



Young Scholars of Western PA Charter School

PTO Meeting Tuesday February 2, 2016

5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Welcome! Introduction, Sign-in. Officers Present: Karrie Bender, Kim Blade-Lauve, Jamie Christian.
Officers Absent: Christina Kostosky.
- 2) CEO Report

International Winter Celebration was very nice. Parents enjoyed the live streaming.

Parent breakfast times available.

More obvious notifications of events will be added to the website and facebook page.

Family reading night was successful and fun; book fair \$3,700.00

Ideas for future reading night: Kids write their own books and sell. Either kids that simply want to do it on their own, or as a project?

Career day also very successful. Good parent response throughout all the grades.

Robotics team did well but did not go to state, room for growth.

Practice pssas to take place 3 hours in the morning

Spelling bee. Maybe have it live-streamed next time. 2 kids qualified for the regional competition

Science on the road. Carnegie Science Center will come to school, offer a day of real-life science experiments to all grades. See donorschoose.com to offer donation, search **Science on the Road: Ion Jones Chemistry** (march or april)

Pennsylvania Budget still not fully passed, but school is receiving funds

New Open House dates scheduled. *****we should have parent volunteers each session, to represent the school from a parent perspective. Please let Karrie Bender know if you're interested in sharing your experience with potential parents/students!**

Sat. February 20th and 27th, 12:30pm

Sat. March 5th and 12th, 12:30pm

Wed March 16th, 6:00pm

Sat. April 2nd, 12:30pm

40,000.00 post cards sent out .

Advertising the school via NPR on WYEP during world café'

Feb 22 Post Gazette ½ page ad in the education extra

Pittsburgh Parent Magazine?

School Board is viewing design concepts and budgets for school addition. Either on side of school (garden area) or in the back. More classrooms are needed for our growing population. Construction to potentially start in June.

High school Charter School application in the process. Needs a team to work on ideas, locations, naming, etc.

Name high school competition – winner gets all day pass to Kennywood

3) Teacher Report – Mrs. Richards, Ms. Remziye
Happy with Career day

Holiday Shoppe: 4th and 5th grades not able to shop 1st period (only periods where there are able to shop together) because the parent volunteers being late. Maybe start at 2nd period next year. They think that the \$1.00 doesn't buy much and that there should be an additional amount for kids that do not have money.

Bouncy Bands feedback. Some teachers would like for entire classroom. Others for specific students. Will probably do test trial on one classroom for fairness reasons. Mr. B and Karrie to meet with Jill Smolenski to discuss further. Will need to send out parent waiver when decisions are made.

4) Community Outreach Report – Rachel
IMLD Friday February 19, 2016, 5pm – 8pm. Bethel Park Community Center. Tickets ONLY available in advance, cash only, up until Friday Feb 12th. Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, students free. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Jump Rope for Heart, week of Feb 22 - 26 during PE class

Flower bulb sale to benefit the summer trip to Spain / Turkey. Sale will go until Feb 29. Cash only, or can order online.

High School naming competition

5) Treasurer Report – Kim.
Balance as of today, \$2,910. After upcoming planned expenditures, we should have \$1,200 to start off next year, which is the goal each year. Possible Fall Festival?

Upcoming purchases to include:

- 1) Valentine's Day dance (Friday February 12th)
- 2) Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2 – 6th)
- 3) Ice Cream Social (tbd. May?)
- 4) 8th Grade Graduation (Saturday June 4th)
- 5) Field Day (Monday June 8th)
- 6) Pizza Party for highest-selling Yankee Candles class (\$70 – amount spent last year)
- 7) Bouncy Bands for 1 classroom, or specific kids, tbd (\$263 for 22 qty, free shipping)

6) Committees

a. Homeroom Parents

Valentine's Day in-classroom parties Friday Feb 12th – Homeroom Parents, and any parents, are NOT to come in at all. Send in treats with your child.

a. Valentine's Day Dance

Need volunteers for Valentine's Day Dance! Friday Feb. 12th, 5:30-8:30pm. Setup, Decorations, Balloons, Food Table, Craft Table, clean-up. Potluck, bring a dish to share!

8) Fundraising

- a. Pittsburgh Popcorn Company – Springtime

9) General Items for Review

- a. Volunteerspot.com feedback
- b. Lunch menu. Parents are disappointed with recent food from Getaway. Jamie and other parents to meet with Rachel and Mr. B, brainstorm other options.
- c. PTO Officers Nomination letter to go out in April. Nominees send in their biographies by May, run ballots, and results posted by end of May, for next school year. Officer positions can only be held for 2 years per the bylaws, therefore Karrie's President term is up, and Christina's VP position.

10) Open discussion

- a. Look into Cisco or Webex for future conf call meetings?
- b. Kids need more activity while stuck in classrooms during winter recess
- c. Lunchroom can use additional volunteer help, 11:20am. During the younger children lunchtime (help opening things, giving passes for restroom, etc.)
- d. Art Class. Amanda Johnston, Amy O'Toole and Carla Manning to form committee, and develop a petition, to get Art Class back into the curriculum. To present ideas at next Board Meeting. Another idea is to incorporate Art elements into existing curriculum.