

August 30th, 2022
PTA Council Meeting Westbrook Elementary School

9:15am Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions by Jenny Jarosick

Approval of Minutes by Kate Ahmed

Principal Report

Patrick Hoeft, Westbrook

- Construction near completion
- All school started on the same day, at the same time, incredible milestone!
- Drop off/pick up procedures improving day by day
- Full day Kindergarteners doing really well, and enjoying the freedom to roam and learn through play in the new space
- PRE-K current initiative to help students develop core vocabulary
- K-2, all lunch in one room (never before!), a learning process as staff become accustomed to this volume of students and as students become familiar with using lunch cards and learning the lunch protocol

Selene Stewart, Hoffman

- Staff and students enjoying opening back up in so many ways - in person tours, etc.
- On first day there was a line to get into the school, students had arrived, eager for the first day back, so much enthusiasm!
- All back in one lunch room again, so much more social time and conversation, compared to recent years; also working out kinks with getting used to the lunch cards
- Held a whole-school assembly, as well as a band and orchestra recruitment assembly, choir starting up soon....so many things that students and staff have missed these last few years

Board of Education Report

Natalie Jachtorowycz

- Construction update: punch list items remaining, but thrilled that all schools were able to start on Day One
- Excited to see the beginning of this new era of full-day Kindergarten!

PTA Items of Discussion

School Supplies & Holiday Helpers

- PTA presidents will meet to discuss on September 7th at 10:30am (location TBD; likely Starbucks)

A to Z Update

- D34 will help eliminate the middle man in getting data for the directory Will be all under one account next year, with D34 championing effort
- Directory will be district-wide

PTA Cluster Presidents

Kate Ahmed & Katie Hoskins, WBGG

Membership drive underway

- Popsicles on the playground a big success for Glen Grove, Westbrook to take place on September 29th
- Room Reps identified for almost all classrooms and kick off meeting was held this week Spiritwear will be provided by PTA for all students and staff, at no charge!

Stephanie Killian & Jessica Pritzker, LYPR

- Popsicles in the parks had a high attendance, over 90 at both PTA has planned parents nights out following Curriculum Night(s) All room parent positions have been filled!

Lindsay Colbert & Kristen Dallman, HEHO

- Popsicle playdates were a success
- Spiritwear completely sold out at both meet and greets!
- Website redesigned, and launched, last week
- Room parents sign ups are underway (were waiting on website) Planning Curriculum Night booths with info on upcoming Fall Benefit

Michelle Costianis & Niki Van Vuren, SPAT

- Welcomed new principal at Attea
- Changing PTA leadership set up from co-presidents to president/vice president, one parent from each school
- Having a strong start to PTA membership sales
- Springman construction looks terrific, had a welcome back event with Kona Ice and sold spirit wear!
- Experiencing some supply shortages with spirit wear vendor
- Also hosted a take-and-go breakfast at both schools for the staff
- New fundraiser - a parent mixer (SPATapolooza!) at Old Willow on September 10th (with Twelve-tone, BYOB, food, etc.) Everyone please help in sharing/promoting this event!

BPAC

Raquel Kim

- Glad to be included in council meetings and connected; asked that any communications or documents that are in need of translating, be sent to her, so that they reach all groups of people
- BPAC info - 61 languages in district, 700 students qualify for services (400 of which are Spanish speaking, the second most is Mongolian)

Alan Hernandez

- Working on several initiatives with the Spanish speaking community. There is a mental health unit for middle school aged children. There are also author visits planned (5 sessions) and the topic is how to improve relationships at home
- All meetings will be at Attea on either Thursdays or Fridays at 6pm

Aldarmaa Batbold

- Mongolian engagement online (Facebook) has doubled
- Facebook is their main form of communication - other individuals from area Mongolian communities are reaching out to the group and are wanting to learn from and connect with them!
- Several programs are in the works - setting up speakers, two mothers with engaging stories on raising their families. There will also be a programs planned to discuss differences in Mongolian culture versus American culture

GEF

Julie Moon

- Attended the D34 Community Connect Fair as well as the D34 staff party at Attea, planning to be a school Curriculum Nights
- Upcoming events: January 28th will be Trivia Night, events are also being planned for K-2 and 3-5, as well as a Bingo Night
- Waiting for final deliveries for open play equipment for the Kindergarten classes, and looking forward to funding more innovative ideas this year!

Student Needs

Cori Mohr

- First meeting is in September, so no updates today but will have more information to follow at next meeting

Gelfand Foundation

Karen Hitzeman

- Gelfand Closet has continued to be restocked over the summer with necessary items; the Community Garden was also very successful with extended day camps helping to plant, and will harvest next month
- There is a rep at each school you can contact for more information, and the Amazon Wishlist is still live, fo contributions. Also, advertised in PeachJar
- The ColorRun at Johns Park was well attended, and sold out!
- Noted that Gelfand/GEF/PTA do so many similar things, planning to bring an updated Venn diagram to illustrate; also hoping to streamline Holiday Helpers among all the organizations involved
- Note on community stats: Percentage of low income families in district is nearly 25%, and a big portion of that percentage experience food insecurity

D34 Administration Report

Dr. Dane Delli

- Thank you to all groups collaborating to support the students of D34!
- Time off in the summer was beneficial; construction projects have come along nicely, have not forgotten intermediate buildings which will be getting a facelift this year
- The "Covid blanket" is starting to come off, and staff and students are reenergized and excited to be together, and to have to focus less time on it

Cathy Kedjidjian

- D34 has a new way to connect - Instagram! Follow D34 on Instagram
- This is a fun way to share pictures and updates, but essential information will always be sent via text/email
- D34 Parent Connect programs are being planned and are coming in person! PTAs will share info on these
- Ribbon cuttings are coming up for newly constructed spaces in schools; all are invited!
Springman - September 12
- Westbrook - September 19
- Henking - September - 20
- Lyon - September 21
- D34 Community Connect Fair and D34 Staff Connect will become annual events, this years events were very successful
- Planning to rebrand all school logos and mascots, to give them a fresh look. Project will begin this year but will not roll out until at least 2023

Matt Silverman

- Excited to have community volunteers in to help teachers and coaches, and for them to see firsthand the facilities and learning taking place!
- Covid forced professional development to be sidestepped a bit, but there are great opportunities planned this year
- Late start Wednesdays allow for staff meetings and professional development workshops. The main theme this year is: equity
- On September 23rd there is an Institute Day planned at Attea. 800 staff members will take part in 45 sessions, built into AM and PM blocks, with both internal and external options - which will offer so many choices
- Let Cathy and Matt know if PTA and BPAC would like a table at this

Questions/Comments

- From PTA to D34 Administration - will parents be allowed in the classroom, and if so, how many will be allowed in at one time (for holiday parties, for example)?
- Dr. Delli indicated that there will be a meeting on Thursday with all district principals and they will have an answer after that meeting. Planning to report back with more info on Friday September 2
- The suggestion was made to make a Google Form for Parent Volunteers (Cathy will create?)
- D34 Administration will have separate meetings throughout the year with each PTA cluster. First up will be WBGG in September. Meeting was planned for September 22nd at 9:15am

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am

Recording of Minutes by Katie Hoskins

Next Meeting:

October 25th at 9:15am

Springman Middle School, Wildcat Commons