

# MINUTES

## WVE PTA Draft General Meeting Minutes

*Sept. 6, 2016 | 6:30 PM | Meeting called to order by Anne Strawbridge, president, 6:37PM*

### In Attendance

Board: Anne Strawbridge, president, Cindy Hutcheson, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, Jamie Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, Maria Cantarero, treasurer, Jessi LaGrossa, recording secretary, Katie Felmlee, corresponding secretary

General Members: Amanda Higgins, Misty Cebry, Jessica Neiderer, Cindy Foulds, Lysa Monteiro, Rita Pederson, Jody Reinbold, Jennifer Booth, Paula Rapp, Marcy Flickinger, Lyn Noon, Jennifer Burke

Guest Speaker: Erin Flexner

Teachers/Staff: Elaine Kindl, Seth Lucas, Margo Zimmerman, Ed Smith

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 2016 general meeting were not present and therefore approval of minutes from the last general meeting was deferred until the next general meeting.

### Board Introductions

Anne Strawbridge, president, introduced herself and noted that the PTA board and its members is made of a group of diverse people from the community. She shared that we encourage everyone to get involved because everyone can always bring something different to the table.

Each board member introduced herself and gave her background info as well as info regarding her PTA experience and interests.

### Guest Speaker

Erin Flexner, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, presented information on International Night, which will be held Nov 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. This night is to help your family learn more about your cultural background and is meant to be a celebration activity for students and families K-6. Forms will be sent out electronically. Tri-fold boards will be provided. The expectation is that you and your child pull together a presentation of your culture, with time to work on the presentation from now to Nov 17. On the event night, some children come in costume, others present samplings of foods. We will have music playing and the PTA supplies the international flags that hang in the cafeteria. We encourage families to come even if they aren't presenting. Passport books are handed out at the door and students will obtain stamps for all of the countries as they travel through the room. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Flexner.

### Principal's Report

Principal Ed Smith presented his report.

#### New Business

- Noted that the Kinderbreakfast was a successful event.
- Thanked the PTA for the welcome back gifts for the teachers and staff.

- Reported that we have 610 students, the largest since we opened. 5<sup>th</sup> grade is at 109 and is the largest population. We ended up filling three sessions of kindergarten—two AM classes and one PM class.
- Started making his classroom visits last week and is continuing this week. Focuses his discussion with students on The Three Rs: Respect, Responsibilities, and Rights.  
Respect can be defined by respecting themselves, respecting others, respecting the adults in the building as well as bus drivers and cafeteria staff, and respecting our facility, including the buses and the cafeteria. The students' number one responsibility is to learn while Mr. Smith's is to keep everyone safe. Students have the right to a safe, clean, bully free school. This conversation is much different with older grades (where we also discuss electronic devices for example) than the younger grades. He begins with a name game—had to buy 3 ice creams today for forgetting three students' names!
- Announced that Meet the Teachers Nights are coming up next week. Staff will have the opportunity to meet parents, and vice versa. Now splitting the grades up between two nights—each night will be split into two halves in case parents need to be in two grades in one night. Special area teachers will be split between the two nights. If you have a need to see a specific special area teacher(s), reach out to the teacher. The goal of two nights over one night is to increase the amount of time with teachers and to alleviate the parking situation.
- Announced that Back to School Bash is this Friday. There will be a Dunk Tank with several teachers, staff and community members in the tank.
- Explained that After School Clubs will begin advertising after Back to School Night.

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## Budget

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Maria Cantarero, treasurer, presented the current budget reflecting all income and expense activity for July, August and as of Sep 5.

Presented the reviewed audit performed by the Audit Committee: Anne Strawbridge, Cindy Hutcheson and SueAnn Cox. Maria made a motion to accept the reviewed audit. Cindy Foulds seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor. Audit was approved by the general membership.

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## Correspondence

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Katie Felmlee, corresponding secretary, read all correspondence to date:

- Thank You card from Kate Roderick for the Welcome Back Package and Shirt.
- Thank You letter from Dr. Christian, superintendent, for donating \$600 to offset the cost of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class trips and \$108.55 to help off-set the cost of the transportation for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade picnic.

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## New Business

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- Explained the premise of Back to School Bash for new parents. The event is this Friday. We ask parents and students to come out to get acquainted/re-acquainted with one another. Spiritwear Store will be open with lots of new options. (And will be open after the meeting tonight.) Vendors—Fairy Floss, Montesano's Brothers, and Rita's Water Ice. Entertainment—Dunk Tank and DJ. Rita Pederson noted that we may want to advertise the food menus ahead of Friday.
- Introduced the need to form a Standing Rules Committee. This committee consists of one board member and two to three general members. The committee assesses the rules and regulations of the PTA and makes any necessary edits/changes. Jessica Neiderer, Misty Cebry, and Paula Rapp volunteered.
- Rita Pederson announced that World Martial Arts, under Bob Kofroth (a WVE parent), will be hosting it's After School Martial Arts Program once again this fall. We first began this program at the end of last school year and it was successful. It is a free program and children receive a t-shirt and earn a belt and certificate at

the end of the session. This year it will run 4 weeks—first session for 1-3 grades and second session for 4-6 grades. Rita and Lyn Noon will work on the sign up process this week. Each session will be open to 20 students.

