

Waitsfield Elementary School PTA Budgeting Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2010 8:15 AM

Attendees

Bear Simmons, (president), Beth Libby (VP), Jenifer Tuck (treasurer), AnnMarie Harmon (secretary), Helen Ward, Jennifer Stella and Kaiya Korb

Review/Approval of Minutes

School Garden Update

The garden has been shaping up thanks particularly to efforts from Lee Van Dine's class under consultation with Jeremy Gulley and Kirsten Siebert. A garden plan has been created that assigns certain crops to grade level clusters on an ongoing basis.

The plan is to use some of the funds set aside for the garden to pay high school and WES students to tend the garden this summer. As the kids can not be paid directly, they will be offered "gift" compensation for their work (a gift card to iTunes, or a visa or VG gift card). Advertisements for this work will go out soon. Volunteers will still be needed to consult with those hired for the work, but less labor from the volunteers will be needed and the kids involvement in the farm to table experience will be reinforced.

Two grants have been secured for a total of \$450 to support the garden. In addition, some of the FEED funds are being used for the infrastructure of the garden, including replacing the grass walkway with a mulched bed and removing the bishop's weed infestation which involves moving the trees and blueberry bushes near the lilacs and putting down black plastic for a year. Ultimately, this will open up additional garden space.

Green Up Day

Green Up Day is set for May 23rd from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The clean up time for kids will be from 10:00 to 10:45. Then Jon Hammond will lead games for the older kids and there will be crafts for the younger kids while the parents continue to "green up" the school grounds. It has not yet been determined who will run the arts and crafts table. Helen has purchased the art supplies and is in the process of finding someone to run the table.

Action: AnnMarie and Beth will organize food. The PTA will pay for veggie burgers, burgers, hot dogs and condiments. Side dishes and dessert will be pot luck. It was decided to purchase 100 dogs and 100 burgers and 20 veggie burgers. The after school program can make brownies if we provide the brownie mix and farm fresh eggs from Kenyons. We have budgeted \$200 for food costs.

Action: Kaiya will create an "evite" for this event with a list of things to bring. This way we will be able to have a better idea for food quantities.

Action: Jennifer will send a note to the Valley Reporter with the Rain Date of June 6th. The community is invited to participate.

Gifts for retiring staff members

The school board is planning gifts for our two retiring staff members, Lyn Kingsbury and Krietta Phillips. There was a discussion as to the PTA's participation towards these gifts.

Action: Kaiya will get costs and get back to Helen via email.

Art Work in the Building Proposal

Kaiya has been talking with Nora about the art work around the school. Kaiya recommended that the PTA purchase frames that can be used every year for students' art work. The matting can be construction paper. Nora would need volunteers to help her with the framing each year. **Action:** It was decided that Kaiya and Nora would first go to the Starving Artist to inquire about frame costs.

6th Grade Trip

The 6th Grade Trip to Boston will be June 2nd to 4th. The PTA has budgeted \$1,500 in the past two years. Lee and Dan are ready for this check now.

Staff Appreciation Breakfast

Kaiya had a suggestion for this annual breakfast. All of the staff has to attend school on June 14th even though the student's last day is June 11th. It was decided to have it on that day and to serve lunch instead of breakfast. Each of the PTA members can bring flowers from their garden. The PTA has table cloths. We can make the final arrangements at the June 10th PTA meeting.

Graduation

Last year they had a big cake with flowers and a slide show of each kid. This year there will be a slide show that Lee and Kay are assembling with three photos each of all the graduates. Kaiya would like to ask the 5th grade parents to do the food and the reception set up this year and make it the annual tradition. Last year the PTA paid for the cake, drinks and flowers and can do the same this year. Kaiya would like to have live music.

Action: Kaiya will assemble the music by asking local musicians.

Safe Routes to School

Crossing Guards at Bridge Street and Old County Road will be provided. Guards are needed from 7:20 to 7:40. Parents should park behind the Bridge Street Market Place before walking or biking with their child to school. Krissa, Beth, Amy and Helen will be guards next week Monday through Friday. Jennifer Stella will get the forms to Kaiya that each teacher should fill out in order to collect the data on who actually walked or biked to school. This information can be used to acquire future grants in addition to being used for this grant.

Officer Elections

The following are the results of the elections:

President: Helen Ward - Thank you Bear for being the president for three years. Yeah!
Vice President: Beth Libby
Treasurer: Jenifer Tuck
Secretary: AnnMarie Harmon

Adjourned

9:30 AM. Next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2010 7:40 AM in the WES Library.