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| **WHS PTA General Meeting** | Wednesday, 9/15/21 5:30 |
| **Attendees:**  Board: Peter Butler, Laura Daniels, William Hawkins, Vicki Grubaugh, Veronica Douglas-Givan  Principals/Teachers: Mrs. Gethings, Ms. Alden, Mrs. Ackerman, Ms. Konicki, Ms. Cavanaugh, Ms. Light  Parents: Ben Simon, Rashima Misra, Patricia Small, Aliya Stewart, Crispin Stewart, Omur Kula-Capan, T. Gapan, Carlos Mora, Heather Stuar, Beverly Greene, Hope Metcalf, Shin Lin, Arnaud Marlier, Ilana Richman, Claire Rowe, Alana Blubak | |
| **Minutes:** Vicki Grubaugh | |
| **Agenda:**  Agenda  I. Warm welcome to all and introductions (Peter)  II. Gratitude (Peter)  III. PTA 21-22- (Peter)  IV. PTA Budget Proposal (William)  V. Principal’s Report (Mrs. Gethings)  VI. Updates:  - ASP (William)  - Room Parents (Vicki)  - Member Registration Drive (Laura)  VII. What’s to come  - Directory (Vicki)  - Calendar of Events  - Monthly Events- please sign up  VIII. Open Comment/New Business  IX. Motion to Adjourn | |

1. Welcome and introductions (Peter)
   1. Meet your 2021-2022 Board: Peter Butler, president; William Butler, treasurer; Laura Daniels, VP Advocacy; Vicki Grubaugh, Secretary; Veronica Douglas-Givan, Secretary
   2. Introduce yourself to someone you don’t know (all!)
2. Gratitude (Peter, all)
   1. ASP – Ms. Forsa and Ms. Rose worked SO hard to get the program off the ground!
      1. Mrs. and Clarino – supporting and worked with NHPS
      2. PTA Board (past and present) – Contributing many hours over the summer to ASP
   2. Social events - PTA Board for planning Picnic
   3. Picture Day – Alana
3. Ice Breaker – talk to someone you don’t know
4. PTA 2021-2022 (Peter)
   1. Creating the kind of organization we want to have
   2. What does the PTA do?
      1. Support WHS through community building, activities, partnering with principals and teachers, and fundraising. Organize volunteers for a variety of events in and out of the classroom
      2. When we know each other better, it is a stronger community
   3. What does the PTA not do?
      1. We don’t mediate issues between families and the school. Happy to direct you to the right person.
      2. We don’t co-run the school. Parents/PTA can offer suggestions but the school is run by the administration.
5. PTA Budget (William)
   1. We must pass tonight so we can spend money!
   2. Proposal includes larger buckets of funds to allow more discretion/flexibility by the school for line items
      1. With ASP, we are on track to spend this budget, but the budget will need to be adjusted if the money doesn’t come in
      2. Shift from previous years; more conscious effort to trust school leadership and make it more efficient for all involved
   3. William made the initial budget based on old budget and the process was collaborative between principals and PTA
   4. Q&A:
      1. Yoga? Mrs. Gethings: yes but some of the money will come from ESSER, provider TBD
      2. Equipment? In the past this was library books etc. This was made a larger category for flexibility based on current needs (i.e. library books not needed this year)
      3. Financial aid for ASP?
         1. In the past, based on who had Husky insurance; in the past, the funds were not fully utilized. New 2 years ago. There was a committee who could decide based on need. Reach out if you have a need and we can have a conversation. We will protect privacy. We have never refused a student who needed the care.
      4. Budget changes – how are they documented, approved, shared?
         1. William: The numbers are considered guidance and budget is deliberately flexible. If way off, explanation is appropriate. Receipts provided. Treasurer’s Report at every PTA meeting – what has been spent and any proposed changes
      5. Concern expressed that school could move money to different places and cut out things that matter to parents
         1. Mrs. Gethings: reiterated the collaborative partnership with PTA and school and would respect things that are important to parents. The recent past structure of minimal discretion is atypical across the city, previous PTA at WHS as well.
         2. We will ensure we can track how the money was spent to ensure transparency. Receipts and all normal budgetary procedures are followed.
         3. Vote: Hope Metcalf move; Laura Daniels second
            1. 29 voted to approve; 0 did not approve
6. Principal’s Report – Mrs. Gethings
   1. Gratitude to the PTA Board for the work over the summer and partnership. Thank you to Hope Metcalf for Weeding Wednesdays.
   2. Normally I will give you an update and a window into learning. Parents feel more disconnected than in the past with covid rules. Ideas – such as drop in coffee with principals. Parents can’t come in the school – but can do virtual reading or other things to volunteer.
   3. Room parents coming soon to help organize class events, teacher appreciation, etc.
   4. Goal is a safe, happy opening – we accomplished that! Soft start, purposeful play (funded by PTA) helps.
   5. Computer form – sent home today if can’t access PowerSchool. If still having problems, call the office.
   6. Virtual Open House - next week, 9/22
   7. Lots of wonderful new staff – still 2 vacancies (5/6 math, social worker). Mrs. Gethings is ensuring we find the right candidate versus just “filling the position”
   8. School Planning and Management Team (SPMT) – will resume! School staff will meet in person and any parents can join virtually; 2 PTA reps will go. Discuss ideas for the school – all welcome! Info coming soon.
   9. ESSER – funds not available yet. Priority areas: Enrichment, intervention, differentiated instruction, purposeful play, field trips, guest speakers, outdoor environment.
   10. Town Meetings – WHS tradition to restart. If weather permits, they may be outside and parents can join if they would like.
   11. Thinking beyond the Chromebook – WHS led the pack with Friday materials pick-up within NHPS. Chromebooks aren’t first-line – but are needed for Word for older kids, assessments for all kids. Committed to using them as little as possible. They are a tool and a necessity in today’s world of education.
7. Member Registration Drive (Laura)
   1. Encourage everyone to sign up!
   2. The homeroom with the most students with parents signed-up by Halloween – pizza party!!!! (alternatives available for children with allergies)
8. Volunteer Sign up – there are lots of ways to help out and get involved!!! Attending PTA meetings is ONLY THE BEGINNING! We will have a calendar of events coming soon - AND WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!
9. Motion to Adjourn!
10. Next PTA General Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of the month, October 20 at 5:30
    1. We hope to gather everyone outside in person again - location TBD. The energy in person was wonderful last night!