



## **WEBSTER PTA MEETING Tuesday, October 11, 2022**

*Attendees: Sarah Pelletier, Annie Wilk, Kristyn Cousino, Alicia Densel, Natalie Brown, Kristina Zubarev, Kelly Leciejewski, Tracey Schenk, Matthew Rautio, Shelly Pung, Nikki Mehelich, Clark Snow, George Pacer, Jennifer Peluras, David Z, Chelsea Coulson, Jamie P, Allison, Vanessa, Elisha A, Shawn Nicholas, Liberty Blunier, Christine Hafner, Leeza Jacob.*

Welcome & Introductions: Tracey Schenk called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Mr. Rautio spoke first as he was on a time crunch. He explained that he was the music teacher for all the classes at Webster this year. This is his 16th year teaching and is excited to be bringing band back to Webster this year. He likes to think of Music as therapy for many kids, especially in the RISE program as it increases their confidence. He feels that music helps with many task specific skills children need to be proficient in.

Approval of Minutes: Alicia Densel made the first motion to approve the minutes from the Sept 20, 2022 meeting. Annie Wilk made the 2nd motion. The meeting minutes from the Sept 20, 2022 meeting were approved.

Principal report: Mrs. Cousino reported that Family 1 and 3 teachers are now in place as well as that Kelsey Murdock is our new secretary. She thanked the PTA for the Walkathon, balloon arch, etc. She explained that Curriculum night was well attended and that conferences are coming up on Wednesday and Thursday. She wanted to remind parents to be respectful of the 15 minutes that they are allotted. Webster is continuing with all the safety drills such as fire, lockdown and tornado. She announced that they are bringing back Stop Motion Animation, Nuts about Science, and Chess Wizards as well as Enrichments will be starting soon. ACAT applications for new incoming students next year will open up on Nov 28, 2022. Mrs. Cousino also reports looking forward to getting to know kids and families for many years, vs the two years at her previous school of only 5-6th grades.

Treasurer's Report: Annie reported that we made \$127 from our Panda Express Dine Out. The next dine out is going to be Panda Express. The really only expenses that the PTA has had is reimbursing board members from the Walkathon and Fall Fest.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

- Media Specialist: Mrs. Zubarev introduced herself and reported that this is her 4th year at Webster. She likes to focus on project based learning. Students will research projects and then incorporate technology into the projects via Google Slides, Scratch coding or Code.org. With the RISE program, she uses songs, stories, puppets, their Go Talk machines in her teaching. She also heads up the Book Fair, Battle of the Books and Book Bracket Challenge later in the year.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Chair: Alicia Densel is our DEI chairperson and she introduced herself as a Webster parent, but she also has children at Frost and CHS, all who went through Webster. She explained DEI and that she will do her best to incorporate what makes the most sense for our community. She stated that Webster already incorporates DEI when planning the Walkathon, Fall Fest, Holiday Shop, making many family events free, etc. Her role is to continue to make everyone included. She will make a form available asking the Webster community on their opinions of areas that might need to be changed.
- PTSA Advocacy Chair: Nikki Mehelich is the Advocacy Chair for Webster and she explained that she will be helping to keep the Webster Community informed about election information. She will be sending out links and sharing information regarding items like Senate, House and even local school board elections.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Walkathon recap: Tracey thanked the volunteers and staff for their support and help. Our goal was \$12,000 and we are still taking donations until this coming Sunday. We are currently at \$10,500. She also thanked the Howell family for donating the balloon arch and explained that this is our main fundraiser and supports field trips, classroom enrichments, etc.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Reflections: Kelly explained that the Reflections art program has started. This year's theme is "Show Your Voice." There are six categories including Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. In the film production category, the student no longer needs to be the videographer. Please fill out the entry form and read the official rules for each entry. (children can enter multiple categories) All entries are due November 11, 2022 to Kelly. Please email Kelly with any questions

Fall Fest: Sarah explained that Fall Fest is coming up on Oct 27th. There will be a DJ, Food trucks, Trunk or Treat, Spook Walk, Creepy Animals, Photo Opp Area, Tattoos, and Pumpkin voting. Reptarium will be bringing Tarantula, scorpion, cockroaches, a very large snake, alligators, and a few more varying sized snakes and lizards. Trunk or Treat will happen the first hour. We are looking to keep the number of trunks to 10 to make sure we have enough candy. Sarah reminded people to RSVP so that the PTA can more accurately prepare.

Dine-Outs: Annie said that we will do a Leo's dine out before the end of the year since it was so successful. We aim for 8 dine outs in a year.

Nuts About Science: Tracey explained that registration for the next session will open 11-3. It is very popular and more information will be coming out soon.

YMAD: Sarah reported that Youth Making a Difference will be starting in the coming weeks. She is looking for a volunteer to help with this fairly easy event. YMAD encourages children to serve in their community in a variety of ways. Information will be coming out next month.

Webster Spirit Wear: Tracey announced that since the weather is getting cooler, many may need some different spirit wear. These also make great gifts and there is always free shipping for orders over \$50.

PTA membership reminder: Annie noted that we currently have 128 members but our goal is 200. She asked those who are not members to join and that even extended family members, friends and neighbors are welcome to join.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Tracey wanted to remind everyone that she updates the big marquee sign as well as the small black and white sign with important dates and reminders. Reflections info will be coming home soon via email and to make sure to check the Wildcat Den for the weekly PTA bulletin.

Annie thanked Mrs. Zubarev for coming to the PTA meeting and Tracey mentioned Mr. Z as well who is present.

Tracey adjourned the meeting at 7:52pm.