

Washington Primary PTA
November 18, 2009 Meeting Overview
Notes delivered by: Margaret Otto, Recording Secretary

The general meeting was held in the Cafeteria at Washington Primary school and was pretty well attended. The 'Pledge of Allegiance' was recited by all.

Finance: Laurie Wickey, Treasurer, was unable to attend but had previously provided an updated budget. Current account balance is \$6,024.08.

Principal Neville's Report: The October pumpkin giveaway was a great success among the children and the pumpkin patch idea was well received. There is an upcoming Emergency drill / Early dismissal which will be discussed with the children beforehand in a non-threatening manner. Arts in Education badly needs a representative from WPS.

At this point, Peggy Lowe, a mother from Jefferson and their Arts in Ed rep. interjected with some more information on the needed position. Most urgent is the need for someone to coordinate the crafts with first graders who are going to be involved with the Karen Lynch Ballet Company rendition of Nutcracker. Class moms are also encouraged to get involved in this wonderful event, scheduled for 12/12 or 12/13. Other upcoming events include visiting authors and a fundraiser. Meetings are once a month during a weekday morning, plus a report at the general PTA meeting once a month.

Librarian's Report: As Mrs. White was unable to attend, Mrs. Neville wanted everyone to know the annual book swap made all the children very happy and about 2,000 books came through the library in one day! Some classes were able to choose 5 or 6 books each.

HFFE Report: no representative available

SEPTA Report: SEPTA is also in need of a representative from WPS. There will be an 11/19 10am Coffeetalk. The annual fundraiser has finished.

Committee reports:

Wrap-ups

- Safe Halloween and Pumpkins – PTA contributes \$100 toward this. \$420 was spent on 400 pumpkins.
- Community Day at Barnes & Noble – still reconciling
- Fall Pictures – Pictures will be delivered in 4 weeks with re-takes on 12/9.
- Food Drive Update – Wrap-up assembly on Friday 11/20 at 2pm for children.

Pending and Upcoming

- Clothing Drive begins 12/3-12/18
- Holiday Boutique, 12/4 with setup on 12/3 at 2pm in gym. The hope is that each class will have 40 minutes shopping and wrapping time. Volunteers needed.
- First Grade Social, 12/11 – RSVPs to go out soon. The 1st graders will be decorating chocolate houses.

- Bingo Night, 1/29, 7pm: Popcorn and water to be provided.

Guest Speaker: Nancy Wilson Assistant Director of Student Services addresses “inclusion” and services for the “borderline child”. Inclusion grew from regulations begun in 1995; Huntington currently practices an integrated co-teaching model. For information, please call her office # 673-2115

Announcements shared:

1). PLI (Parent Leadership Initiative) introduced by Michele Deegan. Classes meet once a week for 15 weeks at St. Hugh of Lincoln. Each 2-hour meeting is free, includes childcare and dinner. In a workshop environment, classmates choose topics to advocate for and are guided by educators and speakers on ways to achieve their goal. Next course begins in January.

2.) Dicks in Roosevelt Field Shopping Mall is sponsoring an event called \$100 for 100 on 12/10. Please fill out a form to sponsor a needy child by 12/3 or to donate. Winners will receive \$100 to be spent in Dicks. See www.1004100.com for details.

3.) Holiday Concert flowers to be provided for music teachers 12/18

4.) Staff Holiday breakfast 12/21 \$75 budget

5.) Mrs. Neville will assist in PTA’s request to find bulletin board space in the front hall.

6.) We have a \$300 refund from Lifetouch photographers. Ideas for possible assemblies discussed. Mrs. Ribando will look into an interactive African Dance Troupe she knows about.

7.) Movie Night is moved to January. Day TBA.

8.) Mr. Jim Conti has replied positively to Board’s request for bench donations. Much will depend on the position of his current leasee.

Public Commentary:

1). Parents discussed the most recent meeting at Jack Abrams, which included tours of the school. Some measures put in place to increase safety include foot patrols on the grounds of the school and traffic stops.

Meeting Adjourned 9:05pm

REMINDER: No December meeting; next meeting January 27th , 7:30pm in the cafeteria (visit our Newsletter on the school’s website http://www.hufsd.edu/schools/washington/wash_pta.html)