



# Final Minutes

Prepared by April Duncan, Secretary

*General Membership Meeting held 01/12/2021*

## **WSHS PTSA MEETING MINUTES**

January 12, 2021, 7:30 PM Virtual Zoom Meeting, List of Attendees on Page 3.

The meeting was opened on time by Richard Ewell, President. A quorum was present. Richard Ewell welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Karen Nordai reviewed information on how to join the PTSA and the benefits of membership.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Maggie Ewell presented the Audit Committee report. Maggie explained that the purpose of the audit and how it was conducted. Maggie explained that the audit was conducted based on bank statements because there were no other records to use. Maggie reported that there was no unusual activity found during the audit. It was also explained that recommendations were made about future expenditures and record keeping.

The audit report was approved as submitted.

### **Guest Speaker: Laura Jane Cohen**

Richard Ewell introduced Principal Mukai and requested that all discussion during the meeting remain collegiate and positive in nature.

Principal Mukai welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and introduced School Board Member Laura Jane Cohen.

Ms. Cohen opened the floor to questions and spoke briefly about the status of the budget for 2021-2022. She reported that as today, FCPS expects to receive approximately \$84 million from the federal government under the CARES Act for certain types of expenses such as technology or mitigation of learning shortfalls. She reported that these funds could not be used for staff pay, bonuses or other recurring expenses.

Ms. Cohen also spoke about various other items before the board for review and budget consideration such as restraint/seclusion policy, training of personnel, pilot programs, and advanced academic resource teachers at middle and elementary schools. She also indicated Young Scholars as a program that would receive possible additional funds.

Ms. Cohen discussed return to school changes and updates to Groups 1-4 and the metrics required to look at returning to school. February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 is the planned date for the Superintendent to have a full plan presented for returning to school. Ms. Cohen reported that vaccine clinics will be held for teachers and staff and that they are optimistic about being able to vaccinate all staff rapidly. The first INOVA vaccine clinics will begin on Saturday. Ms. Cohen explained that the current vaccines are not rated for children under 16 and that she anticipates that FCPS will need to continue to use 6 feet social distance measures in the classroom, per direction of the Fairfax County Health Department which means that

getting all students back in class 5 days a week full time is not feasible yet. She discussed the question of whether FCPS children can be required to get the vaccine before coming back to school full time. That action is something that is addressed at the state level.

Ms. Cohen discussed the Virtual Campus model of schooling and the likelihood of using that in the future. Ms. Cohen took some questions from the chat window regarding budget, timeline, loss of students in FCPS due to withdrawal.

Mr. Mukai spoke about the preparations going on in the school from removing and storing desks, to laying down traffic patterns for the hallways, to re-organizing the cafeteria due to the need to remove masks while eating.

Ms. Cohen talked about the use of intervention groups and bringing them in to work with special needs, emotional challenges, and IEPs. They discussed getting smaller groups in earlier to begin working with them as soon as possible.

Ms. Cohen talked about the grading changes implemented. There was discussion about the 'no-mark' versus 'no-zero'. Mr. Mukai spoke about mastery of subject matter without a negative impact on GPA or transcript. Mr. Mukai shared that the largest increase in grade changes was actually more A's at WSHS. He shared that there were 500 more D's and F's than the prior year but that overall many kids were doing well. Mr. Mukai advocates for reporting out mastery of standards, rather than grades.

Ms. Cohen said that Dr. Braband is going to be coming up with some additional changes and recommendations for grading. Some things considered are additional leniency in Pass/Fail marks, and removal of the minus on the grading scale. Ms. Cohen also discussed offering Student Town Halls and other opportunities to receive student feedback including email.

Ms. Cohen reiterated that we are all in this together and doing our best to figure out how to move forward in a safe manner. She indicated that she feels there are no perfect answers. She assured those in attendance that she hears and understands their concern and issues and that the board is working hard to take care of students and keep them and staff safe.

## **Other**

Richard Ewell shared information on getting the PTSA newsletter in the future – which will be by subscription only.

Stephanie Ludington talked about the need for volunteers for administrative things and events coordination.

A reminder was given about the Rice & Spice fundraiser on Thursday with funds going toward a student social event.

## **Reports**



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## Treasurer

The treasurer reported our balance and that there was no recent activity in the account.

## Clerk

The minutes from the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Young shared some updates from Student Services on programming and events coming up including Curriculum Night and a 10<sup>th</sup> Grade parent coffee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

## **Attendee List:**

Richard Ewell  
April Duncan  
Jennifer Blazewick  
Karen Nordai  
Krissy Houchins  
Kristina Swatek  
Katie Swatek  
Bruce Swatek  
Maggie Ewell  
Mike Lamb  
Christy Hudson  
Anne McEvoy  
Jennifer Hall  
Sara Root  
Sara Rodriguez Golden  
Jennifer Hood  
Tegest Tesfaye  
Chante Clarkson  
Cynthia Rogers  
Debbie Gaydos  
Katrin Motk  
Glenn Klassa  
Jo-Anne Sears  
Kerry Powers  
Jeanette Egerstrom  
Stephanie Ludington  
Diane Dickerson  
Juliet Neal



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Jenna Barron  
Tricia Martin  
Venus Harper Shannon  
Theresa Walker  
Stephanie Mcguffin  
Pearl Kim

Laura Jane Cohen, School Board Member  
Michael Mukai, Principal, WSHS  
Deonte Young, Counselor