

Worthington Hooker PTA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Call to Order – Ruchi Jain

Welcome and Introductions

PTA members present: Ruchi Jain, President; Hani Mowafi, Treasurer; Heather Jessen, Secretary; Rhonda Roumani & Alana Dlubak, VPs of Events; Lani Rosen Gallagher & Courtney Cheng, VPs of Programs; Katie Yates and Hilary Delaney, VP of Communications.

September 2017 minutes approved.

Volunteer Recognition: Without volunteers, PTA cannot run. Thank you!

Thank you especially to:

- Hani Mowafi – for arranging CPR training for after-school staff & interested teachers and staff. 18 people were trained!
- Alana Dlubak & Rhonda Roumani – for homemade treats at last PTA meeting.
- 8th graders Koko, Sage, Nikita, Amelia, Ani, and Sylvia who gave school tours at First PTA meeting.
- Alana & Rhonda – for organizing the ice cream social.
- Melissa Miller, Danny Miller, Mary Glendon, Hilary Delaney, Courtney Cheng, Marie Ackerman, Lani Rosen for volunteering at the ice cream social.

PTA Notes :

The PTA is trying to go **paperless!**

Forms, information, surveys, school directory, etc. can all be found online.

Check your folders! A list of **enrichment programs** for after-school will be sent home so that everyone knows what is happening in K – 8. The information will be updated on the PTA website and will include contact information for each program. The goal is to have every class have an enrichment program.

Treasurer's Report: Hani Mowafi

Once a child is registered online, parents or guardians will not have to register again instead just pay the dues.

Thank you to Marie Ackermann & Deb from the after-school program at the upper & lower schools in helping with the process of going paperless! Thank you!

Topic of the month: Proposed Budget Presentation:

Hani went through the proposed budget. The **budget is available online** under My Account at <https://www.whspta.org>

Thanks to Hani for creating a format that is clear and easy to read.

A few highlights:

- There are some new free after-school programs that are included as line-items so everyone knows they exist.
- The most significant form of revenue is the after-school program.
- Items in yellow are new programs/expenses or increased expenses.
- Childcare during PTA meetings has been budgeted in.
- Check the budget to see everything, but some of the new items are: funding CPR & epi pen trainings, yoga training for kids and teachers in K – 2, increased funding to the library, upgrading or repairing tech equipment, increased wifi access, and a Chinese New Year celebration.
- The PTA is working to invest its funds back into the school, but will maintain a financial buffer equivalent to three months of expenses.

The budget was discussed, voted on, and passed.

Principal's Report: Dr. Robles

- A lot of activity going on! There was a **talent show** and fundraiser for the 8th grade class trip last night that was Ms. Lonetti's (the drama teacher's) initiative. Mr. Ross, the music teacher, also helped out.
- Some of parents are concerned about the cost of the **eighth grade field trip**. The 8th grade students have been proactively **fund raising**. They put on a bake sale every other week. Dr. Robles will be putting together an 8th grade parent committee who can facilitate fund raising.
- Ms. Robles was pleased to report she'd found good, **certified long-term substitutes** for the several teachers and staff on medical or maternal leave. Each would have a coach assisting them.
- The **Open House** was rescheduled for Oct 3rd and was well attended.
- There are **two new assessments** given in school:
 - a math inventory K – 8, taken on the computer for the first time
 - a reading inventory, for 3 – 8 only

The assessments will be given at beginning of school year, in January, and in June. They are used to see grade level progress and help determine what kind of support or enrichment to give to students and are correlated with state tests, SBAC, so familiarize student with format of state tests.

Tutoring & Enrichment:

- Worthington Hooker has not yet received funding for a K- 2 Morri Tutor for struggling readers from the district. She hopes to hear by next week.
- Meanwhile, grades 3 - 5 have a tutor is paid for from the school budget. There is a math tutor at K-2 funded by the PTA.
- Good note: Working to get enrichment activities paid for by the school, PTA, or the community into each classroom.
- A student intern from Yale will be meeting with a literacy coach and tutoring students.
- TAG (Talented And Gifted): Children are still tested and identified as talented and gifted, but all TAG activities involve ALL children in the classroom. The TAG teacher is at WH on Tuesdays & Thursdays and either works with Ms. Hart and the 7th & 8th graders on history day or with the social studies teacher.
- HOTS (Higher Order Thinking School) - Dr. Robles will be surveying the teachers and having conversations about whether or not to continue to be part of HOTS. Meeting the criteria involves a lot of mandatory work by the administration and staff. Arts integration would continue to be important even if WH is not in HOTS. Every five years the school has to set up specific goals as part of their school improvement plan. Arts integration is part of that.

SPMT (School Planning & Management Team) conversations:

- As a result of concerns about lunch period, parents are now volunteering during the 3rd and 4th graders lunch period in the cafeteria. Students can now sit where they'd like. The lunch issues seem to be resolved, but the situation will continue to be monitored.
- Security at the lower school: Poles have been installed in the driveway. A gate should be there this week.

Upcoming Events and Call for Volunteers: Rhonda & Alana

- Look for notifications about the **WH Walkathon for Puerto Rico!**, Kids and parents can sign up online. Mr Shortt is going to create a 5k route between the Big and Little Schools.

The PTA is looking for sponsors for refreshments.

- If anyone knows of someone who can talk to the kids about Puerto Rico, please let Dr. Robles know.
- School photo day is Oct. 26th.

New PTA Website: <https://www.whspta.org>

There is **new Worthington Hooker PTA website** created by Hilary Delaney. Big thanks to her for creating an easy-to-navigate site after the old one was hacked. Please let Hilary know if you have suggestions for changes.

If you have pictures, etc that you'd like posted on the PTA's Facebook page, please send them to Katie Yates or Hilary. Katie prefers jpegs.

Open Forum Q & A

A parent asked if **parents** could to go **yoga training** with the teachers or if there could be a separate session for the parents. Lani, the yoga instructor, said she was open to that and would be sending home "parent pages" every week.

There was a very animated discussion about the **eighth grade class trip** to Disney. Since it is a school trip, teachers and school staff must chaperone, and therefore the trip needs to be one that they and the kids want to go on. The treasurer pointed out the trip would cost about \$34,000. Parents wondered why parents had not been consulted about both cost and destination before the trip was planned. A parent of a child who is now in high school gave some historical context and suggested that a committee be formed by parents of current 7th graders in January for the class trip the following year. It was agreed that the eighth grade class trip was also a topic to be addressed in SPMT.

Adjourned: 7:42 PM

Next Meeting: November 8th