

Monthly PTA Meeting November 14, 2016

of attendees: 22

- Administration Updates (Principal Gibbs)
 - Visit our Schools update — This event on Saturday 10/15 had low turnout at Whittier and across the district (exceptions where it was combined with additional event such as pancake breakfast or anniversary event). Admin had dialog with Student Placement staff that day about how to reach families outside of Whittier community. Ongoing, Libby hosts tours for families who are interested in our school.
 - IB Evaluation Update — The two-day visit included meetings with teachers, staff, parents and students, and observation in the building. During the breakfast event, Jeff and Jesus sang (hope to make this into a school song). Staff put a lot of effort into making IB present in the building. The full report will be complete in 3-6 months. Immediate feedback received was that Whittier is on target with self-study, needs to strengthen some units of inquiry, assessment policy (self-, group-, and peer-assessment), language policy (more in depth than district language policy), are essential agreements being used consistently (aligns with district climate initiative).
 - Family Meeting Nights — Based on CPEO and Project Empowerment workshops, the first family meeting night will be Thursday 11/17. Norma will provide a recap at the next PTA meeting.
 - Day after election staff briefing — celebrated referendum passing, discussion about promoting safe community for learning.
- Hot Topic: Behavior Policy & Positive School-Wide Engagement (Liz Debrey).
 - When Behavior Support is called it is documents, school looks for patterns. Team also is a circle of support for students with communication within the team. Liz acts as a coach to staff to develop action plans. Liz is also lead on school-wide engagement practices (she is a certified responsive classroom trainer, tying social/emotional development with academic development).
 - Video on Responsive Classroom was presented:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bPL8YiqAwo> School-wide implementation since about 2002. Discussion about school climate, referring to student support as “Support” vs. “Behavior,” resources for teachers from this team. Transition times from class to recess, etc. are guided by “hallway expectations.” Norma and Liz to start new six week data cycle this week, update requested at future PTA meeting.
- Events & Fundraisers
 - Book Fair & Family Reading Night + Project Whittier Nightingale results (Emily)
 - November 17th – Give to the Max Day (Yung)
 - December 13th – Project Whittier Glam Doll Donuts (Paige)
 - December 13th – Staff Appreciation (Paige)
- Treasurer Update (Bill)
 - Funding Requests
 - Budget Update

- Current PTA Volunteer Needs
 - Yearbook Committee — 2-3 volunteers needed Dec-Feb
 - Detail oriented tasks- adding photos/names to page templates and proofreading
 - Training from Ms. Malmgren
 - Spirit Wear Lead
 - PTA Meeting Childcare (adult volunteers 18+)

Next meeting: Monday, December 12, 2016 — 6:30-8:00pm in the Media Center