

Westport Heights PTA Meeting  
October 17, 2006

Conducting: Sam Taylor, Jr., President

Meeting commenced at 7:12 p.m. at the Westport Heights Elementary auditorium.

I. Treasurer's Report

Lulu Kubes

As of 10/10/06 the PTA's account balance is \$6,199.86. Disbursements were made to Audrey Kitayama for purchase of the PTA Secretary's Minute Book and to Sam Taylor, Jr. for the purchase of PTA membership envelopes from the PTA 10<sup>th</sup> District office.

Although at the last PTA general meeting it was moved and voted to donate \$2,500.00 to the WHES library, no check has been issued yet until the PTA receives receipts from the librarian, Ms. Evans.

II. Room Parent Coordinator

Veronica Johnson

We currently have 28 room parent volunteers. Only one-half of all the classrooms have room parents. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a room parent for a classroom that is not your child's classroom, please contact Veronica Johnson.

III. Box Tops for Education

Veronica Johnson/Sam Taylor, Jr.

More Box Tops need to be collected. We also need help collecting from classrooms, bundling them to turn in, and creating receptacles for each classroom's collection. It was explained that Box Tops for Education is a program where selected grocery items have a Box Top for Education label on the top of the box and can be turned in to have money donated to the school. The deadlines only fall on two dates in the school year and the next one is on October 31, 2006.

IV. Programs

Cathy Ohnstad, V.P. of Programs

A. Red Ribbon Week is a week-long events program to teach kids to stay away from drugs. Although many kids are very young to understand what drugs are, a focus of the events will also be on having a healthy body. Parent volunteers will be needed on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> to help slice oranges and give to kids during the lunch periods as part of the program.

B. Reflections – To be discussed later.

C. Book Fair – The Book Fair coincides with parent conferences scheduled for

the week of December 4<sup>th</sup> – December 8<sup>th</sup>. The fair will end with a pajama party on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Parent volunteers will be needed to help at the fair after school. At least 8 parents are needed to help when the fair is open.

D. Family Portraits – Family portraits, a fundraiser by the Booster Club will be on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Flyers will go home with instructions for families to sign-up on-line for the portraits. \$15.00 of each portrait will go directly to the school. If interested, sign-up quickly, only 20 appointments are available in the time frame reserved for the 27<sup>th</sup>. If more families are interested, then another date for portraits will be scheduled.

E. Signature Fall Fundraiser Results - \$25,000.00 was raised from the fall catalog fundraiser. This amount is down from last year, but nationally the numbers are down as well. \$14,000.00 will help cover the Flexercise program for the school, with a little bit more covered by the Booster Club's existing funds.

F. Flexercise – Flexercise is the exercise program purchased for the whole school and begins this week. Although there are instructors for Flexercise, parent volunteers are needed to help monitor. Volunteers will be asked to only assist in their own child's classroom.

G. Volunteer Forms – Thank you to all the parents who filled-out and turned in the volunteer forms. Please be patient as it will take some time to review, sort and respond to the forms.

## V. Reflections

Mona Clark/Lulu Kubes, co-Chairs

Reflections is a national PTA artistic competition. Mona attended a meeting about the program today. The theme this year for Reflections is, "My Favorite Place". Samples from each grade level will be submitted for interpretation of the theme. Five samples will be submitted for grades K – 2, and five samples will be submitted for grades 3 – 5. The various types of media interpretation judged on are:

1. Photography
2. Visual Arts
3. Literature
4. Music
5. Dance
6. Video Production (new this year)

Please note that emphasis must be made that all projects must be the idea and for the most part, created by the students. For example, if a young child dictates a story to a parent, the parent must write it down verbatim, dances must be choreographed by the student. Guidelines for participation will be sent home with each student by the end of

the month. Cathy Ohnstad – Ribbons will be distributed for ALL participants, regardless of whether their submission is chosen for further competition.

VI. Membership Sam Taylor, Jr./Lizzie Bartels – V.P. of Membership

The total amount of paid memberships is 70. A membership envelope should have been sent home with each child. If you have not joined yet, please remember to include on the envelope your child's name, grade and class. This information is needed to include paid memberships with the school-wide competition to receive an ice cream party for the class with the highest number of memberships. Memberships will be tallied for the ice cream party to occur in early December before the winter break.

VII. Questions/Comments

A. Public School Spotlight Kelly Kane, WPEF President

The Public School Spotlight is scheduled for November 2, 2006 at Orville Wright Middle School. The Spotlight replaces the regularly scheduled WPEF (Westchester Playa Education Foundation) meeting at the municipal building next to the library. The spotlight is an opportunity for the family of seven public schools to provide information to the community about their schools. Last year 100 people attended the spotlight. The public schools teach about 6,000 students. This event is an opportunity to talk up Westport Heights, so please try to go and please bring a friend who is deciding between public and private or whose children already attend a private school.

B. Gifted & Talented Paul Johnson

Paul been asked to work with the children identified as gifted and talented in the school. Discussion: How do we advertise the school more in the community? Input from Mrs. Blake about advertising more in the community and in the community newspapers, Angel McClinton's offer to start the school's website, and Jeff Clark to help with distribution through Countrywide.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

*At this time a period of networking occurred. People spoke about their occupations and hobbies and offered opportunities for others to meet with each other and distribute information if they had individual businesses to promote.*

Audrey Kitayama

PTA Secretary