

November 18, 2014, 8:45 am

West PSCO Meeting Minutes

- 1. Treasurer's report:** Copies of the latest and previous treasurer's reports are available at www.westschool.org. Lisa reported that the election concessions brought in just under \$300. The preliminary estimate on the profit from the Harvest Fest was \$1,409. Estimated profit from the citrus fruit sale is around \$900. The citrus fruit is anticipated to be delivered today and will be available tomorrow if not today. Our current fundraiser, the Christmas tree sale is a big project for us, requiring an initial outlay of \$5,500.
- 2. Room parents:** Many classes now have a room parent, but some classes are still in need. If you are interested in doing that for your child's class, please contact Elaine Menotti. If you don't already, find out who the room parent is in your child's class.
- 3. Business outreach:** Catherine Read is coordinating outreach to local businesses, starting with those on 14th Street and later will reach out to Georgia Avenue and the chains. She is making a brochure and making plans for a "West Night" at Highlands, the café on 14th. West will receive ten percent of the profits during the night of this event. She hopes to replicate this event later at other businesses. Contact Catherine at Catherine.read2010@gmail.com if you are interested in joining her.
- 4. Principal's report:** Ms. Outten, Vice-Principal, reported on Edfest. See more below. She also explained DC's new standardized test, the PARCC. DC will no longer use DC CAS. She provided examples of 6th grade reading comprehension questions. PARCC will be online and will require more stamina. It is important for parents to help students, even beginning in Early Childhood. Students are also learning new techniques in math and it will be helpful for parents to work together with the teacher supporting the new ways of learning. If you are interested in tutoring students, contact Principal Caruthers at andria.caruthers@dc.gov or Ms. Outten at kate.outten@dc.gov.
- 5. Early Childhood:** Ms. Diana Perez-Reyes is the Early Childhood Parent Outreach Coordinator for West. She holds workshops every Friday morning on child development and education issues. Handouts are available for those who cannot attend these morning meetings on request and will soon be available on at www.westschool.org.
- 6. Christmas tree sales:** This is a new and ambitious program for us. The PSCO had to put down \$5,500, but we are hopeful that selling Christmas trees and wreaths will be a very profitable fundraiser, as it has been for schools in other neighborhoods. Money raised will be used to buy new technology for the classrooms. Pre-orders have sold about ten percent of the trees and 50 percent of the wreaths. The next two weeks are critical to selling the goods. We need volunteers to help sell the trees on the weekend following Thanksgiving. Flyers that do not mention the in-school competition are available in the main office or by emailing Lisa Jackson at lisa.jackson@westschool.org. If you are interested in helping to sell the trees on the weekend of Nov. 29 and 30, please contact Atta Kiarash at akiarash@solarsolutionsllc.com.



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7. **Family Math Night, Nov. 20, 5:30 to 7:00:** Volunteers are needed to help serve the pizza and other food. Teachers will be coordinating math literacy programs. TD Bank will offer financial literacy training and will provide \$10 for students to open their own savings accounts. Parents recommended that Ms. Caruthers mention that there is a fee for the food, so that people do not assume the meal is free.
8. **Edfest, Nov. 22, 11:00 to 3:00:** Edfest is a large school expo at the armory. West will have a table there. If you are interested in helping to staff the table to do outreach to prospective families, contact Sara Markle-Elder at sarame@mindspring.com. You do not have to have in-depth knowledge of the programs at West, all that is needed is being able to talk about your child's experience here.
9. **Open House: Dec. 4, 9:00 to 10:00:** This is the first open house and the only one to occur prior to the beginning of lottery season. Others will happen in the new year. If you are interested in attending to be able to talk to prospective parents, contact Ms. Caruthers or Sara Markle-Elder at sarame@mindspring.com.
10. **Renovation lobbying campaign:** West was originally slated to be renovated last year and the renovations have been repeatedly postponed. They are now scheduled for 2018. We need to have a campaign to lobby the Mayor, Council, and Central Office so that West gets renovated. Powell campaigned successfully for their renovation. Catherine Read and Bandele McQueen volunteered to work on this. If you are interested in joining them, contact them at Catherine.read2010@gmail.com or bandele_mcqueen@hotmail.com.
11. **Faith organization outreach:** There are many congregations in the neighborhood and some may be interested in supporting our students, particularly those who are in need. West has existing relationships with two neighborhood churches. If you are interested in reaching out to neighborhood churches, please contact Josh at Josh.Hertzberg@westschool.org.
12. **Volunteer coordinator:** We are seeking someone who will help connect volunteers to projects at West. This may be more than one person. If you are interested in serving as a coordinator for a particular area (for example, tutoring) please contact Josh at Josh.Hertzberg@westschool.org.
13. **International night, Dec. 18:** International Night is a potluck holiday party where we celebrate the many cultures at West. Volunteer needs are minimal—just setting up and cleaning up. A coordinator is needed. Contact Josh at Joshua.hertzberg@gmail.com.
14. **Family Game Night, Jan. 22:** This is an idea to have an evening event in January, as we currently do not have anything of this sort planned for January. If you are also interested, contact Josh at Joshua.hertzberg@gmail.com.
15. **Aftercare:** Bandele McQueen is coordinating efforts to provide enrichment programs during aftercare. We are excited about the potential to provide additional activities for the kids' benefit, such as sports, dance, clubs, music, and field trips. Bandele is working with Ms. Louis on ways to bring in programs that are no cost or minimal cost so that everyone can participate. If your child is not currently in aftercare and you would like to



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enroll them, contact Ms. Louis. Contact Bandele with your ideas for enrichment programs.
bandele_mcqueen@hotmail.com.

16. **Photos with Santa:** The PSCO always arranges to do portraits with the students. We need a volunteer to be Santa. Please contact Phillip Parker at pp423@aol.com if you know of someone to be Santa. The time commitment would be about four hours on December 17.
17. **Feedback:** Several parents expressed frustration with older kids being raucous and disrespectful at dismissal time in the afternoon, putting the little kids at risk of being knocked down and irritating parents. We discussed whether parents should feel empowered to say something to the kids. Ms. Caruthers will be informed and additional discussion will be had at the next PSCO meeting.
18. **Future PSCO meetings:** 6:00 pm in the West library: Jan. 22, Feb. 26, March 26, April 23, May 28.