

Westfield Friends

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

29 September 2009 7:30pm

The meeting began with a moment of silence.

Headmaster
Bill Probsting

Welcome and introductions.

Clerk
Tracy Gaffney

Treasurer's Report:

Annual Giving requests will be going out next month.

- We need to try for greater participation, even for modest amounts.
- Foundations typically have a cutoff for percentage participation of parents, so in order to qualify for donations from a foundation, we need to dramatically increase the percentage of parents who give to Westfield.
- Alumni and meeting members also participate.
- Alumni who wish to contact their fellow alums can do so through lists of alumni kept at the school. It was asked if the alumni list could be added to the web site, but no decision has been made at this point.

Co-Clerk
Beth Lorenz

Treasurer
Suzanne Baldwin

Secretary
Steve Kasperson

Deposits from back to school night:

8th grade:	\$360
7th grade:	\$360
6th grade:	\$440
5th grade:	\$740
4th grade:	\$720
3rd grade:	\$380
2nd grade:	\$700
1st grade:	\$440
Kindergarten:	\$560
Pre-K:	\$470
Parent Council Dues:	\$2060
Extra Calendars:	\$100
Total Deposited:	\$7,330

The room parents will contact those people who still need to pay either class dues or council dues.

All tickets for the Swing Fling have been sold.

Headmaster's Report:

Class trips are being booked or planned.

Many after-school clubs are very popular, with 44 flag football, and 15 tennis participants.

The Spanish Club and Stock Market Club were cancelled, due to lack of inter-

est.

There was a discussion of adding a “Mad Science” club, as well as a chess club. In addition to those, the Footlighters can do an acting program after school, and the Rancocas Nature Center can do an environmental program.

While general fund-raisers have their place, it was asked about specific gifts of trees, furniture, or other permanent items. Individual gifts are always welcome, and there is a map of all of the trees on the property, as well as a plan for future plantings. Most trees cost approximately \$300.00, which includes planting.

Proposed new Roles & Responsibilities:

- Finance Group - headed by Kate Wilson
- Events Coordinator - headed by Sally Wilson
- Playground Liaison - headed by Kathleen Mininno
- Arts & Culture - headed by Kathleen Mininno

The purpose of these new roles is to promote greater communication between the parent council and the school at large, as well as greater accountability. Part of this communication is to explain why certain fund-raisers have been cancelled or postponed. The Innisbrook fund-raiser was cancelled for this school year, due to a combination of declining revenue and the introduction of other fund-raisers. In addition, the 8th grade must take responsibility for ensuring that enough funds are raised to pay for their yearbooks.

Parent volunteers will be needed for helping out with the various activities, not always to organize or run the activity, but to just help out in some way.

Upcoming activities:

- Swing Fling - October 2nd.
- Spaghetti Diner - moved to some time in January. 8th grade will help.
- Harvest Festival - cancelled. Last year raised \$1488, most from donations.
- Scholastic Book Fair - week of November 2nd. Volunteers will be needed November 1st for around an hour, to help set up furniture. There will be two fairs going on simultaneously: grades 1-5 at the social room in the meeting house, and grades 6-8 in the lounge. Classes will preview the books November 3rd during the day, with the afternoon and evening being open to families. Light refreshments will be provided. Wednesday, November 4 will have additional hours from 3:00 to 7:00pm.
- Walnut Street Theatre Visit - November 3rd. The performance will be “A Forest Fable”, similar to Dr. Seuss’s “The Lorax”.

Future meeting dates:

Monday, October 26th at 1:00pm

Monday, November 23rd at 7:30pm

Monday, December 14th at 1:00pm

Friday, January 15th at 1:00pm

Tuesday, February 16th at 7:30pm

The meeting was closed with a moment of silence.