**Worthington Hooker PTA Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 16, 2018**

Call to Order – Ruchi Jain

Welcome and Introductions:

PTA Board members present: Ruchi Jain, President; Hani Mowafi, Treasurer; Heather Jessen, Secretary; Rhonda Roumani & Alana Dlubak, VPs of Events;

Lani Rosen-Gallagher, VP of Programs, Camille Ansley, VP Advocacy.

Staff present: Dr. Robles, Principal, Ms. Ackerman, after school upper program.

April 2018 minutes were approved.

June PTA meeting date – June 14,

Volunteer Recognition: Without volunteers PTA not exist! Thank you to all who helped with these events:

* Spring Fair: So many helped!: Ruchi, Leslie, Alesha, Lani, Phoebe, Kim, Melissa, Mary, Eva, Alana, Heather, Rhonda and more!
* Parent forum: Dr Sacks, Mrs. Drum, and Dr. Robles.
* 8th grade musical: many 8th grade parents, Alana, and Ruchi.
* Teacher recognition luncheon: Alana.

Treasurer’s Report: Hani.

Budget hard copies were available. We walked through budget. Some highlights:

Fundraising goals are close to being met. Right now total expenses are under what was expected. The PTA will end the year with a surplus.

A parent questioned using the profits from the after-school program as a fundraiser for the entire school and suggested examining this. This was discussed. If the snacks are changed to food not provided by the district, costs will increase. Also, currently PTA members put in many volunteer hours running the after-school program. Most programs would have paid staff to do this work. It was agreed it could be stated more upfront that the after-school program is both a service to parents and a fundraiser for the school. All agreed this would be worth discussing at length with the new board in the coming year.

Principal’s and SPMT Report: Dr. Robles.

* The school improvement plan will be presented to the SPMT in June.
* SBAC testing is almost done. Just some make-ups are happening.
* Security forum 10 families attended, but there was good discussion.
* Currently code red drills are on hold while these are being discussed with the district.
* Fire drills occur every month.
* Graduation will be on June 19th at 9 a.m.
* Upcoming events: concerts, International Day, a K-3 talent show on the 24th, Field Day with help from the 8th graders, and the Disney trip for 8th graders.
* Three schools in the district will be closed. This means that staff and administrative staff may be moved. Some positions will be closing and others opening during this transitional time with a new superintendent.

General Discussion about the School District:

Ruchi stated that parents need to understand what is going on in the district. **There is a 25 million deficit for the school district next year**. Hooker will therefore be more dependent on the PTA. For example, the annual art supplies budget is $300 for 450 kids before the PTA contributed funds.

Hopefully, more people will pitch in and contribute monthly and/or volunteer. We don’t yet know next year’s budget. The district will save 4 million by closing three schools and has been removing part-time positions, including tutors.

Hooker does not get magnet funds because it is a neighborhood school. Nor is Hooker a Title One school (75% of families must be low income).

Camille stated that as of June 30th, there are no directors for the Board of Education.

There was an animated discussion about budget cuts, funding, and grants. Ruchi stated we need to find a way to get the whole Hooker community involved. The next PTA board will work on pledging and other forms of funding.

Nominations of 2018-2019 PTA officer candidates: Nominating Committee

The slate for PTA officers is still being worked on.

Camille, Heather, and Ruchi are leaving. Rhonda and Alana are not staying in their positions. Lani prefers to be in charge of only the lower school after-school programs.

Hani will continue as treasurer. Eva will stand for secretary. A discussion followed about people who were interested in the PTA, and might run for office.

Without a president, treasurer, and secretary, the PTA would dissolve and all funds go to the Connecticut PTA society.

We discussed using email more often and more effectively to help parents be aware of Hooker events.

Guest Speaker: Sev Golanov (High Schooler from New Haven Academy):

*How to tackle technology addiction in kids*?

Great presentation with lots of statistics. Suggestions for parents were:

* Create no-phone zones.
* Monitor cell activity.
* Designate phone access periods.
* Forbid driving & texting.
* Reclaim family dinners.
* If all else fails, try cognitive-behavioral treatment.

Parents’ Forum (Q&A):

At the Lower School, recently parents have been concerned about kids not washing hands before lunch. As a result, the principals checked and confirmed that each class regularly uses hand sanitizer as part of the K-2 routine. This routine is strictly followed and is part of the hygiene curriculum. One parent expressed concern that hand-washing at sinks was done less regularly than using hand sanitizer.

Dr. Robles reported that it is not uncommon for parents to bring a sick child to school.

Adjourned: 7:53 PM

Next Meeting: June 14, 6 p.m., Upper School Library.