

Westridge PTA Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2025

Attendees: Courtney Peterson, Anne Lind, Hallie Wemmie, Valerie Ridings, Kelsi Salmon, Amanda Bjornson, Jennie Hogan, Molly Daniel, Emily Mayfield, Marcela Delgado-Sanchez, Scott Peshak

Call to order: Meeting called to order by President Hallie Wemmie at 6:20pm

Treasurer's report: *Molly Daniel*

Current Account Balances:

Checking \$15,198.57 • Money Market \$69,598.32 for a total of \$84,796.89

Spending:

- Have paid \$2,946.16 in teacher reimbursements [Teachers can be reimbursed \$125 and the budget is \$5,000]
- School supply boxes purchased - \$1,810.43
- School Play reimbursements - so far \$619.89 has been distributed.

Income:

- Donations for 6th grade activities continue coming in – currently at \$4,560. Around \$500 behind where they were with donations last year. Expenses last year used all but \$32 of their budget.
- School play activity includes collection of fees and distribution of reimbursements for supplies. Current budget stands at 7078.80 which includes \$583 that remained from last year's budget with the help of play concession sales.
- Westridge Gear fundraiser - \$580 raised
- Blaze Pizza restaurant night - \$307.19 raised
- Shop to Give available on Givebacks platform

Principal's report: *Jody Kerchal and Tyson Heuton*

- Homecoming last week – participated in the parade
- Fall Homecoming parties - 135 families were in the building volunteering
- Conferences coming up at the end of October/beginning of November. Trying new scheduling to help coordinate with translators and parent planning. Fall schedule will be the same as spring schedule, so parents can plan ahead.
- No school on October 13 and 31
- Fall student focus groups – Ayla and Heather to lead and gain student perspective on what is going well and what needs improvement. Goal is to make Westridge the school of choice. Also doing a staff survey with desired daily outcomes. Three times a year, building leadership will meet with small groups of teachers.
- Two Ticket Tuesday – Wayfair store is open. Adding donations from businesses and restaurants. Students are excited! Open to any donations if families have connections or business that would make sense.
- First assembly – split K-2 and 3-6. Had a drum line. Golden Plunger Award for cleanest bathroom. Stuffed tiger award for top section – groups of teachers watching for respectful, responsible, safe behavior. Both awards have created some excitement.
- Graduation chant every Friday to encourage portrait of a graduate
- 30 new students in first two months.

Teacher's report: *Jillian Robbins*

- Family Engagement Night was a success.
- Goal for STEAM lab to give specific instructions on items so that teachers can more easily utilize it. Already seeing increase in use.
- CogATs Test – Cognitive Abilities testing. Testing has started. Can use with performance testing and SEL to get a good picture of each student
- IAC – Jeopardy style competitions. Mrs. Robbins helping students by organizing entry quiz and helping with studying. Will be hosted by Waukee. PTA sponsoring top scorer in three categories.
- Leadership jobs are up and running for each 5th and 6th grader
- Field trips are happening – 4th grade to Art Center, 1st grade to Jester Park

Secretary's report: September minutes made available for review – approved without objection.

Current Business:

- PTA communications through Westridge Word, monthly, rather than Westridge Weekly. Linked on LinkTree and printed to be sent home.

Committee updates:

Family Events – *Hallie Wemmie* – still need trunks and accepting student volunteers if silver cord hours are needed for Westridge Bash. A few changes – One magic show at the end of the night, rather than multiple. October 18 deadline for pumpkin contest.

Chess club – *Scott Peshak* – 40+ kids currently attending

Archery club – Parent meeting will be coming. Registration is on the Linktree. Season will begin following the end of the play

Westridge Play – *Emily Mayfield* -- Frozen Jr.- Second rehearsal was just held. Everything is going well with great participation.

Book Fair – *Valerie Ridings*– October 29-November 7. Working through volunteer scheduling. Changing schedule a little to try and offer morning times rather than evenings. Adding a story time, pajama night. All ideas to boost interest and sales.

Yearbook – *Hallie Wemmie on behalf of Tess Egly* - encourage you to save photos throughout the year that can be added to the yearbook at the end of the year. Yearbook orders are open.

Restaurant Nights – *Amanda Bjornson* - Looking at lower cost options to include more families

- October 22, Chipotle – 25% donation
- November 25, Dave and Busters – 20% donation

Volunteer needs:

- Volunteer Network
- Westridge Bash
- Book Fair
- Fundraising committee

Important dates/upcoming events:

October 9 – Fall pictures

October 13 – No school

October 22 – Chipotle fundraiser

October 25 – Westridge Bash 5:30-8pm

October 29-November 7 – Book Fair

October 31 – No school

Meeting adjourned without objection at 7:09pm