lloyd also attended and was very complimentary about our APD program. Next year Mike Kolter will be taking over for Mike Frederick, Katie will Chair, and she needs volunteers for the Breakfast Committee. Three of our main current volunteers (Lyn Noon, India Katen, and Cheryle Frederick) have children who are moving into middle school.

- Yearbook: Cindy reported for Saunde Briggs that the yearbook has been sent to print. They are on sale for \$25 until May 1. After that it is cash and carry, first-come, first-served. They are free to 6th graders and will have hard covers.
- Backpack: Keep those donations coming! They loved the collection from Family Fine Art Night.
- Reading Incentive: Good free stuff so send in your calendars!
- Publishing Center: No report
- After School Programs: No report
- Reflections: No report

The Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Upcoming 2019 Dates to Remember:

4/16/19 PTA General Membership Meeting 6:00 pm @ school library

4/17/19 Snow Make up day

4/18/19 – 4/22/19 No School--Spring Break

4/23/19 PSSA Testing begins

4/26/19 Spring Spectacular 5:30 – 7:30 pm

4/29/19 School Board Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 pm @ HS

5/6/19 – 5/10/19 Teacher Appreciation Week

5/10/19 Game Day

5/8/19 Spring Choral Concert

5/13/19 Muffins With Moms, 7:00 am @ gym

5/13/19 – 5/17/19 Spring Scholastic Book Fair

5/23/19 General Membership Meeting 6:00 (changed from 5/14/19 General Membership Meeting 7:00)
@ school library

5/15/19 French Creek/West Vincent Spring Orchestra Concert and Evening Book Fair @ WV