

**Wood Acres Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting
Minutes – October 5, 2010**

Call to order: Jennifer Snow called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

- I. Welcome: Jennifer Snow welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Board members introduced themselves.
- II. Approval of the Minutes from May 4, 2010 General PTA Meeting: A motion was made to approve the General Membership Meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.
- III. Principal's Report: Marita Sherburne explained that the first Wednesday of every month, she will send updates in her *Principal's Update*, which will come out tomorrow. She was happy to see the new families present at the meeting as well as PTA Board members. She mentioned that we have a new secretary at the school, Ms. Velasquez. When you visit the school, please be sure to introduce yourself to her.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Snow reviewed the budget for Lisa Hertzberg who was unable to attend the meeting tonight. She talked about the following line items from the budget:
Income
 - a. Fundraising & Family Events: Same as last year
 - b. Pride Fund: This line item is down a little from last year. The greatest source of income for our PTA is from the Pride Fund. Letters asking for a contribution will be sent to all families tomorrow. Having the Pride Fund allows the PTA to provide activities like the sock hop, ice skating, bingo, etc. at a nominal fee.
 - c. Membership dues: This is also a significant source of revenue for our PTA.

Expenses

- d. Computer Center Support: This item has increased. Lynn Gregory is our new Computer Specialist at our school.
- e. Outdoor classroom: The classroom is complete and this is not an expense this year.
- f. Technology Purchases: This item has increased because this year, we will have a Tech Mod upgrade. Ms. Sherburne explained that we used to get a technology upgrade every 3 years. Now, we receive an upgrade every 5 years. This is our year for the upgrade. We are waiting for information from the county with more details. The PTA supports the upgrade with additional computers, ELMOs, etc.
- g. Wood Acres PTA website: This item has decreased this year. Last year, we invested in our web site to upgrade it.

- h. Cultural Arts Assemblies: We will have 3 cultural arts assemblies this year. One of the assemblies will take place during International Night.

MOTION: There was a motion made to approve the 2010-2011 PTA Budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Vice President Reports

- a. Academic Support (Jennifer Snow for Katy Reilly): International Night will take place on March 30, 2011. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Katy.
- b. School Directories (Rachel Lennie): Our school directories should be going to the printer later this week or early next week. They will be distributed in a couple of weeks.
- c. Community and Family Support (Lisa Stein):
 - i. Activity night merged with Back-to-school night. It was very successful this year.
 - ii. Newcomers reception – November 4th at Jill Headley’s home.
 - iii. Warm Clothing Drive – October 18-22. Please sign up to help collect clothing.
 - iv. Candy Drive – will take place after Halloween
 - v. Thanksgiving Food Drive – week of November 15
- d. Educational Issues (Jami Axelrod): There will be an ESOL breakfast meeting on November 8th. Also, the ESOL committee will have a meeting with the MCPS ESOL coordinator. At our December PTA general meeting, we will review our reading initiative at Wood Acres.
- e. Fundraising (Lisa Stein for Dona Squeri):
 - i. Our Sally Foster gift wrap fundraiser started on October 1 and will run through December 31. This year, this fundraiser is taking place all online. A Woodnet email with the details on how to order was sent out this week. 40% of the proceeds from every purchase will go to Wood Acres.
 - ii. Pride Fund – The letters will be mailed tomorrow. This is a straight donation to our school.
 - iii. Giant/Safeway –Please renew your frequent shopper cards now. This is a good fundraiser for our school.
 - iv. Sock Hop – The sock hop is scheduled for October 14th. 3rd, 4th, 5th graders along with parents and staff will participate.
- f. School and Facility Support (Jeannette Roegge): This year, each grade has their own time for lunch and recess. It is going really well. On October 22, Georgetown’s men soccer will be participating at recess. You will see additional information in a WoodNet.
- g. Communications (Lynn Gregory): You will be able to find most of the answers to your questions at www.WoodAcresPTA.org. On that site, you can donate to the Pride Fund. In addition, there is a link to our Montgomery County Wood Acres site; there are great resources there as well.

- VI. Terry King, School Counselor gave a presentation on “A Positive Learning Environment.” This is Terry’s fourth year at Wood Acres and she has been with the County for over 20 years. Tonight, the focus of her conversation was on bullying.
- a. Terry had a school-wide assembly to set expectations for students. Ms. Sherburne and Ms. Alexander were part of the presentation. This year, the presentation was called Sleeping Blue. She then showed a power point presentation of the assembly. The kids learned about “put-ups.” The moral of the story: we want a peaceful and safe kingdom (Wood Acres).
 - b. There will be three assemblies this year for character education.
 - c. Ms. King goes to each class to reiterate and integrate her lessons into the classroom studies.
 - d. We have zero tolerance for bullying at our school.
 - e. Ms. King explained the difference between bullying and teasing. Bullying is deliberate, ongoing and an unfair match. Many times, bullying happens in an unstructured environment, like recess. If bullying is happening to your child, you need to let the school know. Many times, teachers are unaware of the bullying behavior because it can be happening outside of their classroom.
 - f. Wood Acres tries to prevent bullying on many levels – in the classroom, school level (peace program) and individual level.
 - g. Ms. King distributed a sheet called Conflict Resolution Strategies. This sheet will be sent home via the Wednesday packet.
 - h. Ms. King promoted her Spirit Wear sales. Information will be coming home on the Spirit Wear in the Wednesday packet tomorrow. You will be able to order t-shirts, hoodies, flannel pants, bracelets and other items starting on October 15 – online. If you order something, it will be delivered directly to your home some time in November.
 - i. Detailed information of Ms. King’s program is available at the counselor’s corner on the Montgomery County Wood Acres web site.
- VII. Jennifer Snow encouraged the families to stay involved in our school. There are many ways, including lunch/recess, planetarium – sign up for something that interests you.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.