



General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

7:00 pm in the LMC and via Zoom

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1. Welcome / Call to Order
 2. Meeting Ground Rules
 - a. We are all volunteers, and we try our best.
 - b. Everyone is treated with respect.
 - c. Participation is encouraged - everyone's input is valuable.
 - d. Remember the mission of the PTA in all that we do: "To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."
 3. Principal's Report - **Ann Buch** gave an update on the Westgate construction project. North of the Commons will be renovated this summer (including new flooring, new ceilings, new piping, lighting, etc.). There will be a new girl's bathroom on the second floor. Outside construction will start in the summer. Next summer (2024), the Commons to the South will undergo construction. There will be 11 new classrooms and a new gym twice the size of the old gym. There will be outdoor recess during the construction (locations tbd). The Variety Show will take place at Westgate on Friday, May 19th at 6:30pm. Seats are first come first serve. The 5th Grade Legacy team will run the concessions, cash only, to raise money for new recess equipment. Kindergarten screening will take place on May 23 and May 24 in the morning. If you know of any new families to Westgate who have an incoming kindergartener or first grader, please notify the office. Westgate has been allotted a 0.5 additional principal due to the enrollment numbers; the new part-time assistant principal will start next year. Field Day will be on June 2nd; rain date is June 5th. Lots of volunteers will be needed to help with Field Day!
 4. Teacher's Report - **Jen Carney/Nicole Mazzola** thanked the PTA for the amazing Teacher Appreciation Week, with a special thank you to Katie and team! A QR code was provided to show how happy the teachers were during this special week. Staff were blown away by the treats, food, gift cards, etc. The Westgate Countdown to Summer will begin on May 25th. There will also be a whole school photo on June 1st (Kinder wears purple, 1st grade wears blue, 2nd wears green, 3rd wears yellow, 4th wears orange, 5th wears red, resource staff wear white). Teachers are packing in preparation for the construction. 1457 library books are still out - please return these (due date is 5/25). This will be the last year that Jen and Nicole will be the teacher reps for the PTA. Thank you!
 5. Treasurer's Report - **Samme Nowakowski**
 - a. April Month-End Report - everything is on track
 - b. Year-End Outlook - Fun fair and 5th grade committee are fairly large expense items but we are on track!
 - c. Budget modifications - Westgate Cares Reallocation to Fun Fair (\$500); Reflections (Gallery Night) increase (\$300). The budget modifications were approved unanimously.
 - d. New BMO Non-Profit Checking Account with Zelle [-westgatetreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:westgatetreasurer@gmail.com)

