

Westridge PTA meeting minutes – April 12, 2024

Members present: Hallie Wemmie, Keaton Pulver, Jennie Hogan, Jennifer Drucker, Amy Seidelman, Emily Mayfield, Nicole Campbell, Ashley Thoreson, Ben Irwin, Jillian Robbins, Elizabeth Larson, Elizabeth Ahrens, Amanda Bjornson, Tamara Tjeerdsma, Tyson Heuton, Kelsi Salmon, Mary Ellerbroek, Anne Sissel, Courtney Peterson
Online: n/a

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 9:21 am.

2024-2025 Executive Board vote: The following people are up for vote for next year's executive committee: Jennie Hogan – President, Hallie Wemmie – President-elect, Courtney Peterson – Secretary, Keaton Pulver – Treasurer (2nd year) and Nicole Campbell – Director at Large. All members unanimously voted in favor.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer, Keaton Pulver provided an April update on PTA finances:

Current Checking balance: \$14,857.54 Current Money Market Balance: \$53,906.20 for total of \$68,763.74.

Spending: We have spent \$21,741.05 of our allocated \$33,050 budget for this year. Recent spending: School Supply budget is almost spent for the year, Teacher Reimbursements have been paid out to \$5,662.30 and have \$338 remaining, \$1,809.45 in field trips this year so far and anticipating an additional \$1,800 coming up for four more field trips, \$200 to Staff Recognition ceremony.

Income: Chipotle Night brought in \$492.29, payroll deductions have brought in \$3,820.83 – if your employer offers a match, please consider donating it to the PTA. The Silent Auction brought in \$6,214.10 for a total fundraising income for the year at \$28,939.04.

Budget: We have enough to cover a similar budget next year and without budget changes that would leave the PTA with \$24,000 in reserves. Fundraising will continue to be a major necessity to keep the budget similar in future years.

Principal's report: Mr. Heuton and Mrs. Tjeerdsma are here today to provide an update. Westridge is up for a playground update on the district rotation. Lots of work for planning for the best fit for our kids. Parents were able to voice opinions and wanted updates to Special Education equipment as well. Digging starts on June 3 and should be completely done by end of summer break. Spring concerts were wonderful. Leader in Me continues to be a major contributor to our school's success. Literacy surveys were recently sent out and also Conditions of Learning surveys for statewide report cards. This data is used to monitor our strengths and needs. ISASPs are next week – accepting snack donations! Encourages students to do their best and take their time. Field trips and lots of learning yet for this year! RecPlex event was a huge success and a lot of fun as was the silent auction.

Teacher's report: Jillian Robbins here to provide an update: Echoes the thoughts of Mrs. Tjeerdsma today and there was a lot of talk in school about the fun things that have been going on. Spring Engagement event was a lot of fun and always nice to have parents back in the building. May is such an exciting month at Westridge! Shared her appreciation for the Westridge family.

Secretary's report: February meeting minutes are available for members to review. Jillian Robbins motions to approve February's notes and this is seconded by Nicole Campbell. Minutes are approved.

Current business:

- Budget Adjustment update – PTA recently had vote to put \$800 to field trips to make room for replacing gaga ball pits – have since learned the district does not plan to contribute and is more costly than originally anticipated so that conversation will happen as evaluation of the budget occurs coming into May meeting.
- Committee updates
 - Booster Pak – Kelsi Salmon provides update: volunteer driver slots are filled and spring break distribution was a success. Next year will be partnered with WDM community services and it may have an impact on things next year – not sure how that will look. This program is really impactful for a lot of our families. A question was asked about using venmo to collect donations and an Amazon PTA wishlist was discussed – can definitely do donations on the GiveBacks website.

- Family Activities – Hallie Wemmie provided update on the recent Family Skate Night – we had around 600 participants from Westridge, which is huge! Families were able to use the ice rink for skating, the gym spaces for basketball, games, etc. and the community room for free popcorn and snacks. It was a great turnout! That is it from family events for the year and will resume in August with kindergarten park playdate.
- Yearbook – Jennifer Drucker provided update: Almost the deadline to submit for your custom pages and just seeking a few more photos to fill in gaps, including from the Family Skate Night.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up and the PTA will be treating the teachers to Chick fil A lunch on Monday, Jimmy Johns lunch on Wednesday and still figuring out a fun treat for Friday – last year was ice cream!
- Open forum:
 - Emily Mayfield shared information on Staff Appreciation committee and provided a way for families to donate to that if they would like.
 - Courtney Peterson with Hospitality Committee is looking into donated meals for teachers on Field Day if anyone has a connection and can help with this
- Open Committee positions for 2024/2025 school year:
 - Arts Initiative
 - Book fair
 - Spring fundraiser
 - Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Science Initiative
 - 6th grade activities
 - Yearbook
 - Communication committee
- Fundraiser update:
 - Restaurant days have been successful and PTA is sharing opportunities with the school.
 - Silent auction- \$6,200 raised minus a few expenses. Thank you to Mrs. Robbins for facilitating the classroom projects that were up for auction.
 - Spirit wear – Raygun T shirt sales- today is the last day to purchase. \$10 per shirt goes to PTA.
- New principal update: Chance to connect at Popsicles with the Principal on May 29 at Westridge.

New business:

- Indian Hills CPI (Committee for Parent Involvement) Ashley Thoreson is the 7th grade CPI Co-chair and here to encourage parents to get involved if they have students moving over to Indian Hills next year. Also shared opportunities for students next year (cross country, school play, show choir, etc.) They host coffee socials and parents night out for CPI parents – this is now being opened up to current 6th grade parents and a flyer was provided with information. Reach out if you'd like to get involved!
- There was a question about grounds operations and wanting to advise that there are a lot of opportunities for improvement. PTA has a very small budget for gardens but this is largely not a PTA thing and is the task that belongs to the school/district.

Important dates/upcoming events:

No school - April 26, Professional Development Day

Teacher Appreciation week: May 6 – May 10

PTA meeting: May 10 at 9:15 am Westridge Teacher's Lounge/zoom

Popsicles with the new principal – May 29 at 3:15 – 4:15 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 am