

Washington School PTO Minutes

September 13, 2011

The meeting started at 9:27am and was closed at 10:36am. There were 71 people in attendance.

The Flag salute was led by Mr. Blake.

Introduction of PTO Board:

- Suzanne Anderson, President
- Susan Sobkowicz, 1st VP
- Joan Clemente and Kelly Puglisi, 2nd VP's
- Robyn Fazio, Secretary
- Tricia Juliano, Treasurer
- Rhonda Battifarano & Jennifer VanCleeef, Co-Treasurer of Economy Shop
- Jen Cole, Past President
- Marci O'Brien, Faculty Rep
- Mr. Blake, Principal

Secretary's Report: (Robyn Fazio) Correspondences from the Teachers were read. The June 2011 minutes were approved.

Treasurer: (Trish Juliano) The financial statement for June/July/August 2011 was presented and approved.

Mrs. Rubenacker-The Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Law was passed September 1st. On Oct. 20th at 7:30pm there will be a meeting to explain the law and give parent training. Details to follow.

Faculty Rep: (Marci O'Brien)

- Art- Mrs. O'Brien's art classes are off to a great start. We are looking at the art works of Vincent Van Gogh. Students are creating self-portraits, still lives and landscapes in his style. All are wondering, "Why did he cut off his ear?"
- Media- We are very excited that the theme this year is Reading Rocks! Students are looking forward to many fun reading related activities throughout the school year. This month we are reviewing our Media Center and Book Care rules. We are already checking out books and listening to wonderful stories. Next month we have two author visits and a book fair on the calendar.
- Music- All the students are enjoying the newly located music room and we are eager to begin another year. Our kindergarten classes are learning songs that help us greet our friends. First and Second graders are singing songs about our school and playing steady beats on percussion instruments. Third, Fourth, and Fifth graders are reviewing musical terms through Music Scavenger Hunt. The third graders also got a little preview on the recorders while the fourth and fifth graders got a preview on chorus which will start soon.
- Kindergarten- The children are adjusting nicely and learning the routines of the day. The children discussed the type of classroom community that would help them feel safe and happy. This month the children will be introduced to Reading and Writing Workshop, Words Their Way, and Math work. During Language Arts, the children will be reading "look" books, developing concepts of print, learning several letter and sound associations and developing a sight word vocabulary. In writing, the children are learning how to generate ideas for personal stories and will

shortly be drawing the stories during the workshop. In Math, the children began their own personal calendar.

- *First Grade*- The students are learning many things for the first time. They are thoroughly enjoying attending recess and lunch. They are adjusting to the full day of school and beginning to learn all of the rules and procedures. The children are beginning writing workshop where they will focus on becoming writers and learning all about pattern books. In the area of math, the children are beginning to learn about addition.
- *Second Grade*- They have been getting to know each other, learning classroom routines and making new friends. They have been practicing how to select just right reading books, learning what good readers do and how we have book talk. In Math, they have been reviewing our basic addition and subtraction facts. They look forward to meeting the parents on Back to School Night.
- *Grade 3*- The third graders had an excellent time working cooperatively to keep an egg from cracking. They built contraptions that were dropped from a ladder by Mr. Blake. They are also launching our readers' and writers' workshops. The children are in the process of personalizing their notebooks and learning more about themselves as readers and writers. Finally, all 4 classes have been creating projects based on many books that we have already read. You can look forward to seeing these on Back to School Night!

Principal's Report: (Mr. Blake)

- Welcome to all; it is great to see so many faces.
- Back to School Night is on September 21 for Kindergarten through 2nd grade and on the 22nd for 3rd grade to 5th grade. Both nights start at 7pm

- Newcomers Reception is September 14th at 7pm in the Multipurpose Room.
- Our school theme this year is Reading Rocks!
 - We will be having 2 book fairs by Books, Bytes and Beyond. We will also be having 2 author visits sponsored by them.
 - There will be a Read-a-thon in the winter/spring.
 - Caldawash Awards- the children write and illustrate their own books.
 - Battle of the Books for the 4th and 5th grades.
 - Book Clubs during lunch/recess, once a week for children who want to participate.
 - One School, One Book program- Families will be asked to read a book together and talk about it.
- My message to you is to get involved as much as possible and become part of Washington School.

