

Imagine Wesley International Academy
Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting

Date: November 18, 2008

Meeting held at Park Avenue Baptist Church

Meeting began at 6:34 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

A quorum was established to conduct official business.

Old Business:

David Lee made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. Seconded by Elaine Banks, and passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- See handout. Colleen Minton moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Nadia Giardina seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Membership Report:

- There are 473 PTA members.
- Five classes won the class campaign for 100% parental membership. Those classes are Mrs. Kraften, Ms. Lanier, Mrs. Elkins, Ms. McConnell and Ms. Durdin.
- The PTA applied for the partnership award and Genifer Stewart's goal is to have 500 members by the end of the year.

Prospective Parents Committee

- Lawanda Holliman announced the first open house for prospective parents will be December 11th at 6:30. Anyone interested in hosting a meeting should let her know. Carla Willard will update the website with meeting dates.

Enrichment Committee report

- The Flu shot campaign will be in early December. The Committee is organizing CRCT test prep.
- Parents interested in helping with recycling efforts contact Colleen.

Fundraising update

- The Dine out was a success.
- The Committee is working on a link to a website to allow donations to the Annual Fund online.

- The Committee is requesting donations to the auction.
- A holiday gift shop will be open during the first week of December.

Communications update

- Carla Willard resigned and will be replaced next month.
- Early Bird sales of the yearbook are ongoing.
- Teachers email addresses on the website are incorrect and will be changed from “.org” to “.com”.

Planning and Parent Involvement update

- 119 people are registered on PTO software. Contact Robin to list new volunteer jobs or problems with the database. If half of volunteer hours are not completed at re-enrollment the child will be placed in the lottery.

New business

- The new school counselor requests parent volunteers to man a tardy desk from 7:30-8:30 every morning and a new committee is making guidelines for attendance policy.
- Jimmy McGee proposed a parent book club. The first book to be discussed is “The Sea is So Wide. My Boat is So Small.”
- Elaine proposed a budget amendment which is intended to redistribute funds into parents’ top five survey selections. The amendment passed unanimously.

PTA mandate

- The Executive Committee assembled a mandate intended to authorize the Executive Committee to demand that Imagine comply with the charter.
- Parents should sign the mandate after the meeting if they support it.
- The mandate states: “The parents advocate for strict compliance with the charter and this strict compliance may decrease enrollment and decrease the IWIA budget. Parents pledge to volunteer time and fund-raising to help with the shortfall in the budget.”
- In discussions, some parents expressed reluctance to authorize the Executive Committee to act on their behalf. Parents listed their top concerns as follows:
 - 1) kindergarten Para pros
 - 2) curriculum
 - 3) uniform compliance
 - 4) uniform vendors
 - 5) discipline
 - 6) communication
 - 7) textbooks
 - 8) teacher training in IB
 - 9) safety
 - 10) special education compliance
 - 11) student/teacher ratios

Robin Cash is putting together an advisory council to hear from the MYP parents and to advise the PTA regarding their issues.

- The LLC meeting Monday at 10:00 a.m. is open to the public.

Principal's report

- James Taylor said that he is working on all items on the parents' list of concerns.
- His hands are bound by the financial constraints that carry over from the previous administration.
- December 1 is the move-in date for the new building. He requested that volunteers help with the move.
- He plans to move all 1st and 2nd graders to the new building if he can find money in the budget.
- To raise funds, he is promoting a brick fundraiser for parents and businesses to buy a brick with their name on it. He hopes to raise \$150,000 - \$200,000 which would be spent on science equipment and media center supplies. He requested PTA assistance with the fundraising effort.
- He is reducing costs in non-essential areas such as cell phones and photocopier usage.
- Imagine has new schools that need to be funded and are operating at deficits. Imagine cannot loan any funds to Imagine Wesley.
- A tutoring program after school will start on December 1st and will be on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- A mentoring program is starting in the MYP. One hour per week an adult will mentor with a young man in the MYP.
- Kindergarten through 2nd grades have very involved parents, but the upper grades have inherited bad habits which will require more parent volunteers in the classrooms and halls.
- James and two teachers attended SACS classes for accreditation.
- January re-enrollment forms are going out soon. IWIA is adding 100 spaces in grades 2-8 and is planning to keep the MYP small.
- The PYP curriculum night is Thursday at 6:30 in the media center.
- A delegation of 25 educators from China toured the school.
- Instant background check software is in the front office. It costs \$10 for a background check.

MINUTES WERE APPROVED

Date _____

Signed _____

Susan Hills, Secretary - Imagine Wesley International Academy PTA