



WWHS General PTSA Meeting
September 25, 2018
Walt Whitman High School – 7:00 p.m.



Call to Order - 7:05 by Mercedita Roxas-Murray

- I. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes. Verbal Motion. All present in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Minutes from May General Meeting are approved.
- II. Treasurers Report - JianPing: JP provided a brief overview of the process - budget is proposed by PTA, adopted by membership.
 - Last Budget was adopted May 2018, and as it is a working document, it was revised and approved by Board on Sept 21.
 - There are two budgets – one budget for the PTA and one for Post Prom. Two major areas of income come from membership and from Spiritwear. The Post Prom budget is separate and will be explained further by the Post Prom committee.
 - Per the 2018-2019 Budget Overview (handout at meeting) – As of today, PTA account has approx. 50,000 in cash. Post Prom just under 20,000.
 - Challenge to spend it wisely and for our community. Encourages all to look at website and the process for how to apply for funds. Budget overview
 - Mercedita reviews this and how the budget is divided up. Mercedita requests those in attendance to vote on the changes made since May. Verbal Motion made, seconded, none opposed, none abstained. Budget approved. (See handout)
- III. Reports:
 - a. Membership: Lizzie and Kim - Request to join the PTA if haven't already. Explains how to join – AtoZ. There are currently 509 members. 392 student. 49 extra directories. 148 donated extra funds for PTA. Critical for the PTA programs.
 - b. President's Report: Mercedita - Required to make sure our bylaws are approved in timely fashion – they are due in October – will be receiving a link to the recommended bylaws.
 - c. Principals Report: Dr. Dodd – Brief introduction of the grade administrators.
 - Field installation: A lot of rain – has set us back. Won't be available for homecoming game this weekend. Installers – rain since July has significantly delayed the whole process. Shooting for play on the field by Oct 5. Question from audience about the track – the track expected to be completed Summer 2019. Track won't be available at all until that time. AD Wetzell will continue to send out field updates.

- School addition construction project: - 27 million dollar project to include additional 30 classes, auxiliary gym, common space for kids, and new HVAC. Request for parent voices at two upcoming meetings – Oct 23, 3:00, and Nov 5, 7:00 p.m. for community input. When this project is done the school will be ready for the second addition for 2700 kids. The new construction slated to start next fall – projected completion Fall 2021.

-NAACP representative – Angela Hart-Edwards – underserved kids in our community – how to get those kids access to college and college tours. Ms. Hart-Edwards has proposed an idea to create a partnership between Whitman Minority Scholars, the PTSA and the NAACP – to provide resources and information to get them support they need. More to come regarding this idea.

d. Committee Reports

- i. Jody Aucamp: VP of Volunteers – 42 volunteers on 19 committees. Every committee filled. Two programs still need adult input – Vike2Vike tutoring – need an adult super. Media Center needs volunteers.
- ii. Cluster : Yvonne VanLowe – 1) MCPS Bd of Ed has approved a plan to excuse kids who want to participate in community activism. See MCPS website for more info. It is out for comment. 2) Bd also approved distribution of condoms in all high schools – rising rates of STDs. ALL high schools. School nurse – to distribute upon request.
- iii. Students with accommodations: Yvonne - Wednesday Oct 3 – regarding navigating special ed at Whitman and spec ed opportunities at WWHS.
- iv. Post prom: Claudia – Purpose to keep kids in a safe, alcohol free place after prom. Gym will be transformed with the theme Whitstock – kids come directly from the dance and stay until 4-5 a.m. 200 volunteers to assist. Several fundraisers for post prom will be coming up - including Capital Steps which will be Oct. 23 – encouraged to buy tix or otherwise support. Also there will be dine outs.

e. Standing Committee Updates:

- i. NAACP/Angela – not present.
- ii. CAC/Allison – CAC events and dates listed on website or a booklet outside meeting.
- iii. Directory – 1. You get a directory if you are a member if the PTSA, 2) you have to opt in to be in the directory. Must opt in.
- iv. Whitworld: Sara/Chihoko - Whitworld is part of PTSA – Purpose is to connect international and newcomers in a

friendly environment, those getting settled in Bethesda, help to get to know each other Events planned to facilitate understanding and appreciation of other cultures which are a vital part of our community. Whitworld is requesting increase in budget due to increase in the number of members since last year. Most are held in people's homes. Host may need help with drinks, food and serving products. Eases the pressure of the events. There were 30 events last year. Book club, Cookery club, language and culture club, Visits to museums and galleries, end of the year barbeque, etc.

- v. New to Whitman: Lucy – Encourage all to join Whitworld. Friendships, experiences and navigate the school and community through meeting others. Wants to help others to ease their transition. Lucy makes herself available to help answer questions. Whitman Family Network – forms to complete – available at the meeting or from Lucy directly.
- vi. SWAC – see above.
- vii. Staff appreciation: Claudia – Staff appreciated is to provide lunches once a month for all staff at Whitman. All donated by parents. Theme each time. Easy way to give back to the staff and teachers and is very appreciated by the staff and administration.
- viii. Stressbusters: Mimi – Invitation to come to the events. Follow on twitter for event info. PEP – parent encouragement program – there are six scheduled for this year. Creating an oath of wellness – for children, teachers and parents and what they can do to stay well and to do for others. Encouraging everyone to take some kind of oath about own and others' wellness.

IV. New Business: Mercedita

- a. Upcoming events – listed on handout. Event at WJ – our next meeting will be there with speaker to follow.
- b. Questions/concerns – 1) regarding the River Rd crossing – one attendee said crosswalk will be a push button and a red light – full functioning traffic – the installment is delayed but should be installed this fall. 2) how kids get involved in Stressbusters – kids come to events, oath of wellness is the way to get the kids involved. Dog days at Whitman as well. Mindfulness will take place in the classroom and possibly a club.

Adjourned 7:58