

October 23, 2014

West PSCO Meeting Minutes

Present: Ms. Caruthers, Vanessa Harvey, Kamala Lyon, Anika James, Lisa Jackson, Josh Hertzberg, Diana Perez-Reyes, Abdul-Qudduws Muhammad, Antione Sharpless, Patricia Yousala, Mr. & Mrs. Singh, Monique Phillips Russell, Shannon Ballou, Beatriz Barros, Sara Rivas

1. **Antione Sharpless** from the **Georgia Avenue Family Support Collaborative** discussed the activities that the collaborative runs, and invited parents from West to reach out to them for help solving a range of problems. Ms. Caruthers reported that with their help, West significantly reduced absences last year and met the goal of 95% in-seat attendance.
2. **Diana Perez-Reyes** announced that she will be running weekly workshops on Friday mornings at 9:00am starting 11/7/2014 in the West cafeteria. The focus is early childhood education, but all parents are welcome.
3. Recent events: the **5K / Fun Run** went well, attracting over 60 runners / walkers and raising approximately \$550 for the school. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped manage the event, and all the businesses in our community that sponsored the event.
4. **Principal's Update:** Ms. Caruthers reported on two things:
 - **Goals for the school** for this year are in the process of being developed, and will likely cover five areas: math, writing, suspension rate, and two goals in reading. The goals, once approved by Superintendent Stover and Chancellor Henderson, will be reported at the November PSCO meeting.
 - **Modernization** has been deferred to 2018. Ms. Caruthers recommends that we write our councilmembers. **Josh Hertzberg will find / create a form letter that we can use as a starting point.**

Upcoming Events

5. **Harvest Festival, Thursday October, 30, 5:30 to 7:30:** Harvest Festival is a fun, Halloween-themed party, with food, games, and activities for the kids. Lisa Jackson reported for Carrie Tiller. A planning committee has formed, and the first meeting was held August 27th. Volunteers are needed to help plan and run events at the party. **Additional volunteers are needed, especially for setup beforehand and cleanup afterwards.**
6. **Christmas Tree Sales:** Atta Kiarash is leading the tree sale. The goal is to pre-sell all trees so that we don't need to run a physical sale. Information on the sale can be found at www.westschool.org/christmas. Please reach out to groups that you are involved with in the area (e.g., community groups / churches) and let Atta know where you are advertising.
Action: Contact Atta at akiarash@solarsolutionllc.com to volunteer to help.

Volunteer Needs

7. **Outreach committee:** Josh reported on efforts to distribute flyers in the areas recently added to West's boundaries, that volunteers have signed up for about two-thirds of the blocks.
Action: Please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4cacaf22a0fc1-west>. Flyers for distribution should be available in the front office.

8. **Citrus Fruit Drive:** Lisa Jackson explained that the annual Citrus Drive (selling oranges, grapefruit, and tangelo boxes) runs from October 1 to 24th, but will now be **extended through Thursday, October 30th**. The fruit is delivered to West the week before Thanksgiving. Buyers can also arrange to have the gift boxes shipped anywhere in the country. A few volunteers are needed, including one person to call the buyers to let them know their fruit needs to be picked up and two or three people to assist with accepting the delivery and handing out the boxes to parents picking up their orders. This fundraiser does not usually involve huge participation, but results in approximately \$1,000 for West.
Action: Contact Lisa Jackson at lisa.jackson@westschool.org to help with calls or distribution.

9. **Volunteer Coordinator:** Thank you **Anika James, our new West volunteer coordinator**. Please help by sending your availability, interests, and contact information to her at anikaireland20101989.aj@gmail.com and Josh.Hertzberg@westschool.org.

10. **Election Concessions, Nov. 4:** Thank you again to Anika James for volunteering to run a concessions and/or outreach stand at West on the upcoming Election Day, November 4, 2014 (West is the neighborhood polling place).
Action: contact Anika James at anikaireland20101989.aj@gmail.com to help at this event.

11. **Family Math Night, Nov. 20:** Thank you Beatriz Barros for volunteering to coordinate food concessions at Family Math Night. This is a fun event, in which teachers arrange for games and activities highlighting math for students and the PSCO just handles food sales. Beatriz will need help, especially on the early end with setup.
Action: contact Beatriz Barros at beatrizbarros68@gmail.com to volunteer.

Announcements

12. **The next PSCO meeting time has been changed to November 18 at 8:45am** (was previously November 20 at 6pm). Coffee and pastries will be provided. **Please update your calendars.**

13. **Future PSCO Meetings are at 6:00 on:**
Oct. 23, Nov. 20, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, March 26, April 23, May 28

14. The school will be hosting an open house on 12/4 at 9:00am.