

## **PTA Minutes 9/6/17**

(Attendance: 25 inc. Mr. Michel, Mr. Succes, and PTA co-presidents)

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Marjory Oliva

Nancy Gonzalez

### **Miriam Blancas**

**Right at School, program manager**

**Right at School schedule:**

Meet in gym-attendance, check-in

Fitness (game/exercise)

Bathroom, Snack

Homework/reading

Recess (in/out weather permitting)

Daily activities (teamwork, communication, friend building)

Electives start week of 9/11 (cooking, art, music, sports, logo)

[Willard@rightatschool.com](mailto:Willard@rightatschool.com)

### **Vote on Budget**

Handout #1: Itemized general fund income & expenses for 2017-18  
PTA budget and Regular expenses.

Handout #2: How the PTA utilized funds raised in previous school  
year, and where does the money come from (percentage breakdown  
of fundraisers).

Attendees voted to approve proposed PTA budget

### **Jerry Michel's Update**

**Curriculum**

5 days of fine arts per week (40 minutes vs 47 in 4 days last year)  
Crystal Fultz new social worker K,1,4. Social emotional & equity learning for grades K,1,4. Executive functioning, empathy, problem solving, bully prevention, Aaron's law curriculum (safe touch).

Social-emotional curriculum in classroom also.

Sharing circle...bringing in D65 rep to lead this curriculum with teacher participation. Goal is to be able to spend more time learning and less time working out social & emotional issues between students.

Educating the whole child. Kids are not available to learn academically if they are struggling with something emotionally. After 10 weeks, the teachers will run the circles without the D65 reps.

Other grades doing computer science, on & off screen. Teaching students not to be passive recipients of screens, but learning what's behind building apps & programs.

ST math - visually based problem solving, added to math curriculum. Puzzle solving...geometry, data, problem solving. Kids are looking for patterns in the puzzle. Questions get progressively harder, and if they miss a question, they get visual cues on how to solve it. The program tracks what the student is doing (whether they keep solving an easy problem over and over, or whether they hit a wall and need help).

### **Building updates**

New paint in MPR and basement hallway.

Upholstery on worn auditorium chairs replaced and new row added in front. Accents added below stage also.

Playground - shades for Kindergarten playground have arrived.

Installation plans being viewed 9/7...hoping to have them installed within the week.

## **Equity**

Focusing on lifting up all students. Beyond Diversity Training (2-day session) and Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity Training (SEED: 10 three-hour sessions). Info on the trainings on D65 website and there will be links in the newsletter.

## **Hurricane Harvey**

Response for Operation BBQ relief has been amazing. They are serving upwards of 40,000 meals daily. Update coming 9/7.

\$1 = 1 meal. No power, water, electricity/gas, operation BBQ brings all of that in to cook.

## **Sarah Price**

Families new to Willard - new family packets distributed. Also in English & Spanish on the PTA website (where to line up, what to do if it rains, office procedures, PTA offerings, etc.)

Making sure new families are added to room parent emails.

## **Jen Golem**

### **COPE**

Caring Outreach for Parents in Evanston

School supply drive

Collection of snacks for kids who don't have enough to eat at school

Stuff the Bus will now be run by a different organization, but still ways to help COPE; opportunities will be listed in Owlnotes as they arise.

## **Cherie Asante**

### **Fall Fest**

Sat Sept 23rd 11-3 pm

Lots of volunteers still needed; each family asked to work at least one 1-hour shift.

### **Sarah Peterson**

#### **Courageous Conversations**

Race, equity, achievement gap

2 annual events: Oct 12, March 9; dinner, childcare

Applying diversity training to our specific community

### **Marie Cabiya**

#### **Green team**

Starting a Green Team chapter at Willard, which focuses on waste reduction - for example in the school cafeteria (styrofoam containers) and lunches from home (promoting the use of reusable/biodegradable containers).

### **Becky Huston**

#### **PTA membership**

PTA membership forms distributed at the meeting

PTA membership currently down from previous school year; looking to encourage all families to participate if possible.

Due to multiple evening events in October, (PTA meeting scheduled for Oct 4th, Courageous conversations on Oct 12th, Conferences - October 17 4-7 PM and October 18th 4-6 PM, and Hispanic Heritage night on Oct 27th, the PTA co-presidents suggested skipping the October PTA meeting; Mr. Michel encouraged attendance of the Courageous Conversations meeting in lieu of the PTA meeting.

### **Closing**

