

# **Waitsfield Elementary School PTA Meeting**

## **Minutes, 1-12-2012**

In Attendance: Helen Ward, Beth Libby, Christine Sullivan, Jennifer Stella, Buny Downing, Sara Arman, Elizabeth Schwarz, Bear Simmons, Kaiya Korb, Kirsten Siebert

### **Ski and Skate Survey Results**

23 responses were received, mainly positive feedback with some areas for improvement including being more sensitive to staff and teachers who feel pressured to help out on the sale. Results should be posted on the school website so that all can view them.

### **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance – March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

PTA members and other interested parties are encouraged to volunteer for this event. There will be a bake sale coordinated by Beth Libby and Kirsten Siebert so please contact them directly if you can contribute. A donation jar will be placed on the bake sale table. Any money raised will go to PTA in support of the drama program. Sharon Dube has been kind enough to solicit advertisers for the program. It will be good to gather feedback from students and parents regarding the non-musical format this year, Kaiya agreed to do this.

### **Winter Ski Program**

The first day went very smoothly; Katie had worked hard to get things set up to hand off to Amanda and we thank her for all of her hard work and excellent transition. Job descriptions and a contract have been drawn up for the position of ski program coordinator for the school and it is 3 pages long! The hourly rate for such a job works out to be approx \$20/ hr and since Katie has put in approx 25 hours this year, HW motioned to give Katie \$350 for her time, JS seconded and all were in favor.

### **WES Social**

The purpose of a “social” would be to help the school community get to know one another a bit better, especially parents with older children and younger children to cross-pollinate. Big Pic would be a great venue because kids could perhaps watch a movie in the other room. Thoughts were passed around: It might be nice to combine Green-Up day with something more social, or perhaps Field Days... If the goal is to provide a social opportunity for parents, then perhaps we need to take this idea and move with a parent only function. Game night? Location? We must schedule it around other Valley activities for example 4/2 is the Mud Season Stomp; 4/10 is Casino Night. Kaiya will check with Warren and Fayston on dates and with the 1824 for capacity and cost. The feeling in the group was that we'd like to do something before May.

## **Parent Education Idea (Kaiya)**

The budget is \$250. Several staff member have attended the Mindfulness in Education Seminars. Daniel from San Francisco has held workshops on how to stay calm and create calm for kids. Sue Dillon, Betsy Eckfeldt, Ferris Buck and Kaiya have organized for Daniel to come to Waitsfield for a 4-days workshop. Day 1 would be open to the community, where parents could come and gain ideas to share with their families. Days 2 and 3 would be a camp for educators. PTA may want to consider subsidizing the parent program but at this time the program is fully funded. Perhaps Spring Hill School and WES PTA might team together to pay for lunch and childcare so that parents could attend. If we do provide childcare, the consensus was that it must be of higher quality than it has been in the past. Date: Sat., July 21, 2012 for parents and July 22-23-24 for educators. CS agreed to bring it up at the next SHS board meeting to see if they want to match this. Other schools may also be interested in participating. Another idea: HW would be glad to help speak to the "Harwood Transition" that some kids and parents are facing next year. Middle school currently has no parent's group, limited recess and no ski program so it is a big change for WES kids.

**Please join us for the next meeting on this Thursday, 2/9/2012 (7:40 am)**