

Winterberry Parent Guild

September 7 2017, 6pm

Location- Winterberry Charter School

Attendance: Amanda Banker (7th), Tanya (community member/7th grade rep), Luci Malloy (4th grade rep), Sue Armstrong (6th grade outgoing rep), Crystal Reeves (1st grade rep), Kim Spillane (2nd grade rep), Sarah Robicheaux (Faculty rep), Lalia Bunn (6th grade rep), Barbara Amy (treasurer), Oona Martin (5th grade rep), Jesse Menkens (WCC/WPG liaison), Sam Beckett (VP), Krystal Vermeire (outgoing president), Britta Hanson (1st grade alternate), Jessica Gardner (visiting 2nd grade parent), Allison Koos-Fox (K rep), Kylara Hollingsworth (4th grade alternate), Molly Towner (recording secretary)

The mission of the Winterberry Parents Guild is to support the winterberry Charter School and its teachers for the betterment of the children attending the school.

1. Welcome song "Come Let Us Gather", check in
2. Approval of Agenda: Jesse moved to move treasurer's report/ Sam 2nd. Unanimous. Sue moved to add clarification of roles under informaioint items. Luci 2nd) Sam moved to approve adjusted agenda/Crystal 2
3. Approval of minutes- Jesse moved/Sam 2nd.

Reports:

Admin (Eric)

*Enrollment trending upward this week 235 total. 2 more students waiting to get in (registration being finished). Numbers on his handout are not actual classroom numbers. They include the hybrid students as well.

*We had another break-in. We lost 10 archery bows and a student's bike off the rack. We are in the process of acquiring a conex container to put on the lot. A police report was filed. It's been a slow process. Looking at funds to buy one. We may end up with a free one (waiting to find out). They cost about \$2000.00. (Could the leftover WEP funds be used for this?)

*Thank you to the WPG for the faculty lunches on Thursdays! (A 2nd grade parent has been holding this. There is a sign-up sheet outside 2nd grade for September.)

*The lease agreement- We met with ASD last week to go over the lease. WPG will hold the lease. The lease amount will be finalized when we have the solid numbers for the expansion. Built on "Antipated square footage".

Conversation regarding the charter process has been happening in WCC and faculty. Both criterion and ASD would like to see the charter renewal done before the lease agreement.

Regarding increased costs- Are the utilities included in the plan? (Yes. They are being factored in, but we don't have solid numbers yet.)

*There is a committee made up of faculty members who are working on "Foundations", a school/classroom management framework. They are working to create/solidify a safety/behavior plan for the school.

Tomorrow- school photos

Sept 18-29: George Hoffecker and Donna Burgess will be visiting

Sept 20-Open House

Sept 29- Harvest Festival at the school.

4. Treasurer's report (Barbara) 6 accounts. WEP has funds left over (not sure what is happening with that). IRS report has to be filed by the end of November. Would like to find out how to make the electricity more efficient. The electric bills are very high. (Kylara offered that Ian may be able to help). Wonders if some of the accounts can get a waiver. One check from teacher training that wasn't cashed (Lind). (He did not go). Question regarding class-specific accounts being held by the WPG.

Faculty (Sarah R)

*Brought a thank you from the staff for training. She graduated from the handwork program this year and is very grateful for the training support.

WCC (Jesse)

*We received an extension for the due date of the charter. One major component that has been discussed is how the Hybrid program can fit in to the charter renewal.

WEP (Krystal)

*Julie is our official WEP administrator. There needs to be a vote to discontinue the WEP program. We have funds to disperse, insurance to cancel, etc.

Feedback on the AWS aftercare program- One parent has some concerns about safety at the aftercare program regarding security (not checking ID's)

Action Items

1. WPG Officer elections: President, Secretary, and Fundraising Chair (Krystal explained the duties of the 3 available officer positions) No nominations were made
2. WEP plans- Currently, we are paying insurance for WEP and need to be available for inspections. There was some worry about what would happen if the aftercare program at AWS is not approved by the municipality. It was also brought up, that in the past year, WPG has been very clear that it does not want to manage WPG (so there is nothing to be gained by holding on to it). If a separate entity wanted to set up an aftercare program, they would need to set up their own paperwork through the muni. Deciding to disband WEP today would not keep someone from setting up a program here in the future. Sam moved that licensing be continued for a month while some research is done. Lalia 2nd.
3. Building maintenance- 3 clocks are still not working

Discussion Items

1. Garden Initiative (Lalia)- handout
It's important to her that the GARDEN initiative (annual giving campaign) have a clear goal (amount) and purpose (teacher training). She would like to find out approximately how much has historically been needed for teacher training and possibly set up separate accounting to make sure that GARDEN funds are used for teacher training. Historical data: 2014-2015 (\$52,016.00) 2016-2016 (\$31,295.00)
2. Harvest Dance Update-There is no dance this year.
3. Enchanted Village- need a committee chair! Crystal Reeves volunteered. (Explanation of Enchanted Village- There is usually a play in the woods, a "fairy walk" and "gnome stomp", and vendors selling homemade goods. The upper grades classes (5-8) also have a vender table to sell things to raise money for their 8th grade trip.
4. Setting priorities for distribution for funds- The top priority has always been to provide professional development for our teachers. Sam moved to form

a committee to make recommendations on priority of funds/Kylara 2nd Luci and Lalia offered to join the committee.

5. Re-evaluating fundraising across the school- tabled until next month.

Information Items

1. Report on Back to School Picnic- There was a great turnout! Tony Archer barbecued. There was lots of meat! Julie led a song at the end of the evening. Sue volunteers to be in charge of the picnic next year.
2. Charter Renewal- There is discussion about how to place the Hybrid program (a new program since our charter was originally renewed). Discussion has been about whether to include the Hybrid program in the existing charter or in a charter amendment.
3. Community General Comments-
Kim: In light of the security issues... She noticed a security system available at Costco. (Eric has discussed this with IT, with some cameras that might be given to us. A lot of them have monthly fees. Many questions were raised about how effective they would be- and that's when he went back to the conex. Sam (retired security)- A camera system is not very effective.)
Kylara: would like to put it on as a discussion item to fully fund Sarah R's balance from funding (Sarah is appreciative- but declined.)
Kim: Suggests that each class representative take turns summarizing the meetings
Lalia: Would like to make a short video to advertise the GARDEN initiative.
Sam: By-laws need to be updated. He will start to revise them and bring them back to the WPG for a vote.

Input for future agenda items:

(Allison) Wants to add a fundraising discussion for next time (regarding businesses in town that host fundraising days).

(Oona) Site committee- would like to add a discussion to the agenda.

Kim moved to adjourn/Crystal 2nd