

**August 22, 2023 PTA Meeting
Westmore Elementary School**

Minutes are considered a high-level overview of the meeting.

For more information on any specific topic, please ask PTA officers.

Welcome

The Westmore Elementary School PTA met on Aug. 22, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. About 19 people were in attendance in person.

Attendees went around and introduced themselves.

President Raquel Mahoney gave a brief overview of PTA and shared events and funding from the 2022-2023 school year.

The Westmore PTA was an Illinois PTA Platinum Member last year. We had 128 members last year. We can keep the standing if we get 78 members this year.

Installation of New Officers

Treasurer Taryn Mueller and Secretary Rachel Fowler were sworn in by President Raquel Mahoney.

Audit

The audit ended June 30, 2023. Books were correct. Treasurer Taryn Mueller moved to adopt the audit report of 2022-2023. Kris Castaldi seconded. The audit was accepted.

Budget

Treasurer Taryn Mueller reviewed the current budget and new items. To offset the Opt-Out Fundraiser and Penny Wars from last year, other possible events have been added (Bingo, Mabel's Labels, and Photo Booth Night). PTA has \$17,000 in the account right now. PTA tries to make money this year for next year's budget.

Dianne Garcia shared an idea of Westmore yard signs to sell for \$20 each—\$760 upfront cost for 76 yard signs. We would need to sell at least half to break even. There are 362 families at Westmore. The plan would be to sell them at the Back to School Bash. Attendees discussed this idea. PTA is trying to figure out how to handle credit card transactions, too. PTA will discuss this idea in the future.

Kris Castaldi mentioned that we sold 155 shirts already for Spirit Wear. After the expense, we might make a \$400 profit. We could decrease costs to \$200 in the budget. Spirit Wear needs to move from expenditures to receipts in current budget.

Vice President Ande Ngola moved to amend the budget of Spirit Wear line item from \$400 to \$577. The change was accepted.

Kris Castaldi motioned that we add funds to purchase a Square adapter and add to the PTA office supplies line item. Caisey Schneider seconded. This was accepted.

Last year we used Cake Walk Trunk or Treat revenue for 5th Grade Committee. We could offer this to the 5th Grade Committee again.

Treasurer Taryn Mueller moved this budget to be adopted as presented. This did not need to be seconded. The budget was accepted.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Rachel Fowler shared that the minutes from the last PTA meeting held on May 2, 2023, are posted on MemberHub (Givebacks). There have been no noted changes or corrections. We also had a quorum with which we could conduct business.

Principal's Report

Mr. Dart shared that the theme is Westmore Islands. The second part of the theme is Community that CARES. There are 387 students this year. Classes are 20-25 students. New this year: Kindergarten transition. Teachers loved being able to meet every child. The new start time of 8:10: It's been working out well. SEL curriculum: Focus on different levels of emotions: morning meetings, quiet time after lunch, and closing meetings. New recess structure: They want the kids to know the supervisors, expectations, games, etc. There are different zones at recess. They've gone through five days of the zones now. They can choose zones after a few days depending on the grade. The school also added a walking track at recess. There's Advanced Academics for grades 3, 4, and 5. They qualify based on a Z score. The top 13-15 will qualify on a yearly basis. New Specials schedule is set up: music, art, PE, and library studies. Specials are every day. There's a new library teacher and LRC specialist. Soon the school will be practicing the Hold in Place drill, three fire drills, and severe weather drill (all need to be done by November 1). MAP and reading assessments are beginning next week. Curriculum Night is August 29.

Mrs. Fine, Westmore multi-needs teacher, introduced herself. She works with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. It's her 22nd year at Westmore. She shared that the Westmore students are very empathetic. Everyone feels included.

Committee Reports

Pool Party: Vice President Ande Ngola shared there's availability for volunteers to sign up, and you can purchase tickets at the door.

Back to School Bash: Kris Castaldi shared this event is not structured, but there's games and the playground. There will be ice treats, popcorn, and water. There will be a book swap table. There will be a Spirit Wear swap table and PTA membership table, too. There will be a Movie Night vote as well.

Spirit Wear: Kris Castaldi shared that shirts we have are \$10. The plan is to eventually have a year-round offering. There's an online store that's more specific that's available three times a year. She's looking for volunteers at the Back to School Bash. Reach out to Kris Castaldi if there's something you'd like to see in the future for spirit wear.

District 5K: Kris Castaldi shared this is a district-wide event. The event is September 16. Adults are \$25, and kids are \$20.

Kindergarten/1st Grade Social: This is at Fuel and Crème on September 19. There will be small crafts, coloring, and books. 15% of the proceeds will go to PTA.

Fundraising: Dianne Garcia shared about events: Movie Night, Craft Night, and STEM Night. Looking for local businesses to sponsor certain nights. We are looking for a Penny Wars chair to volunteer and a bank. We've made \$60 through Mabel's Labels. Opt-out Fundraiser: Asking families to donate instead of volunteer. This would be in the fall. PTA discussed trying to build off the fundraisers we already do and add things to our current events.

Announcements

August 25—Pool Party • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

August 30—Early Dismissal

August 31—Back to School Bash • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

September 12—Next PTA Meeting • 6:30 p.m.

September 15—School Pictures

September 16—District 5K

September 19—Kindergarten/1st Grade Social • 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

September 29—Movie Night

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

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