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| **WHS PTA General Meeting** | Wednesday, 1/19/22 5:30 |
| **Attendees:**  *Board*: Peter Butler, Laura Daniels, William Hawkins, Vicki Grubaugh  *Principals/Teachers/Staff*: Ms. DeFabio, Mrs. Ackerman, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Forsa  *Parents*: Claire Rowe, Alana Dlubak, Feng Jiang, Lillie Chambers, Aliya Stewart, Sandra Enimil  Wendy Tsung, Kim, Nicholas Janiga | |
| **Minutes:** Vicki Grubaugh | |
| **Agenda:**  We are so glad you are here! 😊  Please note the following:  ‐ We welcome all voices and encourage active participation during our meetings. To allow for as many voices as possible, we ask that each participant talk for no more than 2 minutes at a time after being recognized by the chair. ‐ Our goal is to make all PTA meetings no longer than 1 hour because we all have so much on our plates!  ‐ Meetings are every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm unless otherwise posted.  Agenda I. Warm welcome to all and introductions (Peter)  II. Ice Breaker‐ How did you or your child spend the snow day on 1/7?  III. Teacher Representative Updates  IV. PTA Updates: ‐ Ice Skating (Vicki) ‐ Virtual Talent Show (Veronica)  V. Financial Report (William)  VI. Principal’s Report (Mrs. Gethings and Mrs. Clarino)  VII. New Business: ‐ Whitney Avenue Advocacy  VIII. Motion to Adjourn Thank you so much for coming tonight! We value your presence and hope to see you again!  Next meeting: Wednesday, February 16 at 5:30pm | |

1. **Warm welcome to all and introductions** (Peter)
   1. Snow Day ice-breaker
2. **Gratitude (all)** 
   1. Ms. Forsa and Ms. Rose - ASP Program - working so hard to create a wonderful program used by 98 families!
   2. NHPS - for the weekly testing program
   3. School Community - working so well together with all the challenges we are facing with pandemic after the return to school after the break
   4. 1st grade - coordinated and sponsored breakfast for lower school teachers/staff the day before holiday break
3. **Teacher Representative Updates**
   1. **Ms. Morrison (7th & 8th Grade)** - Back in the swing of being back in person. Rite of Passage projects - History Day, Science Fair prep. Math - focus on real-world application - ratios, percentages, proportions - i.e. scaling recipes; designing a ski mountain based on their understanding of slope (algebra)
   2. **Ms. DeFabio (3rd Grade)** - Endangered/threatened animal presentations based on learning the proper way to research - gallery exploration, Culture Heritage Projects; Town Meeting - sharing about holidays that they celebrate; Common Ground - Sylvia has them to outdoor activities in all weather - planting bulbs, exploring sunchokes, migration; coming soon: exploring non-fiction, new novel The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane; The Wax Museum project
4. **Financial Report** (William)
   1. Just under $70K - healthy budget, mostly funded by the ASP program
   2. Please contact William if you have any questions about the PTA financials
5. **PTA Updates:**
   1. We are continuing to try and coordinate monthly events to build community among families, despite the challenges with omicron and ongoing pandemic **Events/opportunities to connect/volunteer**
      1. Ice Skating - dates coming
      2. Virtual Talent Show - Veronica - TBD
      3. IRIS Run for Refugees - event coordinated around the race TBD, but plan to run or walk with the WHS team!
         1. We have surpassed our WHS Team goal of $500 for an amazing local cause!
         2. Sunday, February 13 - sign up here! <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/NewHaven/IRISRunforRefugees>
   2. WHS Swag - we are due to update our collection…or get our first item as new families! Is any parent interested in taking leader, partnering with the Board to get this going? If so - please reach out: [officers@whspta.org](mailto:officers@whspta.org)
   3. Do YOU have an idea for an event, activity, or fundraiser? We want to hear from you! [officers@whspta.org](mailto:officers@whspta.org)
   4. Yale Child Study Center reached out to the Board, interested in possibly delivering a presentation to the PTA parents and teachers about anxiety children are experiencing in these times and the services that they provide. Vicki working to schedule soon.
6. **Principal’s Report** (Ms. Forsa)
   1. Ms. Forsa shared slide show highlighting what is happening in the classrooms in both schools on behalf of Mrs. Gethings and Ms. Clarino - the highlight that just made all us all smile was the Town Hall video of the lower school singing “This Little Light of Mine” as part of their MLK celebration.
   2. Staffing updates: Gail Griffin, lower school secretary, retired and upper school drama teacher resigned
7. **Whitney Ave Construction - Advocacy Opportunity** 
   1. See the article in the New Haven Independent for the details on the proposal to make Whitney Ave safer https://www.newhavenindependent.org/article/whitney\_ave\_traffic\_calming\_plans
   2. William attended the public meeting, many concerns were expressed by neighbors about diverting traffic from Whitney to side streets
   3. Primary concern for WHS - the proposal includes bringing Whitney down to one lane - which could cause serious problems at drop-off and pick-up
   4. We have heard that the school is to be consulted in the plans - but as of last week, Mrs. Gethings had not yet be contacted.
   5. There is an opportunity for us as parents to ensure the needs of WHS are heard, expressing concerns about making an already sub-optimal traffic situation at drop-off and pick-up worse. Parents are encouraged to contact our mayor, Justin Elicker, at [JElicker@newhavenct.gov](mailto:JElicker@newhavenct.gov) and WHS’s ward alder - Kimberly Edwards, at [Ward19@newhavenct.gov](mailto:Ward19@newhavenct.gov)
8. Motion to Adjourn Claire Rowe, second WIlliam