

Westridge PTA meeting minutes – November 17, 2023

Members present: Hallie Wemmie, Keaton Pulver, Jennie Hogan, Jennifer Drucker, Amy Seidelman, Courtney Peterson, Suyau Woehler, Christa Kirsch-Paulson
Online: Nicole Campbell, Aliyah Johnston

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 9:22 am.

Treasurer's report: Keaton Pulver provided an update on PTA budget and expenditures. Current balance \$73,489 (checking acct. \$9,761.07 and money market \$63,728.72.) Fall Fundraiser raised \$21,626 (less fees and expenses). The GiveBacks platform seemed successful in facilitating the fundraiser. Thank you to all companies who did a company match day! We had \$5,100 in corporate donations. The Penny Wars were also successful in bringing in an additional \$1,256. The rest was all electronically donated.

Teacher reimbursements have slowed down but we have paid out \$4,867 of the \$6,000 allocated. The Play Committee brought in \$8,926 in fees and donations and they have spent \$2,977.29. 6th grade Activities Committee has collected \$4,055 so far for the year. PTA has paid \$565.13 for t-shirts and the school paid the other half. PTA has paid for three grades to have field trip transportation so far this year (\$1,809.45). Payroll deductions brought in an additional \$867.72 last month.

Principal's report: Mrs. Tjeerdsma and Mr. Heuton are here to provide updates. There are a few new employees at Westridge: a new custodian Mr. Ramirez and Stephanie Marlow, front desk secretary. There is a new special education teacher joining in January and we will be fully staffed. Conferences were great! Westridge received an Iowa School Performance review (can read more online) and had an improvement from last year. We are now less than one point away from being a "high performance" school, as we used to be around 5 or so years ago; this is a new goal for us. She is very grateful for the team we have this year at Westridge and there is much to celebrate!

Teacher's report: Provided by Mr. Heuton on behalf of Jillian Robbins. It was great to have conferences as an opportunity to share student successes with their families. Staff are thankful for the dinner provided by the PTA. 3rd and 6th grade coGAT scores will be coming out next week. Everyone really enjoyed the play and the grade level rewards for fundraising have been really fun for all.

Secretary's report: October meeting minutes were provided to members. Courtney Peterson motions to approve minutes, seconded by Jennie Hogan. Minutes are approved.

Current business:

Family Activities Committee: Boo Bash was a huge success. Lots of good feedback and a huge turnout. This will be an event we will likely replicate next year but will be looking for more help on that particularly. There will be a family skate day at Rec Plex on March 29, 2024 after school. More details to come out later but it will look similar to last year's event.

Book clubs- open for registration. 23 students are currently signed up. No longer using Challenge of the books list. Collaborating with Mrs. James to make sure books do not have to be purchased by students. Looking at books off the ICCA list. Deadline is Tuesday for signing up.

Hospitality- Conference dinner was a success. Teachers are enjoying the snacks.

Volunteer opportunities- Winter parties are coming up so be on the lookout for opportunities for signing up.

Family engagement event in February that would double as a fundraiser. Looking at a Bingo night that would be during a silent auction. Looking at Friday February 23rd or Sunday February 25th. Charging for admission for bingo- either per person or per family. We will have lots of prizes. Silent auction- possibility of doing online. Looking at involving homeroom parents to coordinate “class gifts” for bidding. Looking for parent volunteers to help make this event successful. Concessions available for purchase. Need to communicate to families about forms of payment accepted. Homemade gifts and experiences have historically been the most popular auction items. Passes to zoo, science center, Living History Farms, etc., are options as well.

Looking for more dinner nights to support Westridge. Chick-fil-a, Menchie's, Chipotle...

6th grade volleyball tournament coming up! Valley high school 11/21.

Important dates/upcoming events:

November 22-24 No School

December 21 – Winter classroom parties

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.