

Draft Minutes

October 8, 2024; General Membership Meeting

Prepared by Danielle Boykin, Secretary

All documents up for membership approval are available at www.wshsptsa.net

7:30 pm	Welcome/Call to Order
7:35 PM	<p>Update from Principal Mukai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come join us for upcoming sports events, dance competitions,• Tomorrow is SAT/PSAT day, arrive to your designated room by 8am• October – keep an eye out for upcoming events, it’s a fun filled month• Alumni Hall event coming up, if you’d like to nominate Distinguished Alumni, or grads who worked for WSHS at one point, please reach out!• VADOE – changing cert process for schools, greater emphasis on students taking career prep to be ready for post-secondary careers, ASFAB offers career battery test for students, offers great insights, we are now the largest military associated schools in Fairfax County• Question around supporting special needs students – they have case managers, counselors, can reach out to both for support and guidance
7:40pm	<p>Hannah Luger – Student Leadership Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Leadership Class, they are affiliated with student gov’t, gives students a chance to take classes for leadership if they didn’t get elected, gets to work on events, supports special education, tightly affiliated with Buddies Club, plans Homecoming events, working on Spartan Fest, branching out to talk to other students, bring in the community, work a lot with military families, spreading awareness of events and ways to reach students, social media, worked a lot on advertising for homecoming, had an amazing pep rally, football game and dance, started initiatives to give back, partnered with National Honor Society to clean up after games, custodians are unappreciated, and that helps, currently forming 2nd quarter committees, Spirit Week during the holidays, brought back powder puff this year as well
7:45 PM	<p>Board Reports & Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership report and request for new members – 382 members, goal is to get to 405, please encourage and invite people to join, dues go to advocacy, and enable us to do more within the school and our community

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming events: Parent social Friday 5-6:30pm Locals Tacos & Tequila; stock the breakroom (October 25th) – SignupGenius and Amazon wish list will go out this Friday, need donations and people to volunteer to help stock the break rooms • Reflections program kickoff – Hosted by the National PTA, this year’s theme is “accepting imperfection,” there are 6 categories, submissions are due 11/30 at midnight, need judges for the program, hoping to have an Art Night at the school for everyone to showcase their submissions, details to follow • Approval of minutes from September meeting – APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
7:55 PM	<p>Panel discussion: "Life after WSHS: How should I be preparing now?" featuring: Justine Worthington, Senior Assistant Director for Visits & Events at The George Washington University; Paul Steiner, Administrator of Adult & Community Education for FCPS; Facilitated by Jeff Toomer, WSHS Career and College Counselor; With additional advice on Fairfax County career pathways from Liz Alstatt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSHS – the majority of our students go to college, 88%, 12% do other things, military, gap year, or go straight into the workforce • ACE – facilitate Behind the Wheel courses for 5500 high school students annually, provide career credentialing courses, skilled trade apprenticeship, if you are 18+, HS graduate, need 8000 hours on the job, take a course for every year that you are pursuing those hours (4 courses), can earn while you learn, classed are done through ACE, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, carpentry, heavy equipment operation, and a few others, building welding program, can start by registering for a course, and can pursue employment from there, the best part is that it’s a subsidized program that results in minimal out of pocket costs • College Application Process – Justine recently visited WSHS, spoke with students about the process, process is simple, even if it feels complicated, showcase yourself, why are you a great fit for the school, transcripts are important, (where did you start in 9th grade, how did you progress, what is your trajectory, are you taking advantage of what is offered to you at your school), activities section includes what you do when you’re not in class, (athletics, clubs, part time job, babysitting siblings, it can look different for everyone), the essay fills in the gaps, (writing style, and a chance to hear the student’s voice in their writing), and the last piece is letters of recommendation (preferably a teacher and a counselor). Admissions Counselors are looking for reasons to say YES to an applicant, give them that reason!
8:40 PM	Adjourned

NEXT MEETING: November 19