

2014-2015 WSHS PTSA Meeting Minutes November 9, 2015

Board members and staff in attendance:

Tom Ayres, PTSA 1st Vice President
Louise Oliver, 2nd Vice President/ Spartan Fest Basket Auction
Janis Ours, Treasurer/ ANGP
Denise Rogers, Secretary
Michael Mukai, WSHS Principal
Amy Falcon, Above & Beyond/Communications/Twitter
Barb Lazirko-Watters, ANGP/ Web Coordinator
Chris Kroeger, Bylaws-Legislation/ (and after meeting: Spartan Booster Liaison)
Maryann Zegeer, Giant A plus Rewards/ Mini-Grants/ Spartan Fest
Sharon Steele, Hospitality
Stacy Cheshire, Membership
Jennifer Stepetic, Membership
Erin Murphy, PTSA Meeting Hospitality
Robin Lermo, Safety & Health
Elissa Zadrozny, Scholarship for Success
Andy Muir, Director Student Activities/WSHS staff

Students in attendance:

Lauren Budreau, Cassidy Cantrell, Joe Gumph, Cara Kim, Celeste Morris, Natalie Pham

Parents in attendance:

Mearen Bethea, Tracy Goodwin, Jim Gray, Xiomara Grant, MaryEllen Rademacher,

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

(President's) Report: Tom Ayres

Tom briefly outlined the agenda for tonight's meeting.
Suggested attendees review October minutes and vote to approve at end of meeting.
80+ students signed up for ACTs given at WSHS Nov 21st, another opportunity will be offered at future date in January.

2 funding requests proposed at the last WSHS PTSA meeting:
were **approved via electronic vote:**

\$390 to send Peer Mediators to the leadership "Peace" summit at George Mason and \$500 to cover the cost of programs for the Orchestra. WSHS Orchestra invited to perform at the VMEA Conference. (We were originally considering \$1,000 toward the \$5,000 trip, clarification of request modified the contribution request to \$500.)
We will discuss at an upcoming working meeting whether or not these need to be funded through mini-grants.

Treasurer's Report: Janis Ours

Janis highlighted some of the individual WSHS PTSA monthly report figures including income from Membership \$460, Amazon \$80.98 and Spartan Fest \$2653.00 (The year to date Spartan Fest income is over 6,328.00). Our October expenses include Pay Pal fees, Spartan Fest fees and Peer Mediation Conference dues. She distributed a complete, detailed budget form for our review.

Principal's remarks: Michael Mukai

Going to VMEA/ Norfolk with Orchestra

Football team won- going to playoffs

Girls Volleyball team did not lose a single game in conference

Meeting with leadership classes and groups from each grade level

Practice field now a blacktop

Requested a (post-Thanksgiving) meeting for updates on timeline for construction

Students (especially Juniors) concerned about parking/ asking if there will be student parking next year 2016-2017

Answer / solution will be to ride the bus. There will not be parking.

Hopefully parking available in Jan 2016.

12 quads = 40 classrooms out there. Maybe some moving out there in March 2016.

Regarding construction, Math and English will likely move out first, so they can add the 3rd floor- where science will be located. Science will move just once- into new space.

No movement on house on corner. Asking price still \$800,000. We'll see...house on market and unoccupied for last 11 years.

Need practice spaces for Spring Sports. Winter sports started today. XC Girls and one male runner made it to States (Will race Friday 11/13 at 11am The Plains, VA) Mr. Mukai was at Regionals. Will hope to attend, but tough b/c middle of school day.

Stacy Cheshire asked: Will quads go on (recently paved) lot? There and on main lot and on tennis courts. Moat digging necessary to keep run off from going into ground water- so quads will be placed wherever they can be- that works with the system. In addition to classrooms there will be construction (trailers). Construction materials will be positioned in areas where students won't need to cross paths to access quads. We'll see. PTSA may be looking for parking spots at local churches. Question posed: Could we (WSHS) lease lot (on corner) and use it for additional parking? No, not able to. Insurance issues would prevent school from doing that. Elizabeth Schultz/ Pat Herrity trying to work out/negotiate sale- Brady R. involved too, if construction bid out for less something may be possible. Opportunities to expand campus are rare. WSHS has 3rd smallest plot of any H.S. in county. Denise Rogers suggested we (WSHS parents) need to be "squeaky wheels" and let Elizabeth Shultz/ Pat Herrity know that we are in support of obtaining lot to expand campus. Robin Lermo asked: Seats on bussing? Are there enough? Answer: Will add routes & second busses if needed- to accommodate transportation to school during construction. Discussion ensued Free bus FX Connector M-F, all day pass available. If interested, contact Ms. Shannon Matheny (assistant principal). Suggestion to put info. (about FX Connector) on our website.

We can gauge interest in the first movie "Race to Nowhere" to determine if interest in showing 2nd film in series "Beyond Measure". Have not negotiated \$2,500 for 2nd movie in series- option to charge \$15 admission fee. Admin. team purchased books for second movie theme.

Grading meetings still being run. Looking at equality/ weighted homework. Changes ahead/ likely going to Trimesters. Question posed: Would trimesters be an option for 2016-2017. Answer: Probably year after next. Question posed asking Mr. Mukai how the trimester would work. Explanation included comparisons between the (current) four quarter/ 2 semester school program and the trimester program. Currently students have 7 classes or 14 units of class. In our current program, students attend half of these classes each day. The 7 classes meet over a two day time period. The trimester proposed program could be set up as a six class per day or 5 class per day program. If the program were to have 5 classes per day, this equates to 15 units of class. (An increase over the current units of class.) In a trimester program, students would attend all 5 (or 6) classes in a single school day. Time is saved in transitions. The trimester reduces the budget because 13% fewer teachers are needed. For more information on trimesters go to link: trimesters.org.

