

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAURICE HAWK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Thursday, January 12, 2017- 7:30pm

Call to Order: Stephanie Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm

11 people in attendance.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were presented and approved.

There were no committee reports or Principal's report this meeting to allow for ample time for the scheduled panel discussion.

The focus of this General Meeting was on the scheduled panel discussion about WWP School District's Whole Child policy and what it means for elementary students and parents.

- Principal Trish Buell welcomed attendees and introduced the panelists.
- Featured panelists were Marissa Farber, Child Study Team/Learning Consultant, Marla Fruhling, 3rd grade teacher, Maureen Mulhall, 3rd grade teacher, Lee McDonald, K-12 Director of Guidance, Dr. Erin Falk, Assistant Principal and Trish Buell, Principal.
- Discussed what Whole Child means as it is defined by policies, practices and relationships.
- 5 key elements: **Health** (social, emotional, physical), **Safety** (physical and emotionally), keeping students **Engaged, Supporting** students and **Challenging** students.
- At the elementary school level, focus is on building a community in the classroom, building relationships, working on conflict resolution and practicing responsive classroom ideals.
- The panelists stressed the importance of a partnership between parents, teachers and guidance counselors. There must be a two-way established for communication to support each child.
- Panelists stressed the role Whole Child plays at the elementary level in laying a foundation for future developmental goals. In K-3, the focus is on establishing social and emotional development for each child, and identifying early any concerns so teachers, staff and parents can assist as needed.
- To counter the pressure many parents feel to push students to excel at an early age, panelists unanimously agreed that the value for children was in having many experiences at this age and not developing expertise. A growth mindset generally found to be the best indicator of future success – teaching children to fail, communicate, cope and collaborate is more beneficial than trying to find their passion at this age.
- Praise a child's effort, not the outcome.

President's Report:

Stephanie Thomas concluded the panel discussion, giving thanks to all who gave their time and expertise to the discussion.

No new PTA items of business were addressed.

Next meeting is March 2, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. Superintendent Dr. David Aderhold will be discussing Residential Growth and its impact on Maurice Hawk.

Adjournment 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melinda Van Dillen
Secretary, Maurice Hawk PTA