

**November 12, 2024 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 Nov. 12, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. About 12 people were in attendance in person.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Rachel Fowler shared that the minutes from the last PTA meeting held on October 8, 2024, are posted on MemberHub (Givebacks) and are also on the Westmore PTA website. There have been no noted changes or corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report

Treasurer Taryn Mueller shared that the opening balance was \$22,359.85, and the closing balance was \$21,333.55. There were some receipts and disbursements from a few events: Movie Night, Spirit Wear, Trunk or Treat, etc. Taryn shared that it's a good idea to take pictures of receipts in case they get lost later.

Principal's Report

Mr. Dart reported that the Halloween costume for Mr. Allen went well and was fun. Students are 8,000 steps past last year at this time. They are at 82,000 steps. With the changes in weather, Mr. Dart shared that most days students are outside at 15 degrees F or above. He asked parents to label jackets with names. At 45 degrees or below, students wear jackets. Students are allowed to come in early for breakfast as well. In snow, students are allowed in the grass with snow gear on, or they can play on the blacktop without snow gear. This month, students are doing a kindness challenge. Report cards are out and available online. Parent-teacher conferences are online on May 20 and in person on May 25. In December, Book Blizzard is the last day before winter break. Grandparents are invited to Book Blizzard as well. There will be a sign-up for this soon. PTA parents can volunteer for a read-a-loud and craft at Book Blizzard as well. PTA will revisit the crafts for this year. Next Monday is an Erin's Law presentation about sexual abuse. The library is looking for volunteers.

Grade level parents were coordinated by the school for the Halloween Party. PTA and the school can coordinate with the Book Blizzard volunteers.

Committee Reports

Read-a-thon: President Ande Ngola shared that it was a success. With all the donations, PTA earned about \$10,500. There were fees around \$400 to the website manager. Some feedback included that the kids didn't exactly know this fundraiser was happening. It's hard to get daily results for the read-a-thon.

Trunk or Treat: Taylor Thinnies shared that it went well. There were a lot of Dessert Dash donations. The pizza was also a good idea. Trunks ran out of candy, so some parents went out to buy more. There was a good turnout. There were tables set up inside to eat pizza, but Taylor shared that they would be better outside. For communication, especially on flyers, a general email address for events would be better than personal email addresses. For those with trunks, communicating with parents on how much candy

to buy and other things would be helpful. For the future, more volunteers would be good, and making sure kids go around only once would help.

Committee Planning (Upcoming)

Teacher Appreciation: Kendra Risley shared that it's going well. Many parents are signing up to donate. Meals will be set up for teachers on both conference days. Kendra is looking into gluten free options as well.

Membership: Jacqueline Luna Montes shared that the membership drive is doing well. There are 12 new members. There will be a drawing this week as well. There will be a grand prize drawing on November 20.

Communications: Raquel Mahoney shared that there is a plan to make PTA communications run smoothly. The committee is using Asana to keep track of communications for everything. The goal is to reach out to committee chairs so they can get the information needed to get out to families. The committee would like to communicate this new plan to the chairs. Ande Ngola could help with translations on flyers, too.

Book Fair: Taryn Mueller shared that it will be in the gym on Monday, Nov. 25, and she is looking for a few more volunteers. It will be online longer as well.

Math Contest: The committee signed up, and it is happening on December 4.

Giving Tree: Kris Castaldi and Taryn Mueller are gathering information for all the family members and will work on a SignUp Genius.

New Business

Bylaws Amendment: Ande Ngola proposed changing the bylaws, Article IX, Section 5. She would like to change "regular meetings of the executive board shall be held 10 times during the year" to a "minimum of 8 times during the year." She would also like the amendment to say "50% + three active committee chair members including at least 2 officers shall constitute a quorum."

PTA will look at the bylaws and think about a decision on this, and discuss at the next committee meeting.

Movie Night was scheduled for January 31, but there's a conflicting Bowling Night that night. PTA discussed possibly changing it to February 21.

Coin Race: PTA discussed canceling this because of the Read-a-thon. The PTA will look at a possible smaller fundraiser. Classrooms could choose what prizes/parties they want in a different fundraiser.

Proposals for New Events: Raquel Mahoney: Her daughter still has owls from a fundraiser. She shared the kids like earning the little prizes.

Taylor Thinnes would like to have another Parents Night possibly in February, with a white elephant and Newlywed Game. Expenditure might be around \$600.

Taryn Mueller will reach out to Jenny Jahn for a possible location on the PTA Holiday/Giving Tree Wrap Party on December 10.

Announcements

Spirit Wear: From Kris Castaldi: Store is live. Fun new designs are included just in time for the holiday season. It's a short sale, only open through November 22.

Fifth Grade: From Kris Castaldi: Fifth grade shirts are ready to order. An order form will be going home and be posted as soon as the links are available. There are short and long sleeve tees and a hoodie option this year, with prices ranging from \$11-\$22.

November 14—Family Game Night

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14 at 6:30 p.m.

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