

Imagine Wesley International Academy  
General PTA Meeting

Date: January 13, 2009

Meeting Location: Park Avenue Baptist Church  
Park Avenue

Meeting began at 6:38 p.m.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

A quorum was established to conduct official business.

**Old Business:**

- Nadia Giardina made a motion to approve the minutes from the last PTA meeting. Genifer Stewart seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- If you know anyone who parks on Custer Avenue, please ask them to stop. Arrows painted on the driveway are going both ways. They need to be fixed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- See handout of Financial Report.
- David Lee made a motion that as the Executive Committee and Board of Directors revise the financial plan for the year that they try to allocate some money to teacher enrichment and on-going training. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Kraften. In discussion, parents wanted to know how that fits into the parent survey filled out at the beginning of the year where PTA members chose their top 5 picks of how money should be spent by the PTA. James Taylor said that IWIA's budget for teacher enrichment will be tripled in the 2009-2010 school year to total \$25,000.
  - After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**Membership Report:**

- There are 491 members.
- The prize for the classes who won the 100% PTA membership competition will be entertained by the Bubble Man as soon as the weather clears.
- Please pick up your PTA membership cards.

- Genifer will post a chart of PTA membership by classroom. It will be online.

### **Communications:**

- Amy Coble continues to add content to the website.
- Jason Renai encouraged people to visit the website for any information.
- 200 yearbooks have been ordered from the distributor but only 50 parents have pre-ordered. Angela Birkes made a motion to extend the \$5.00 discount on yearbooks if they are purchased early until the end of January. Nadia Giardina seconded the motion. In discussion, Nadia suggests setting up a table at the school to push for more yearbook sales. All were in favor of the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The online event calendar will be updated regularly. The printed version will be available outside of the office.

### **Planning and Parent Involvement:**

- Volunteers need to record their hours in the database. The instruction manual is online.
- John Cash, representing All Pro Dads promoted their events. They meet on a Saturday, once a month for 1-2 hours. Their purpose is to promote caregiver and child relationships.
- John Cash's Watchdogs group would like to see more men represented in the school. He would like male volunteers for at least 2 hour shifts.
- John Cash is looking for sponsors for a golf tournament.
- He will look into the possibility of the organization of 100 Black Men to see in what way his groups could partner with them.

### **Enrichment:**

- The Chinese New Year celebration will be January 31, 2009, in conjunction with a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of our school construction. More volunteers are needed to help with the festivities. There are volunteer opportunities from Friday night until Saturday at 5 pm. Bakers are needed too.
- A volunteer is needed to chair the Parent Education Committee.
- The Health and Wellness Committee received very little support for its Flu Shot Campaign. They are looking into having the dental bus visit and a free REI program geared towards getting kids and families outdoors.
- The Environmental Committee is currently applying for grants. Email Colleen if you are interested in volunteering with this committee.
- The After school program needs volunteers. They will be sending out a survey on the next 2-3 weeks.

### **Fundraising:**

- Quinnie has resigned as VP of Fundraising.
- Any parties interested in the VP of Fundraising position should contact Greg Kershner.
- The PTA needs donations for the March 14<sup>th</sup> Auction. Save the date cards were sent out.
- A school store will be opened. There is the possibility of donating or consigning old uniforms.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance**

### **New Business:**

### **Construction Update:**

- Construction work at the school will be wrapping up in the next month. Punch out lists are in both buildings. They are working on better signage around school and finishing the multipurpose room. The school is looking at the possibility of putting in a full-service kitchen.
- The final usage of the house on the property is unknown.

### **Principal's Report:**

- The Family Handbook is now online. The first three pages are the most important because it discusses the core values of the school. The student expectations section will be discussed in the classrooms.
- Brian from Pearl's Kitchen was introduced. They will be the new caterer. Menus will be posted online. Write your child's name on your check.
- The Love and Logic Program is being introduced. Poor behavior is given a short writing task or a student is asked to have a conversation with teachers where bad behavior is discussed. This technique teaches self-regulation of behavior. There will be an administrative workshop on Love and Logic in February. In March, some teachers will attend a seminar. The seminar is open to parents.
- The MYP coordinator, Mr. Reagan is acting as the Middle School Principal 4 days a week.
- The LLC Board asked staff to rededicate themselves to 3 things:
  - Strict enforcement of the attendance and tardy policy.
  - Strict enforcement of the uniform policy. It is okay to wear long-sleeved t-shirts underneath uniform shirts as long as they are solid colors. Leggings and tights worn under skirts are acceptable as long as they are solid colors. There should be no hooded jackets. Students must wear solid black, brown, or white shoes.
- MYP students have begun a demerit program.

- The school has undertaken many new positive incentives such as: National Junior Honor Society, NJ Beta Club, student of the Week, Student of the Month, Monthly awards ceremonies, and attendance awards.
- Staff is working on the 2009-2010 school calendar and budget. A draft of the calendar will be going out to parents shortly.
- An incentive pay program will begin for teachers who have students with top academic achievement.
- Teachers will be paid for the sick days left unused at the end of the year.
- Professional development areas that will be funded:
  - IB training (25% of budget)
  - The Harvard project (2 teachers may attend this summer).
  - Staff to attend a conference on Mandarin.
  - Love and Logic
  - Gender separate education training
  - Membership in National Education Organizations
- Classroom observations are underway. The administration will meet with teachers to plan some goals. The teacher's progress will be followed and it will be used to reassess their performance at re-hire time.
- In February, interviews for new staff will begin. There are 40 applicants so far.
- The administration will be handling late pick-ups from now on. It will cost \$5 for every 15 minutes that the guardian is late. If the guardian is late 6 times, the school will refer the case to Defax.
- The brick pavers fundraising project will kick off at the Chinese New Year celebration. The administration is currently searching for a printer willing to donate their services. The school is hoping to raise \$250,000 to help buy laptops for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- There are 3 new full-time teachers doing small group work and tutoring for students under grade level.
- There are 4 newly hired teachers including a new Kindergarten boy's teacher, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and a paraprofessional, Mr. Thomas.

MINUTES WERE APPROVED

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Susan Hills, Secretary Imagine Wesley International Academy