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**WES PTO MINUTES**

**January 10, 2018**

**Attendees**:

Jori Broad, Shira Goldberg, Marisa Amirian, Maureen Peters, Stephanie Levin, Becky Smith, Kelly Bragg, Katie Mancini, Sarah Maisey, Jess Amici, Shana Genkin, Melissa Guarino, Kristyn Sirhal, Lucinda Friedman, April Litwin, Cathy Campbell, Ana Lee, Liz Malarski, Kass Burns, Courtney Manley, Jennifer Fassbender, Varsha Gugate-Bhuyan, Sue Taormina, Jessica Marcial, Melissa Kerns, Shannon Broderick, Sharon Schmidt-Mongrain, Ursula LaBrusciano-Rottloff, Kristin Turner, Christina Cowley, Cathy Campbell, Jordan Kapel, Donna Drizin

**Call to Order: 6:30PM**

**Miss Kapel: ESGI**

* ESGI is a web-based assessment system that provides us a way to organize our data and find specific data points for our children; we can test them, get data back, and do fun things with it.
* ESGI allows us to make our own tests for math skills, social studies, word wall word, etc. and we can also use tests from other teachers across the country.
* Mrs. Genkin is the leader in Kindergarten and Miss Kapel is the leader in 1st grade.
* ESGI lets the teachers that use it to do activities with them and teach students one on one; provides the ability to make flash cards right away, lists for homework, prints AVERY labels, creates parent letters, etc.
* The program helps show student progression and is an extremely valuable tool!
* Jori Broad asked if there was a plan to adopt the program in other grade levels and Miss Kapel said generally used now in K & 1st grade but the ability is there and the data stays there forever so there are definitely options for moving forward.
* Courtney Manley asked if the data could be exported in the event we move to a different platform and Miss Kapel said yes, the data can be exported.

**Principal’s Report: Mrs. Drizin**

* Mrs. Campbell sent out amazing resources at the end of the day today that everyone should know about so they can take advantage of them.
  + Mrs. Campbell: there are many wonderful resources that can be found on the home page of DESTINY and the students have learned how to use them and everyone else should know they are available too.
    - We have access to online encyclopedias which are a safe and efficient way to get information; good digital citizenship is part of this because kids aren’t able to determine what link is good vs. bad and that is Mrs. Campbell’s job to help so all of these resources are safe and so helpful!
    - DESTINY has links to a ton of different safe places; some examples are: World Book Online Kids which has basic research information for the K-3 age range; also provides access to non-fiction eBooks.
    - Mrs. Drizin said it is also valuable for when our kids are older because there are multiple levels for kids of all ages and the District pays for all of these resources and we just need to get the word out there that they are available.
    - Another resource is Power Library which provides fictional stories paired with non-fiction books which is a great use for compare and contrast plus supporting reading skills; can access via the William Jeanes Library site with your library card for home use.
    - Book Feliz is another hot one that you can either be read to or read on your own.
    - Facts4Me provides non-fiction informational text that is perfect for beginning researchers and will even give citation information and pictures to use with projects.
    - So many amazing resources to check out so more to come in upcoming communications!
* We have 1 snow day left; we get 3 total and if we use another one before President’s day weekend, we will lose that Friday, 2/16, then President’s Day, 2/19, is next. This Friday is still a half day and we have Monday off for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and hopefully no more snow!
* Shira Goldberg congratulated Mrs. Drizin for becoming a grandmother! Very exciting news! Her grandson’s name is Jack Rory Drizin and they had a wonderful time meeting him!
* Third grade trip was today to the Da Vinci Center in Allentown.
* Barnes & Noble Night is on the 17th and we love surprising the kids with the teachers dressing up as book characters and kids can dress up that night too!
* First grade concert is on 1/25 at 10AM, 2PM, and 7PM.
* There was a small bus accident recently and three children in Kindergarten were checked out by the nurse and all were thankfully ok! Counselors spoke to the children as well.
* We are continuing to be impressed by our new superintendent, Dr. Christian. He is always very supportive of WES; when it is budget time, we will be trying for another 3rd grade teacher because the classes in 2nd grade are so large and we would really benefit from having an additional teacher in third grade to help lower the class sizes.

**Teacher’s report:**

**Mrs. Malarski**

* We took the third grade on a field trip to the Da Vinci Center today; the kids love it there and they change exhibits every 3-6 months which is awesome; special thank you to the PTO for the buses for the event!

**Donna Drizin**

* One more thing to mention, recently two of our families had tragic house fires. Thankfully everyone is ok and safe. A gift card from the PTO to Target or Amazon would be a nice gesture and I know the teachers with the children in their class are organizing something on their own as well.

**Mrs. Campbell**

* Thank you for supporting the library and for all of the volunteers that help at the library.
* Spring Book Fair is coming soon!
* The Read for the House Ronald McDonald program is coming up in February so stay tuned for more information! It’s a really wonderful charity and program.

**Mrs. Litwin**

* Mrs. Hurley is back and Mrs. Dewey is still helping which is wonderful!
* Mrs. Drizin announced that Mrs. Secker is pregnant and Mrs. Dewey is going into Mrs. Secker’s spot while she is on leave so that will be a very smooth transition.

**Treasurer’s Report: Stephanie Levin**

* Thank you to Jessica Mancuso for organizing our Restaurant Nights! It is a very easy way for us to make some money and parents don’t have to cook. Bertucci’s made us $133.01; Chick-fil-a one is super fun and successful and will report totals soon; Cantina Feliz night check is on the way to the PTO per Kristyn Sirhal.
* Box Tops is another easy moneymaker! Last box top submission, we made $1,039.20. Keep clipping! Next deadline is 2/16!
  + Maureen Peters mentioned there is a program at ShopRite that you can connect your bonus card to our school and they will double box tops so if you shop there, it is worth checking it out!
  + Mrs. Genkin said the Purple Team still needs the Lego tower they won with the last submission; PTO will get her the tower tomorrow.
* Assemblies: We have Queen Nur coming in February and she is wonderful but she increased her fees by $400 but she is so great and has been coming since 2011 or 2012; Last assembly will be on Field Day when the Franklin Institute comes and does two presentations at lunch time which will be fun. Pass along any ideas for next year!

**Corresponding Secretary’s Report: Maureen Peters/Marisa Amirian**

* Maureen Peters: Mr. Whitehead sent the PTO a nice thank you note for the treats we all baked for the teachers and staff around the holidays.

**Bingo Night: Marisa Amirian**

* Big changes this year! Moving Bingo Night to PW’s new cafeteria which will be awesome! A little concerned about the mess after the event and about getting everything from WES to PW; Mrs. Drizin said we could possibly use the van to help take everything over.
* Books and DVD’s will be donated for prizes; Jess Amici brought up that maybe we should just ask for books since DVD’s are becoming obsolete and kids will not want them as much which is something to consider; donations will be dropped off at the WES lobby.
* Pizza will be pre-order only in slices or full pies.
* Communications coming out next week so stay tuned!

**WES Serves/Charitable Giving: Jori Broad/Shira Goldberg**

* As mentioned earlier, there were two tragic fires in our community and the PTO has a fund set up for things like this so we will be giving gift cards to both the families in need.
* Back to Bingo Night, we are looking into doing a sneaker collection but only if the shipping is free because if we have to pay the shipping, we won’t be able to do it; historically we restock the Colonial Neighborhood Council with a can drive which we will see if we can do again so stay tuned! Ana Lee offered to volunteer to help with the donations collected.

**Restaurant Nights: Jessica Mancuso (per Jori Broad)**

* Upcoming dates are: 1/23 Five Guys, 2/21 Panera, and 3/21 Chick-fil-a.

**Yearbook: Melissa Kerns**

* Cover Contest for third grade is happening; we received all the submissions, the staff narrowed them down to the top 3 and then the kids will vote on the winner. Stay tuned!
* Jori Broad asked when the picture deadline will be? Will pictures from carnival be able to go in the yearbook? Melissa is confirming final cutoff date and will report back.
* Very few preorders so far so start ordering!

**Spirit Wear: Ursula Ruttloff**

* PTO asked if we could do a 2nd sale this year? Consensus was that kids liked it and were so excited when the items came in and excited to wear them! PJ pants were a hit! Everyone agreed we should have a second sale this year and we will shoot for the end of March/early April.
* New car tags here tonight for $3.
* Second sale can allow us to have a carnival basket of Spirit Wear!
* Kindergarten orientation is on 4/25 so we can showcase some of the gear to new families then and have a sale earlier in the next school year so they can purchase at that time.

**Hershey Park Tickets: Shira Goldberg**

* Regular priced General admission this year is $68. If we sell them at WES again, our price would be $34 or $35 which is not only a great deal compared to the general admission price but it is also lower than the township.
* Everyone agreed to definitely offer the sale again this year; sale will open up in March and end by 3/30.

**Carnival: Jon Walker (per Jori Broad)**

* It will be here before we know it! Big change this year is instead of tickets, there will be punch cards! 20 punch card, 10 punch card, etc. which will be super easy and no more losing single tickets or keeping track of all of them!
* If you want to help, let us know and we will get you on Jon’s list!

**Adjourned: 7:48PM**

**NEXT PTO MEETING ON FEBRUARY 7th at 10AM**