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## Committee Reports

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- **Membership & Un-fundrasier:** Jamie Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, explained that membership is right where we want to be as of now and are in line with last year's numbers. She noted that Back to School Bash and Meet the Teacher Nights will bring new members as well. Jamie expressed that the general members present, all parents, teachers, etc. are the PTA and we, the board, need you! She also noted that we've had several un-fundraiser donations coming in. She explained that the Un-fundrasier Campaign is a way to be ecologically responsible and does away with the non-sensible selling of items such as food and giftwrap. We accept any amount anyone is willing to donate. Anyone can give—grandparents, aunts, etc. Donors can access the form online at our site. The money goes to fieldtrips, PTA events, assemblies, etc. The more you give the more you get. Can donate via check, cash, paypal, etc. Jamie added that signup sheets will be at the Bash and Meet the Teacher Nights for membership, volunteers, unfundrasier, etc.
- **Spiritwear:** Maria Cantarero, treasurer, noted that Jessi, Katie, and Cindy have done an awesome job with ordering merchandise and setting up the Spiritwear Store.
- **Directory:** Rita Pederson, chair, announced we will produce a directory again this year, free of charge as always. She noted that the directory is only as good and as useful as the info that is in it. Because we can't pull info from the school, we have to rely on info acquired via the directory form. All families receive a directory—one per family. Deadline is Sept 16. There will be no extensions.
- **Yearbook:** Rita Pederson, chair, reported that she and Kristina Casey, chair, have mapped out the school calendar and will be attending all school events to take photos. They were present at the first day of school and took several photos. Rita explained that homeroom moms can ask that a class parent be the class yearbook rep to provide pictures, accept pictures from other parents, etc. The chairs are looking to use a cloud service this year for parents to upload photos to. They will be meeting with the Balfour rep in the next month.

Marcy Flickinger offered to take a picture of the entire school for the yearbook if Mr. Smith could help arrange it. Could be taken after a fire-drill with the assistance of the fire truck. Mr. Smith said he will give some thought to the possibility. Marcy also expressed interest in helping with the yearbook.

- **Master Minds—**Katie Felmlee, corresponding secretary, noted that there will be two sessions—Nov. and March. She said she can go into more detail later closer to the sessions.
- **Box Tops—**Katie Felmlee explained the program and announced our first challenge. WVE gets 10 cents for each box top. We will kick off the school year with a "mini" challenge: Pops for Tops. Parents will receive info from students next Monday. The challenge asks that students collect 10 box tops, which equals \$1 for us. Students will receive a Tootsie Pop with a note of thanks when they turn in their complete form. Katie urged parents to continue to clip! October and January are our big challenges. We are also creating a Box Top Trophy that will be passed from classroom to classroom winners.
- **Reflections—**Lyn Noon, chair, explained this program put on by the national PTA. There is a theme and categories divided by age group. This year's theme is "What's Your Story?" Entries are submitted to the school. 3-5 entries move on to the regional competitions. Top three go to state, and then onto nationals. Students have until the end of October for submissions. Lyn will be provided more info. (Deadline was moved to Oct. because it used to be in Sept and feedback was that was too early.)
- **Publishing Center—**Rita Pederson spoke for Emily Marchesani, chair, who sent an email to get started inviting previous volunteers to come back this year. Maria Cantarero explained that the center works with the classroom teachers to help students create a published piece of literature to take home at the end of the school year. We need volunteers to help with editing, entering content, sewing covers, etc.

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## Questions & Announcements

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- Cindy Foulds asked if the district will be doing the technology series again. Mr. Smith reported that planning is going on and will be done as a district again.
- Jamie Williams drew the raffle ticket of Margo Zimmerman who received a coupon booklet.
- Maria Cantarero noted that she and Mr. Smith will be moving forward with the community garden in the spring. Classrooms planted veggies in the garden on Earth Day. Families signed up to care for the garden over the summer. Food is harvested and delivered to the South Coventry Food Pantry. Maria announced that we will be looking for volunteers. Marcy Flickinger volunteered to co-chair.

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## Next General Meeting

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10/11/2016 9:30 AM, West Vincent Township Building

Anne Strawbridge adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.