

September 12, 2023 PTA Meeting Westmore Elementary School

Minutes are considered a high-level overview of the meeting.

For more information on any specific topic, please ask PTA officers.

The Westmore Elementary School PTA met on Sept. 12, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. About 16 people were in attendance in person.

President Raquel Mahoney shared that she would like to create some goals, procedures, and protocols for the Westmore PTA this year and stay true to the mission. The PTA is also working on being bilingual in messaging and is looking for a volunteer to help with translating into Spanish.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Rachel Fowler shared that the minutes from the last PTA meeting held on August 22, 2023, are posted on MemberHub (Givebacks). There have been no noted changes or corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report

Treasurer Taryn Mueller shared that the opening balance was \$16,712.82, and the closing balance was \$19,024.82. We made money from the Back to School Bash, Pool Party, Spirit Wear, and PTA membership. The difference was \$2,312. Certain receipts for Back to School Social, Spirit Wear, and Pool Party came in after the report.

Presentation of Treasurer Binder

Treasurer Taryn Mueller shared her procedures book for being treasurer to pass on to the next treasurer. It is specific to the treasurer position with more details. It will be helpful in future years.

A Few PTA Updates

The Executive Committee went through de-escalation strategies recently to avoid problems at events in the future. The PTA created an event summary sheet to fill out after events—to share details on what went right, what went wrong, what to improve, etc. PTA is now also using the CheddarUp platform to process credit cards, which is easier and more accessible.

Classroom Support

Every year there's a certain amount of money in the budget for classroom and staff support. Taryn Mueller created the list and sent it to the office, which will go in teacher mailboxes around Sept. 13. Teachers can fill out the form for purchases for their classrooms.

Principal's Report

Vice Principal Mrs. Chambers reported that literacy and reading continues to be a priority. The goal is for students to read four steps a day, with two in school and two outside of school. The school has already done more than 9,000 steps. Westmore students went through the first rounds of assessments individually with their teachers. Westmore just finished NWEA MAP testing as well. All parents will get fall MAP reports on September 25. Westmore is adopting new SEL frameworks (e.g., morning meetings, quiet time, closing meetings, etc.). They are also focusing on understanding your feelings as a student (e.g., the mood meter).

The Winter Coat Drive is happening Tuesday, October 17, and the school is looking for volunteers that day for coat fittings. They are looking for two or three volunteers.

Mrs. Han gave an update on 3rd grade. Reading and math are picking up, and the students are getting into their routines. Her students recently discussed feeling words, and they like quiet time.

Committee Reports

Back to School Bash: Kris Castaldi reported that it went really well. There was lower attendance this year, possibly due to other activities. There were frozen treats, popcorn, water, etc. It was easy set up and simple. This ended up under budget as well.

Pool Party: Vice President Ande Ngola shared that 388 people were in attendance, more than expected. There were some lessons learned on how to handle admissions. Overall the event went well. Concessions had to be sold by the pool, not us.

Dairy Queen Fundraiser: Carson Simek reported that this first restaurant night went well. Dairy Queen sold \$1,419 worth of ice cream, meaning Westmore PTA made \$283.87.

District 5K: Kris Castaldi shared this is a district-wide event. The event is September 16. Adults are \$25, and kids are \$20. It is a walk and run.

Movie Night: Raquel Mahoney reported that the kids voted for the Super Mario Movie at the Back to School Bash. This event is already sold out; there were 100 tickets available. 74 pre-concession items and 40 brag tags have been sold already. The first volunteer email went out.

Trunk or Treat: Kris Castaldi reported that Trunk or Treat is October 20, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Staff and parents decorate their trucks, and it's a free event. The 5th Grade Committee runs the cake walk. The committee is looking for donations (candy, treats, etc.).

Family Game Night: Ande Ngola reported that this event is Tuesday, November 9, 6:30-8 p.m. It's a free event with games, puzzles, snacks, etc.

Westmore PTA should think about creating a volunteer sign-up flyer for students to bring home (in Spanish and English). The calendar could be on one side and sign up on the other side with specific tasks and a QR code.

New Business

The 2nd-5th Grade Social: Jenny Jahn reported about the Kindergarten and 1st Grade Social last year at Fuel and Crème that went well. Westmore PTA received 20% of the proceeds.

Jenny Jahn moved to have a 2nd-5th social event at Fuel and Crème in October to be added as a line item to the budget, hoping to bring in \$100. Sandra King seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

Announcements

September 15—School Pictures

September 19—Kindergarten/1st Grade Social: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

September 29—Movie Night

October 10—Next PTA Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10 at 6:30 p.m.

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