



Young Scholars of Western PA Charter School

PTO Meeting Minutes Wednesday November 4, 2015

1) CEO Report

Storybook Character Day re-cap – Overall went well. Good turnout of trunk-or-treat parents. Next year maybe have different areas of the parking lot designated for K-3 and 4-8, for trunk-or-treat. OR, older kids have in-class pizza party and don't walk in parade. Start parade earlier.

YSWPCS placed 6th, compared to other Western PA charters. The scoring process (100-point scale) was developed by the Dept. of Education, reflecting how students did on standardized tests, plus other factors such as special ed students, gifted students, etc. [Link to Trib Total Media Article](#)

Pa. Budget Impasse – please write to your representatives, encouraging them to pass a budget, especially for the sake of our school and all PA education. Click here to find out who your representatives are: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm#address>

Veteran's Day Celebration Assembly, during school hours, Wednesday November 11th. Let Mr. B know if you or someone you know that is a Veteran would like to come in.

Wednesday November 25th is a Half Day. Awards ceremony in the morning, ending the 1st Trimester. Then no school Nov 26th or 27th for Thanksgiving break.

"Josh and Gab" visited the school, a high-energy musical-comedy duo with a focus on an anti-bullying message. They just released their own TV show pilot on www.youtube.com
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thejoshandgabshow/videos/>

2) Treasurer Report

Current balance \$1,483.00. Recent purchases include PTO bulletin board (in front lobby), nametags for Homeroom Parents. Upcoming purchases: Pizza Party for highest-selling Yankee Candles class (orders taken until November 17th), Holiday Shoppe expenses, and secure wall-mounted mailbox. And gloves for all kids.

3) Teacher Report – Mrs. Richards (absent), Ms. Remziye

Storybook Character Day went well. Kelly helped with Homeroom Parent name tags and checking clearances list. School gave children glowy sticks.

Parent Career Day January 7, 2016

"What I would like to happen is have each homeroom teacher pick one or two periods during the 7th that they would have available for homeroom parents to come in and present to their students their career (what they do, how they got to that position/education, and any other information that they would like to share). I am thinking that each parent would get about 10 minutes to talk and that there should be time for a Q & A for the students." -

Thanks, Ms. Laufer

This is something Katie Laufer, School Counselor, came up with this year. Great opportunity for not only Homeroom Parents, but also grandparents, aunts, uncles to share their career stories. CLEARANCES ARE

NOT NECESSARY, since you'd be a guest speaker, not a classroom volunteer. If scheduling is an issue, we welcome powerpoint presentations or even better, a Skype call. Please mark your calendars, and let Karrie Bender know if you can participate.

Trip to Spain! YSWPCS is organizing a spring break trip to Spain. We will have a information night to talk about the details of the trip. Price is around \$1,500. Please contact with Ms. Giardina l.giardina@yswpcs.org if you are interested and have more questions.

4) Community Outreach Report

Angel Tree in front lobby, to support the Global Trauma Research project in Haiti. Each angel ornament will have a child's age and wishlist. Participants purchase items from this list, and bring them back to school wrapped, with the original angel attached. Rachel is looking for a large, stand-up water bottle or similar for monetary donations as well. Contact Rachel for more info r.majcher@yswpcs.org

Parent Breakfasts, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:00am. Please schedule time to talk with Mr. B and Rachel Majcher, about anything that's on your mind. Ideas, suggestions, questions are welcomed. Open to other days and times, possibly first Thursdays at 6:30pm (before monthly board meetings), or before Saturday Academy?

5) Committees

Homeroom Parents – Send introduction letter to class. Ask about creating a classroom parent directory, so all parents can get in touch with each other (birthday parties, play dates, etc.). Spread the word about Parent Career day, and reminder about Parent Breakfasts Mon and Wed at 8am. Homeroom parents will now have nametags for each event, that Kelly will keep up front. They are to be worn then turned back in each time.

Holiday Shoppe Committee, week of December 14-18: Karrie, Christina, Kim

We're using Reindeer Lane this year. They will send all items for sale. Friday December 11th evening we will set up. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THAT NIGHT PLUS THE FOLLOWING WEEK. MORNING AND AFTERNOON SHIFTS. It's always a fun time to help the kids shop and see them so happy finding the perfect gifts. All items will be under \$5. More info to come.

"Read More" Committee - Barnes & Noble Event, Saturday November 21st 11am – 4pm.

Event schedule sent out. Teachers wishlists will be available upon entering the store, or at back of store where performances and raffles will be held. ONLINE BOOK FAIR will be available for 1 week after the event. PTO will not have a table this year, but will mingle, with name tags

6) Fundraising

Yankee Candles – October through November 17th. orders in by early December. Send out school reach this Friday with new deadline. Reminder about incentives

Rubber bracelets? - Amazing wristbands/ ½ "standard rubber bracelets, Front/back message with a tiger paw print qty 100 \$94.67- each would be .95 cents (Christina absent – tabled until next meeting).

7) General Items for Review

Clearances – most are turned in. For those HR Parents who haven't, a reminder was sent. Snacks will be served at all PTO meetings, as a courtesy of your PTO Officers. Although donations are accepted as well. Halal Pizza to be served at December meeting! Raffle at end of year for parents came to "x" many PTO meetings and also for "x" number of times volunteered. Board meetings are the First Thursday of every month, usually 7:00pm. All are welcome. Anyone can speak during the Public Session, for 4 minutes.