

Westside Elementary PTA Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, 5 November 2014, 9:15 am.

Call to Order: Jenny Fowler

Pledge of Allegiance: Jenny Fowler

In attendance: Janelle Christensen, Lisa Tate, Brandi Duvall, Audra McHoes, Marilyn Boucher, Stephanie Christensen, Lisa Smith, Natalie Smith, Athena Hammer, Kari Kieffer, Karen Ellingson, Shannon Arroyo, Melissa Franklin, Jenny Fowler, Annie Burnham

VP Principal: SARA MATIS

Treasurer: JANELLE CHRISTENSEN

Monthly Treasurer's Report

Janelle had the monthly report and the budget vs actual papers at the meeting for everyone to look at.

VP Teacher: SHANNON ARROYO Thank You from all the teachers!!! They have really enjoyed the SEP dinner and loved being able to buy new books. Jenny asked Mrs. Arroyo to let teachers know that we so appreciated their willingness to jump in and help out with the carnival.

VP Legislation: Marilyn Boucher

Marilyn- Report on Legislation day

Marilyn was able to spend a day at the capital. She thought she was going to a day about legislation but it actually was an advocacy conference about concerns for our children. Marilyn was able to attend several different workshops. By far the best and most attended workshop was the internet safety class. Internet safety is something that **everyone** deals with. They brought in an expert FBI agent he really knows his stuff. He has done this for 17 years and is a father himself. He has put away many internet predators. This is a very serious topic we all need be prepared in knowing how to handle it. The agent said if you take anything away today I want you to take these two things away. 1. NO devises in bedrooms period! No phones especially with teens, iPod, iPad, laptop, TV, etc. 2. Learn about this website Netsmartz.org.

There are 2 ways to handle this issue. The first the defense position it is easy to put in the prenatal controls it takes you 5 mins click, click and you're done. The second the offense position is a lot harder in teaching your children to be safe. Taking the time to have conversations, role playing, etc can be challenging with children. The agent shared this awesome website with us! Netsmartz.org.

This is an amazing website that can help children/teens learn how to be safe on the internet. You can visit the site with your child. It is very kid friendly. This site is incredible it has a section for all ages, Parents, educators, young children, Tweens, teens. You can also pick "choose an issue" you are concerned about like cyber bullying, email/chat room, file sharing plus many more valuable topics and learn that way. In each of these areas it will show you warning signs to be aware of in your child. It also has videos for each age group that are very informative. It even has presentations for parents and educators. This site is not only awesome to use in the home for things like family meetings but could be used in schools and youth groups.

The Scouts nationally are adapting this website as a teaching tool. Please, please share this website with your family, friends, neighbors, and social media cites! Let's get the word out and protect our children!

President: Elect: Melissa Franklin

President: Jenny Fowler

Mrs. Erickson needs parent volunteers in the library. She is asking for the volunteers to come between 9-12 Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday when students are not in the library. She also asked that parents to let her know before they come. Jenny suggested to Mrs. Erickson that she could have smaller projects for a parent who did not give her advance notice and have bigger projects for parents who did give her advance notice. Mrs. Arroyo mentioned they have a lot of parents volunteering in Mrs. Manning's classroom. If Mrs. Manning doesn't have anything for the parent to do, the parent could then go volunteer for Mrs Erickson.

Athena- Reflections

Dec 2: Council Reflections Award Evening at Sage Creek Elementary 6:30 for viewing, 7 for awards

Athena needs table easels to use the night of the awards. She needs 7 or 8 easels. She will return them to you the next day. She has never misplaced an easel! Athena will be sending out an email asking if anyone has easels she can borrow. It is really cool to see the art that makes it to the awards night. It's neat how you can see the student really put themselves into the artwork. You can view the art at 6:30. The awards will be presented at 7:00. You do not have to stay for the awards part of the evening. The awards evening is at Sage Creek Elementary.

Lisa T – Overview for Fun Run & Carnival: final numbers.

What are Do's and Don'ts that could make the carnival better for next year?

We made \$5,297 which is close to 1,200 less from last year. Last year we made \$6,446.

The silent auction did not do as well as last year. It was asked if we have a record of businesses who already donate. We have tried to stay local as businesses farther out like to donate to their own schools. If we do try to get bigger companies to donate we would need to start way in advance as it can take those companies several months to decide if are going to donate. Sarah contacted the Provo Towne Theatre they said they do not donate to small groups. It also was mentioned that Costco and Sam's donates pretty easily. I suggested that instead of having a paper to place bids by the baskets we could have a can by the basket and write the bids on a ticket and place ticket in the can. Having the ticket in the can would hide the bid from other bidders. Doing the bid this way could entice bidders to bid higher not being able to see another bidder's bid.