- e. Omella All-In-One Payments, Forms, & Signatures
 - f. The Dine-Arounds raised about \$2,000 this year! Great job Autumn!
6. Secretary's Report - **Kim Hedstrom Nickl**
- a. Review & Approval of 3-22-23 minutes. The Minutes were approved unanimously.
 - b. Bylaws were approved by Jeanette Harris, Northwest Cook Region Director PTA
7. Vice President Social & Enrichment - **Abby Harkey**
- a. Kindergarten Ice Cream Social - **Marsha Mitchell** reports that the event is on Wednesday, May 24th and plans are in motion.
 - b. Fun Fair: **Sarah Baird** reports that communications have gone out for this event which is scheduled for June 2nd. There will be 3 inflatables. Sixty 8th grade and high school students have volunteered to help! Need to put in a request for teachers to volunteer to be in the dunk tank (at 20 minute increments). Volunteer links have also gone out. Need 5 people to help early and set up.
 - c. Room Rep Roundup - **Abby Harkey** said thanks for all of the efforts in the classroom for Teacher Appreciation week!
 - d. Glow Party Glow Up: A big thank you to the Glow Party committee and to Dr. Buch and Coach K for your support!
 - e. Art Club & Reflections: **Shelly Daley** reports that a pizza party and the final art club for 4th and 5th graders will take place next week. Prepping has begun for the "Celebrating the Arts at Westgate: When art and music collide." It will be on Tuesday, May 30th from 6:30-8:00pm. There will also be performances that evening from Music For Youth (MFY) and the 5th grade band. An evening not to be missed!
 - f. Bike and Roll Committee: **Colleen Palmer** reports that our annual Bike & Roll to School event was held on Wednesday, May 3. Despite the chilly temperatures, we had a great turnout and it was lots of fun. A big thanks to Dr. Buch and our awesome faculty and staff for their assistance in making this a fun, festive event. We are still encouraging students to continue biking and rolling through the month of May by participating in Bike & Roll Bingo. Anyone who turns in a bingo sheet will be put in a raffle for prizes donated by Mikes Bike Shop of Palatine, the Arlington Heights Bike Club, and Berry Yo. Bike & Roll Bingo sheets are due on Thursday, May 25th.
8. Vice President Ways & Means - **Autumn Jenks**
- a. Teacher appreciation week committee: **Katie Bjers** sends out a HUGE thank you to our parents and families for their assistance in making teacher appreciation week a success! The week would not have been possible without the generous donations of food items, gift cards, and time! Thanks to your generosity, we had enough donations to give each staff member a gift card during Wednesday's MVP raffle. Thanks again for making our MVP teachers feel so special!
 - b. Westgate Cares: **Heather Walsh** reports that Westgate Cares is teaming up with the Fun Fair committee to sponsor a Fun Fair Dunk Tank and to host a Wheeling Township Food Pantry Collection. See attached [flier](#) for the most needed food items at the food pantry.
 - c. Fundraising: **Autumn Jenks** reports that Porky's dine around fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th; order in advance. Porky's will donate 5% to Westgate. And Capannari's was a huge success on 5/15! There was a great turnout! We hope we are the coolest school!
 - d. Book Fair: **Autumn Jenks** reports that the book fair will take place at the Fun Fair. The Book Fair will be outside unless it rains.

- e. Yearbook: **Chrissy Kordalewski** reports that we sold 461 books. Earned 10 free books. Received 8 donated books - special thanks to those who donated. The fundraiser earned \$1367.10 and the check will be mailed in June. The books have just shipped!
9. President Elect's Report - **Kim Powers**
- a. Recap from PTA conference - share ideas on fundraising. There are deals for gathering groups of people together, and they donate back to the PTA.
 - b. Holiday Store - During the second week of December, students will be able to shop for items ranging from \$0.25 to \$10.
 - c. PTA Post and Social Media - Please send in pictures for events! We need someone to volunteer for the PTA Post.
10. Presidents Report - **Shelby Gajos**
- a. 2 goals this year (updates)
 - i. Fundraising - We had a very steep fundraising goal this year! We worked hard on this goal and did a great job. Next school year will be another steep fundraising goal as well.
 - ii. Community - We have been successful at getting the community to come together at school events and parent events this year. Next school year, we are planning to host a fall fest and a big parent's night out. We want each grade to have something special planned! We achieved this during this school year and plan to continue this in years to come. Kindergarten has a special ice cream social, 1st and 2nd grades have movie night, 3rd and 4th grade have the Glow party, and 5th grade gets a special celebration!
 - b. President's Committees:
 - i. **Election:** Slate vote - Kim Powers for President, Autumn Jenks for President Elect, Shelby Gajos for 1st vice president Ways and Means, Abby Harkey for 2nd vice president Enrichment and Social, Kim Hedstrom Nickl for Secretary, and Samme Nowakowski for Treasurer.
 - 1. Nominations from the floor -there were none. Autumn moved and Chrissy Kordalewski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. AH Council update - We have reached out to other neighboring schools for ideas for fundraising, events, etc. Committee chairs, please let us know if you want to connect with other schools to share ideas about events, etc. We will connect you. This is a great resource!
 - iii. 2023/2024 committee chairs - We are still looking for some additional committee chairs for the coming school year, such as grade level coordinators (to plan play dates, etc.) and a fall festival committee chair.
 - c. Congratulations to Shelly Daley on her nomination for Volunteer of the Year!
 - d. Thank you Ann and Allie for your support this year, especially with your presence at events!
 - e. Thank you to all of our volunteers and committee chairs for helping make Westgate great!
 - f. Social gathering after PTA meeting at Tuscan Market
11. New Business
12. Unfinished Business
13. Adjourn