President's Report: (Suzanne Anderson)

- Thank You's to:
 - Mr. Blake and the front office team for all their support to the PTO in kicking off this school year.
 - The Executive Board for providing hospitality for today's meeting.
 - Lauren Keith, Dianne Morelli and Laura D'Andrea for organizing Special Lunch.
 - Gwen Marquardt for coordinating our website.
 - All committee chairs who have volunteered this year- we are very appreciative of all your time and efforts.
- Playground Project: In an effort to specifically focus some of our efforts this year, the PTO is planning a targeted campaign to upgrade the school playground. There has not been an upgrade of the structures or layout in 10 years, and it is with the goal of benefiting all grade levels with a wider level of options for older

students to enjoy, in addition to traditional items. We want our efforts to largely benefit all the children in the school on the same level. In the next month we will be meeting vendors and making general plans, with the goal of presenting a more structured plan for review with the PTO membership in the coming month or two. We will need a group of parents to volunteer for the Playground Committee and help in overseeing the project, once a plan is set forth. If you are interested in taking part, please let me know. We are looking to target 3 events this year that will benefit this project specifically, with the first one being our Game Night, which is being held this year on Thursday, October 13th. We welcome all questions and suggestions and ideas as we move forward, so please feel free to reach out with your thoughts.

- "Race to Nowhere" will be showing on October 12th at 7pm at Indian Hills High School. Tickets being sold ahead of time.

1st VP: (Susan Sobkowicz)

- Please update your family info ASAP; the last day to enter your info will be September 17th. The directories will be available by the end of October.
- Last year's directories are available for \$1.
- After School activities will start at the end of September and the beginning of October.
 - Mad Science will be on Tuesday and Thursday- they will be 2 different programs.
 - Kidz Art will be on Tuesday.
 - Total Golf Adventure (TGA) will be on Wednesday.

2nd VP's: (Kelly Puglisi and Joan Clemente)

- Harvest Festival is October 6th after school.

- Game Night is October 13th.
- Vendor Night is November 3rd.
- Game Night and Parent's Night Out will be 2 of the fundraiser specifically for the Playground Project.

Economy Shop: (Rhonda Battifarano and Jen VanCleaf)

- As always, we are looking for volunteers for the Economy Shop.
- Washington Wear- order forms and samples will be available by Back to School Night. Orders should be in for pick up by the end of October.

WEF- The 5K run/Family walk will be on Saturday, Oct. 15th starting at 10am.

SPECIAL LUNCH- will start the week of October 3rd. This year we will have special lunch on Monday/Wednesday/Friday and pizza lunch on Tuesday. The menu will go up by Sept. 21st. We are looking for volunteers to help serve lunch.

5th GRADE REPS

- Their job is to help raise money for the 5th graders at the end of the year.
- We are focusing on the armed forces this year- we will be asking the children to write letters, create shoeboxes with supplies, and create a song.
- We are having 3 large fundraisers:
 - Movie Night- Bedtime Stories will be showing (outside, weather permitting). This is open to the whole school. Tickets will be \$5 a person or \$20 per family.

- 5th Graders Got Talent- will be on February 3rd. The show itself will be open to the entire school, but only 5th graders will be able to audition for the show.
- Will be another event in May.
- We will be having a bake sale on Back to School Night if parents would like to leave a surprise for their children in their desk for the next day.

MINIMUM DAY ACTIVITIES

- This will be held on 2 of the minimum days this school year; on October 10th and March 12th. It will be from 1:05-3:20pm.
- The children will bring their lunch and then have an activity.
- We need parent volunteers.
- There will be a nominal fee to help pay for expenses- probably \$5.

COUPON BOOKS- were sent out on September 12th. If you would like to buy it, keep the book at home and send in \$25. If you do not wish to purchase the book, please send it back to school.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

- Will be October 6th, after school.
- Please donate and child sized clothing and newspaper to help make the scarecrows that we will be raffling off. We can also use embellishments, such as buttons, ribbons, etc.
- Pre-ticket sales will be available.

BOOK FAIR

- Will be October 26th & 27th during the school day, after school and at night on the 26th.

- Volunteers are needed for set-up, during the fair itself, and clean-up.
- Parents are invited to come and shop with their children.

MEDIA CENTER: We are looking for volunteers. Also, an orientation will be available at the end of the month for people who are new.

GAME NIGHT: will be October 13th and we will be playing Bunco. A reminder that the proceeds from this night will go to the Playground Project.

CLASS PARENT TEA: will be today, September 13th at 2:30pm.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 14	Newcomers' Social, 7pm
Sept. 21	Back to School Night, Grades K-2
Sept. 22	Back to School Night, Grades 3-5
Sept. 23	Movie Night
Sept. 28	PTO Committee Chairs meeting
Oct. 5	School Spirit Day
Oct. 6	Harvest Festival
Oct. 10	Minimum Day Activity

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2011
At 9:15am in the Multipurpose Room**