Some people got baskets for super cheap. It was also mentioned that we could put a minimum on the baskets. We did that once before and people wouldn't when even but the minimum. Parents who place bids are ideally there to get a good deal, buy their child's basket. A few parents could be bidding to donate to the school.

It was nice the value was placed by the basket. It was asked did we do better when the silent auction was at night versus on Saturday. We would have to look at the numbers. Janelle will try to find the numbers and she will let us know. We have had the fun run for two years now. We do profit from the fun run this year we made \$800. Could we have a preview of the silent auction at SEP's and then have the winner on the fun run day. If we did that we would need to have the basket ready earlier in the year. Also we would then need to hold into the basket for a few weeks. Which is fine we have held on to the basket before and we had a problem of them getting stolen.

It was also asked did basket sales do better when the baskets had books in them. Is it worth doing the baskets with the books? We would have to look at past years to find out. Janelle will try to find those numbers. Having a book as the theme for a basket has not always popular with some the teachers. The solution could be that not every classroom would put together a basket. Each grade level could do 1 or 2 baskets. Another great idea was to have 1 basket per grade and still have baskets from business donations. We could also have a basket from the dual immersion classes. That would include Spanish speaking families. It can be hard to find donations that match the book. Asking for donations that match the book can be hard. Parents may feel as though they need to donate to the basket and then buy the basket. As a result teachers or room parents may feel like they have to provide the whole basket if donations for baskets don't come in. If parents do not feel like they can donate items we could ask them to donate a \$1 instead. If the donation is small it can feel a little more doable. Another idea that was mentioned several times is that we need a committee just for the baskets. The committee would have a person over each grade, dual immersion and business baskets.

If you have a committee member working with a room parent and a teacher that is three people trying to find donations for a basket instead of just one person. We also discussed different ways we could get the books for the basket. One ways to look for books at the scholastic wearhouse.

Some people got baskets for super cheap. Was it a good idea to have Waffle Love at the carnival? Waffle Love did not give us any money for them being there. People thought we are getting money from Waffle Love so they were buying waffles. We have never really focused on making money with the food at the carnival. We usually break even with the food or lose money. We could ask businesses like Waffle Love if we advertise for you are you willing to give as part of what they make even if it's just 5%. There were many great ideas for making the silent auction better. It was also discussed where we would get the books for the baskets.

Giving Tree or Online option for December

It was asked do we want to do the giving tree online like we did last year or do we want to do paper trees. Last year the giving tree was on the Signup Genius site. We could put a big paper tree by the front office with all the teachers on it. It was mentioned that the Signup genius site was really nice you could make your shopping list any time of day instead of having to keep track of a paper ornament. How many parents past Kindergarten or first grade come into the school with their students? It was decided we will just do the online tree this year. Heather Robinson took care of the tree last year. Does she want to take care of it again? Heather has a new baby and may not want be in charge of the tree. Stephanie and Athena volunteered to help take care the tree. Stephanie will call Heather to find out if she wants to help with the tree. We need to start putting the giving tree in the Monday message. We need the list of what teachers want soon. Mrs. Arroyo will email teachers and write notes to get their wish lists. A couple of the Spanish teachers misunderstood when they were asked to submit their wish list for the book fair. They were excited to learn we were giving them books not asking them to buy books! Mrs. Arroyo will make sure they understand that is same for the giving tree.

Since we will not have the teacher list as soon as we need we will start by putting a generic list of teacher needs in the Monday message. All teachers need Clorox wipes, page protectors, dry erase markers, and pencils. It was asked do we still do a newsletter. Even with several children at school a newsletter has not made it home. Yes we still do a newsletter.

*****Reminder about logging hours!**

Please remember to log your hours! We are down 300 hours from last year. That cannot really be the case it is more than likely that hours are not getting logged. Any time you come to the school for a field trip, holiday parties, volunteering in classrooms, etc. those hours can be logged. Hours working at home babysitting for someone volunteering at the school, emailing, etc. can be logged too. If you do not make it to the meetings you can also log your hours in the office or you can email me. It was suggested that the sign up in sheet in the office could be changed so there is a spot to fill in your hours. For quick reference my email is purple_roses7520@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

Nov 26-28: Thanksgiving Break

Dec 2: Council Reflections Award Evening

Dec 3: Next board meeting

Nov Marquee: Audra McHoes

Dec Marquee: Kari Kieffer

Volunteer Hours:232.5

Adjourn until Wednesday, December 3, 9:15 am