Mr. Mukai would like to see elimination of single formula for % grades

Fairfax County has 190,000 in the system

Analogy: artists/chefs vs. line cooks

(Teachers are chefs not line cooks- they don't need County's single formula for grading.)

Denise Rogers asked if the new grading system we have been hearing about will be put in place next year as pilot program at WSHS. Answer: One class (at WSHS) to do this style grading next year 2016-2017.

The new grading system is Mr. Mukai's dream.

From the trimester discussion and the grading discussion, the bottom line is that they are county decisions. The comment of some of the discussion was that individuals should do their own study and analysis. Tom Ayres wrapped up the discussion by saying that if individual members are interested in taking one position or another they should contact their elected representatives or the school board on their own. We have not yet decided to take a position as the PTSA, but we will be looking into it.

Reports of the Standing Committees

Membership: Stacy Cheshire

Stacy reported that we have 664 PTSA members. 5 added at Spartan Fest.

Maybe next time we should sell popcorn (to attract people to our table).

Discussion ensued: (many) attendees didn't know what Spartan Fest was/

How can we improve next year?

Student remarked that we could bring it to Leadership class and use P.A. System for several weeks leading up to the event- to define Spartan Fest for the students.

Maryann Zegeer remarked that Casey Grubbs is the Spartan Fest liaison.

Spartan Fest: Maryann Zegeer & Louise Oliver

Maryann reported that Spartan Fest's biggest success was our student volunteers. Vendors and attendees were complimentary about our WSHS students. We had 70 vendors (vs. 32 last year). Brittany Branch from leadership was especially helpful. Requests for volunteers went out in KITS and word of mouth. We had great adult volunteers as well. Feedback received that the extra planning was appreciated. Vendors commented on the great traffic (no admission fee) that we had for the event. Students/ Clubs in back lot. VA State Police brought their Distracted Driver simulator. FX County (West Springfield) Fire Department brought an Ambulance and Fire Truck. Fire Department interested in incorporating Spartan image into their logo. Both Police and Fire would like a greater partnership with our school/ Drivers Ed Advertising for the event included:

- Flyers: distributed/ area businesses/ area Craft Fairs
- (Printed) Road Signs
- (Printed) Banner
- Hand painted banners/signage
- Art & Craft web sites
- Flyers: hand delivered/ windshields

Louise Oliver reported: We had over 50 items for the Silent Auction which brought in over \$1,700. PTSA portion of Spartan Fest brought in over \$6,000.

ANGP: Barb Waters & Janis Ours

65 tickets sold so far. Plus 21 earned free through Jiffy Lube Live volunteering. There are 83 students registered. Earned \$162.34 from Spartan Fest and sold many cards, blankets, yard signs & tickets. Price of tickets goes up from \$75 to \$85 on Dec 1. All committee chair positions filled except for clean up and pack up. Still looking for Junior/ Sophomore/ Freshman parents to shadow so they will be ready for their year. Next ANGP meeting Dec 14 at 7pm (The ANGP will be June 17 at Lee District Park.)

Hospitality: Sharon Steele

Holiday luncheon date set: Dec 14 from 3-5pm (set up starting @ 1:30pm)
Met w/ Sherri Braxton, she suggested Melissa Williams from Hannah's catering
Will reach out for donations: desserts and gift cards to raffle
Will use Sign Up Genius for volunteers/ contributions/ donations
Planning to send KIT messages at the 4 week and 2 week mark
Will meet with Maryann Zegeer to learn about suggestions from last year's event
(Barb Watters remarked: Paisano's flyer with catering specials received in inbox)

Mini Grants: Maryann Zegeer

Applications went out to teachers.

Once deadline is reached, Mr. Mukai to look them over.

Mini Grant Committee needed, not yet established.

Committee reviews applications approved by administration.

Board will decide how much to award (at separate working meeting).

Several applications have already been received they include Theater and Speech.

(Mini Grants: awarded to WSHS teachers who have great ideas to improve education).

Scholarship for Success: Elissa Zadrozny

Reported on the Documentary Film: "Race to Nowhere".

Length 85 mins.

Film discusses pressures/ over-scheduling of students today
including physical illness induced by stress

WSHS has a license to show the film

Planning December 7th showing in WSHS Auditorium, 7:30pm*

\$5 charge or \$3 plus a single canned good (for food drive)

(Admission charge will be allocated toward scholarships)

Feeder schools (elementary/ middle/ secondary) will be invited

We can gauge interest in the first movie to determine if interest in showing follow on film
"Beyond Measure"

****Following a brief PTSA general membership meeting (maybe 7:00-7:20pm) to approve minutes and cover a few necessary points.***

Tom Ayres remarked: We should plan a working PTSA meeting around the movie date.

We should put "Race to Nowhere" ad on Electronic Bulletin Board

Approval of Minutes:

Chris Kroeger made a motion to accept the October 2015 minutes as written

Erin Murphy seconded the motion, motion accepted

Bylaws: Chris Kroeger

(The VA PTSA had requested input on two bond issues/ Proposed legislation)

Chris reported that Survey Monkey worked beyond his wildest dreams.

100+ votes were received on the bond issues/ Proposed legislation

3 adults and over a dozen kids helped (to advocate for bonds) on election day

Meeting Adjourned:

Louise Oliver made a motion to adjourn

Joe Gumph seconded the motion, motion accepted 7:58pm

The next meeting will take place on December 7th in Spartan Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Rogers

Recording Secretary