

Minutes
West Springfield HS PTSA Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm with the following board members in attendance:

Bob Brinson, PTSA President	Kathleen Whitley, ANGP
Chris McFadden, 1 st Vice President	Stacy Cheshire, Commemorative Bricks
Kelley Pinzon, 2 nd Vice President	Jenny Zerefa, Membership
Lindy Bunch, Treasurer	Jeanna Smith, Membership
Janis Ours, Secretary	Jeannine Brown, Mini-Grants
Michael Mukai, Principal	Robin Lermo, Safety & Health
Juliet Neal, ANGP	Jim Carley, Sidewalks/Baccalaureate
Angie Basham, ANGP	Tahnee Blauser, Teacher of the Year
Tana Bailey, ANGP	

And visitors/members Tina Williams, Carrie Hane, Ruby Sidhro, Gina Evans, Nilda Lopez, Karen Lind, Max Cheshire, Alisa Shipley, Nancy Earle, Ana Elinam, and others.

Principal's Comments-Michael Mukai

Friday was our kickoff for Homecoming week. The Mars Co. provided 2,500 Milky Way candy bars with a positive message on them for our Space Theme and is also paying for a positive mural for the school. We have a football game against Fairfax HS on Friday. The Homecoming Dance is from 8pm-11pm. We have different rules for decorating this year. The floats will be judged by feeder school Principals. Golf played in Districts this last week. Some seasons are just wrapping up. VMEA will be at the Homestead this year. Spartanfest was a positive event. Design & Construction helped get the vendors set up. There was competition from the Occoquan Craft Fair that weekend. We will pick a different weekend next year. PTSA Mini-Grants will be supported by the funds we made at Spartanfest.

Presentation on the Mold Found in Trailers

Tom Vaccarello, Director, Safety & Security

Richard Michelback, Environmental Health Specialist

Doug O'Neill, School Safety Coordinator

The visitors from the Office of Safety & Security attended to inform us about the mold issue and answer questions. The Office of Safety and Security and Design and Construction are both involved in this process because we are under construction. We put together the raw data. When it comes to mold we have to qualify that and interpret it. Mr. Mukai did not have raw data until 9/20.

Doug O'Neill: Molds are everywhere. There is no such thing as a mold-free environment. Molds do cause allergic reactions to those that have allergies to them. Most of the molds we are finding are common household molds, not toxic molds. We look at indoor to outdoor ratios. We have only found basic molds. The molds need nutrients (like from hands), spores (which are everywhere), and water for a long period of time/relative humidity. When we find them we clean. We find them when they are visible, or when there is an odor. We clean when we find them. There isn't any federal standard for mold.

Richard Michelback: We want to make sure that there is no more mold inside than there is outside. We go in and clean. Nine times out of ten we only have to clean once. In Sparta, we had to go in a couple of times for some trailers. We go back and do a visible inspection and gather samples and send them off to the lab to figure out the next steps. Not all trailers were affected. We had molds growing on desks, wood walls, some bookcases, and under desks. We did air sampling, didn't like the numbers and cleaned again. We cleaned again over Labor Day Weekend. The numbers continued to drop. The numbers were all good after that. Then we did some additional cleaning.

We used a bleach solution. We will not have another relative humidity situation again because we have cleaned HVAC units and replaced desks. We will put together reports to make sense of some of the numbers and put them together in tables and have it ready in a couple of weeks. We need to see that our cleaning was effective.

Michael Mukai: If your student is sick from the mold and doesn't tell the school know please let us know and we will check the classrooms to see if we find any. We will clean it and take care of it.

There were additional questions from parents about the mold issue which were answered by the presenters.

Construction Update-Becky Brandt

West Springfield got the auxiliary gym back today. It has natural lighting, a wood floor, and a full-sized basketball court. We have a new boys health and PE locker room with combination locks on them, vented lockers, a shower room and bathrooms. We got new coaches offices and a wrestling room. The big Phase 1 move-in is on schedule planned for over winter break. The brand new science rooms will open; the classrooms will be 1/3 bigger. We will get a new library, admin wing, and we'll have about 30 additional new classrooms that will open after winter break. We will then lose the front end of the academic wing that will be ready for fall of 2018.

After winter break, the next changeover is the auditorium at the end of March. The drama department will be able to do their spring musical. We will then lose the football locker room after the season is over. We will lose the main gym after the sports that use them are over to be opened in the fall.

President's Comments-Bob Brinson

These kind of meetings is what your PTSA is for. In November we will have information on PSAT's and SAT's. In December, law enforcement liaisons will come in. ANGP is set up in the back of the room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

The next PTSA Meeting will be held on November 13, 2017 in Spartan Hall.