

# West Millbrook Middle School

## PTA Meeting

Minutes from August 25, 2015

Present: Officers: M. Miller, M. Moody, H. Hodges, A. Lomax

Staff: Ms. Aman, Ms. Reece, Ms. Keane, Ms. Kerns

Minutes: Prepared by Aimee Lomax

Opening: M. Miller opened the meeting beginning 7:00 PM

Total in Attendance: 24

Welcome: Michelle Miller, PTA

Michelle thanks everyone for coming, good to see so many new faces and all the returning parents/staff. With the start of a new school year there is a lot of information to cover. Michelle will do her best to be done within an hour.

### **Principal's Update:**

Ms. Aman welcomes all the attendees, it is great to see so many 6th grade parents. PTA and Athletic boosters are an important and strong part of our school she appreciates the support and hopes everyone will get involved. The opening of this school year has been the smoothest since she's been here. Classroom, bussing, and cafeteria are working well. Our number of students is very small, too small, at 886. This is up from 874 on the first day but nowhere close to the 962 students enrolled. She has staffed for 941 students, hiring 6 new teachers including 2 first year teachers that have experience. Mr. Miller is in 8th grade social studies. Mr. Smoak, who is from South Carolina, is in 6th grade social studies. Ms. Leary, who is a first year teacher, is in 7th grade science/math. Ms. Coplin, Ms. Wunderlich, and Ms. Soloff are all in special education. Bussing has been better in the past 2 days than the entire school year last year. All buses were on campus by 8:30 in the morning and the last bus left today by 3:30. There are several ways she communicates with families which include her blog, school twitter, the Principal's remind account, and weekly phone messages. If anyone is not getting the phones messages, there have been 2 already, we do not have your correct phone number. The sign up code for the remind account can be found on the West Millbrook website. Kuddos to Molly, the parent responsible for all the beautiful plants by the cafeteria and in front of the school. Thank you! Ms. Aman then asked for any general questions, for any specific questions she would be available after the meeting. A question was asked about the changes of the bus routes. There was concern raised about the length of some new routes. Ms. Aman said that bus routes have been consolidated across the county due to budget cuts. West Millbrook has decreased from last year's 19 routes to 12, filling all the buses to capacity instead of several buses coming to school with only a few children. Ms. Aman did not anticipate any major changes to routes but encouraged anyone with concerns to contact the transportation office. The next question addressed carpool line routine, have there been any changes. No, no changes to the carpool, use the same routine

as last year. A question was asked about access to powerschool. How do you add a new child to the parent account? Ms. Aman said a parent can't add a student to their account. There is a form that needs to be filled out and turned into the school so the child can be added. Ms. Aman also noted that each 6th grader is given an email address and she strongly encourages parents to allow access for their child since it is all or nothing. She urged any parent that had questions about the technology policy and access to please talk with her before signing the form. Ms. Aman also announced that the county has moved to a 10 point grading scale for all schools grades 6 through 12.

**Approval of the minutes:**

April 28, 2015 minutes-motion made by Megan Kerns and seconded by Carla Popson

May 29, 2015 minutes-motion made by Karen Hammond and seconded by Eva Lee

Treasurer Report: H. Hodges and A Lomax

Last year's final budget was presented. This year's proposed budget is available for review and feedback. It will be approved at the meeting before the September 10th open house.

Jodi Bulmer was there representing the financial review committee. She reported that the committee met August 18th to review the previous year and had made recommendations to the Board.

**President's Report:**

We are still in need of a president, Michelle Miller, vice president will present the president's report. The board has decided to change the structure a bit in order to divide more responsibility between the two vice president positions. If there is any interest please see a board member. There is also a need for additional members on the audit committee.

**Vice President's Report:** none

**Secretary's Report:** none

**Committee Reports:**

Book Fair will be October 5th-9th with open hours during Fall Frenzy on the 9th.

Copy Room Coordinator- Michelle will fill this roll again this year. There is a signup genius to fill in the Monday through Friday morning and afternoon shifts.

Cultural Arts-Michele Moody and Jodi Bulmer have already booked the artist Lenny Newell again this year to complete banners for the 8th grade building. They are also finalizing a date in February for Pop to Rock, formerly Bay Street Brass Works, to perform for the students.

District 3 Board Advisory Council-The first meeting will be September 9th. Ann Rogers will attend these quarterly meetings to report any information pertaining to our school. Parents were urged to attend the September 9th meeting as the new student assignment plan will be presented. There will be a new middle school, Pine Hollow, which could affect West Millbrook families.

Fall Frenzy: Fall Frenzy will be held October 9th and is already in the planning stages. Food trucks are needed still so anyone that has contacts or suggestions should see Jodi or Holly.

Fundraising: This year the PTA will not be doing a catalogue sale. Instead there will be a Fun Run with activities and a DJ. Information on this event will go home September 16th giving two weeks for students

to collect donations. We are hoping to encourage corporate matching. Any donation made goes straight to the PTA and is 100% tax deductible. Passive fundraising chair is changing hands, from Amy Wilson to Becky Shanahan. Please remember to link store cards as this is easy money for the school. There will be some spirit nights planned as well as box top collections. There was also a suggestion to look into the Amazon Smiles program.

Hospitality: The staff welcome back breakfast went well. The next hospitality event will be the pie buffet for the staff in November.

Membership: Ann Rogers reported there are already 95 members just from catapult and schedule walk through. She has membership forms, cards, and volunteer interest forms available.

Newsletter: The newsletter that is emailed out will be moved from a monthly schedule to a bi-monthly.

Publicity: There are several ways the PTA communicates to families. The West Millbrook website has a link to PTA information. We also have a Facebook page and a remind account. The information for subscribing to remind is on the website.

School Pictures: School pictures are scheduled for September 18th. 3-4 volunteers are needed to help that day.

Spirit Wear: Veronica Jackson reported that sales from Catapult were great-\$2300 in cash and check sales not including credit card. She is looking into neon or tye dye options that will be coming soon.

Teacher Reps: Ms. Keane, Ms. Reece, and Ms. Kerns all thanked the PTA for the breakfast, it was very much appreciated. They also report a very smooth start to school in their classrooms.

Upcoming Events and Open Positions are noted on the agenda.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:02 pm