

Waitsfield Elementary School PTA Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2011 7:40 AM

Attendees

Helen Ward, (president), Jenifer Tuck (treasurer), AnnMarie Harmon (secretary), Kaiya Korb, Christine Sullivan, Jennifer Stella, Krissa Hammond, Bear Simmons and Buny Downing

Minutes

Motion: to approve minutes, with a Also it is called Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast instead of Parent Volunteer Day. Moved: Kaiya. Seconded: Helen. Passed.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

It was a success and the teachers were very happy!!! They seemed excited and appreciative to have lunch before their conference at 1:00 at Harwood Union High School. It was nice timing because last week was the National Teacher Appreciation day. Three cheers for Elizabeth Schwartz for organizing this event!!! It was suggested that it be held every May early release day for lunch.

Green Up Day

This year's Green Up Day was a great success. There are pros and cons to holding it on a Friday afternoon right after school. There were around 15 to 20 parents in attendance. There typically are more people -- especially fathers -- when we hold it over the weekend, but it was nice to not have it interfere with weekend plans. It is generally the same core crew of parents who volunteer. Next year there should be more reaching out to different parents. What needed to be done was done.

New Kindergarten Orientation Event

Helen will be there to assist Kaiya tonight at 5:00 in the kindergarten room -- all PTA members are invited to support.

Gifts for Retiring Teachers

Gifts have been selected. There are staff parties for Connie and Betsy. We discussed additional ways to recognize staff.

Fifty Anniversary Party

It was discussed to have the 50th Anniversary of Waitsfield Elementary School Day at the very end of the last school day. Kaiya doesn't want to have an event that any of the teachers could not be there. Bear appreciated the idea because it is more inclusive for the students and staff, but the problem is that it doesn't give working parents an opportunity to attend. It ultimately was decided to hold the event during the Spring Concert on May 25th. **Action:** **Helen** will communicate with Beth because she had organized the food for this event. It was decided that we would just have cake.

6th Grade Graduation

Action: Bear volunteered to organize the Graduation Night Event as a parent of a 5th grader. It is tradition that members of the 5th grade class presents this event. Jeremy Hill will not be able to attend but Chloe Riven has volunteered to serve as the conductor instead of marching in with her class. It is typically cake and lemonade. **Action: Krissa** volunteered to bring flowers.

Playground Update

Kaiya solicited a request for proposal to receive bids for a master plan for the playground. After review of the three bids submitted, Kaiya and the Facilities Committee have hired Broadleaf Landscape Architects, a local landscape architectural company. They selected the company for not only the best price but also the best past applicable experience.

Parent Education Night

Kay Marcelle will be presenting on Wednesday, May 18th at 6:30 a Cyber (Internet) Safety Parent Education Night that is aimed at parents but kids are welcome. The topic will include recommendations on the appropriate use of Facebook, smart phones, and texting for our children. Kaiya recommended that we pass along an advertisement for this event on everyone's Facebook.

iPads for WES

There are many interactive learning opportunities that can be done on an iPad which cannot be done on a laptop or other desktop computers. There will be several iPads next year and the school is looking into the possibility of creating a lab with iPads. They are going to take a year to figure out how to incorporate iPads with the coursework and there may be the acquisition of more iPads for the school by the school board.

New Officer Positions

There is a higher proportion of officers who will not be returning next year. We now need a new secretary, treasurer and new people to take over the Ski and Skate Sale. Connie Gaylord agreed to shadow Krissa Hammond next year to organize the Ski and Skate Sale. In addition Helen and Beth will continue but for only one more year. Helen discussed how we could all reach out to parents. It would be important to bring up the new officer positions at the New Kindergarten Event tonight and the Spring Concert. Kaiya recommended we have a special PTA newsletter to communicate the need to replace these positions and to invite everyone to participate in the planning for the next year. **Action: Kaiya and Helen** will create this newsletter before the Spring Concert. **Action:** By June 1st AnnMarie and Jen could have a replacement or two as prospects. It was noted that the best way to get position replacement is to approach individuals and ask them directly. It was decided to have the next year budget meeting, instead of in August, to have it during the June PTA meeting to take advantage of the current officers and all of their many years of experience.

Adjourned

8:35 AM. Next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2011 7:40 AM in the WES Library.