

DeWitt PTA Meeting

October 19, 2015

Chromebook Covers-Mac Knight

- Mr. Knight bought 130 chromebook covers at 5 Below
- Covers are available at cost (\$4) from Penny Boynton's student need closet
- FCS classes are making felt and fleece covers
- Funding source was the "Cultural Awareness Fund" which is generated from a percentage of school picture revenue and donations
- if parents need to write a check to pay for a cover, make it out to "DeWitt Activities"

Approving minutes of June 11, 2015 meeting

- Motion to accept minutes: Michelle Landers
- Seconded; Minutes accepted

Yearbook-Doreen Smith

- Doreen Smith and the Yearbook club are gathering feedback on a digital yearbook
- Email sent to staff. Feedback has been mixed.
- Parent and student input will be gathered through survey on DeWitt website
- Robocall would alert everyone in DeWitt community about the survey
- A digital yearbook would be accessed via a code and would include features such as video
- In previous years the yearbooks were printed and provided at no or low cost to students.

Afterschool Clubs and Programs-Penny Boynton

- Registration forms for clubs are available at Penny's table in the cafeteria
- 2D Computer Game Design and Cornell Film makers are adding another session in February.
- If students need early morning bus service for morning clubs, best to sign up so transportation knows if they need to add another bus
- Penny Boynton is also the Way 2 Go liaison. She helps students and families figure out how to get where they need to go. She has TCat bus passes
- Homework Club—budget cut in half. Students attend on a volunteer basis on the schedule works for them and their families.
- DeWitt Musical—no director yet. Person in mind did not take the position. Hiring is now the responsibility Stephan Beemish, Director of Fine and Performing Arts. Because of the time constraints, the musical will be in the Spring, the Variety Show in December and there will be no drama offered this year. The drama was dropped because it involves the fewest number of students

Co-President's Report-Michelle Eels and Jackie

- Welcome Back to School picnic night was well attended
- Would be nice to have upperclassmen
- PTA needs a new coordinator for Welcome Back to School Picnic
- Bring Your Family to School Night survey is online now—feedback and suggestions welcome
- Danette Johnson, the coordinator for Bring Your Family to School Night needs someone to shadow her next year
- International Night is Nov. 20 and Tal Cohen is coordinating

Treasurer's Report-George Gao

- Only 40 PTA memberships out of 490 students
- For each PTA membership, \$3 stays at DeWitt. Need to increase membership.
- Sara VanLooy in charge of the listserv
- Budget is still good due to excess from previous year

Principal's Report: Mac Knight

- Welcome Back at Stewart Park was great
- Open House was coordinated by DeWitt administrative interns
- Staffing: still need Special Ed teacher
- Chromebook role out – kids discovering sites, some hiccups
- Working on Parent Forum for Chromebook
- Notices: Parent pick up is still scary. Do not usher children across traffic. Parents need to move up as cars ahead of them leave. Want to create two lanes to exit so parents who have their child can leave. Be attentive. Be patient of other parents. Do not park on Warren Road because this impedes visibility. Do not park on Winthrop.
- Bike theft at DeWitt. Many thefts at Cornell. U-lock best to use.
- Oct. 30 first Dance of the year. \$4 per ticket. 7-9 pm.
- Students may wear Halloween costumes to school. Cannot cover eyes with glasses or masks.
- Oct 30—Teens on the Town. 7th grade. How to use TCat transport. Interdisciplinary lessons math/English. Bike to Cornell and back.
- Nov. 6 picture retake day
- Nov. 12 is first Site Based Council meeting 7-8:00 pm. Two items: 8th grade lounge to offset increased number at lunch time. Motivational—can't wait to be in 8th grade! bean back chairs, TV; TV in lobby which lists meals and activities; Year off to a great start; Reflecting on less is more concept. Moving toward interdisciplinary model so students have fewer teachers and transitions
- Discussion of district Chromebook help desk and Chromebook tools for parents (Google classroom app and extension called Stayfocusd).

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm