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| **WHS PTA General Meeting** | Wednesday, 2/16/22 5:30 - 6:40 |
| **Attendees:**  *Board*: Peter Butler, Laura Daniels, William Hawkins, Vicki Grubaugh, [Veronica Douglas-Givan](mailto:veronica.douglasgivan123@gmail.com)  *Parents, Teachers:* Margaret-Mary Gethings, Hilarie Alden, Jenny Clarino, Wolfgang Fink, Alana, Courtney DeMaria, Feng Jiang, Jianlei Gu, Kim, Laurie Gwiazda, Sandra Enimil, Marie Ackerman, Eric March, [Claire Roosien](mailto:claire.roosien@gmail.com) | |
| **Minutes:** Vicki Grubaugh | |
| **Agenda:**   1. Warm welcome to all and introductions (Peter) 2. Warmer: What is your favorite holiday and why? 3. Teacher Representative Updates: Welcome Mrs. DeMaria and Mrs. Gwiazda! 4. PTA Updates:    1. Ice Skating (Vicki)    2. 163 Pizza Fundraiser (Peter)    3. Financial Report (William) 5. Principal’s Report (Mrs. Gethings and Mrs. Clarino) 6. New Business:    1. By Laws (William)    2. Format for future PTA Meetings (Peter)    3. Plant Fundraiser (Claire Roosien) 7. Motion to Adjourn    1. Thank you so much for coming tonight! We value your presence and hope to see you again! 8. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 27 at 5:30pm | |

1. **Warm welcome to all and introductions** (Peter)
2. **Warmer:** What have you spent your extra hour of daylight this week?
3. **Teacher Representative Updates:** Welcome Mrs. DeMaria and Mrs. Gwiazda!
   1. Mrs. Gwiazda - 5th and 6th grade Language Arts; 5th: read Spooked and listened to the broadcast; 6th: The Skin I am In, dug deep into the characters; SBA prep and strategies (standardized test); 5th: realistic fiction Fish in a Tree; 6th historical non-fiction; Ground Zero; social studies- finished their colony projects, parents will be invited to see them; country projects finished and parents invited in to see them; slavery and abolitionist movement; history day coming; civil war board game
   2. Mrs. DeMaria - new 5th and 6th grade Math teacher that joined in December; warm welcome and so happy to be here; 5th: multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers, dividing decimals; 6th grade: mastered fractions and decimals and now applying operations to real world problems, rates and unit rates, percents; Science - 6th grade, finishing up weather and moving on physical energy, exciting trip to amusement park; 5th grade, finishing up watershed unit and going to ER park to do water testing and maybe trip to water authority, designing electrical circuits
4. **PTA Updates:**
   1. Ice Skating (Vicki) - huge success! Very highly attended - everyone had a great time. Ms. Clarino saw many WHS families ice skating the next weekend after enjoying it so much.
   2. 163 Pizza Fundraiser (Peter) - over $3000 sold! We get 10% - very successful. Thank you to all everyone who ordered!
   3. Bear’s Smokehouse - upcoming fundraiser! Flyers to be distributed with code for use the week of May 9. We will also have a WHS social evening on the patio that week!
   4. Plant Fundraiser (Claire Roosien) **Opportunity to volunteer**
      1. Made money last year with hanging baskets which made it simple - recommending we do it that way again.
      2. Email Claire if you want to help! [claire.roosien@gmail.com](mailto:claire.roosien@gmail.com)
      3. Deadline to order will be in April (details TBD) and plants to be picked up just before Mothers’ Day.
5. **Financial Report** (William)
   1. Balance: $77,054.87, healthy!
      1. ASP has more unique enrollees that projected, doing well.
      2. Questions: Email William at [treasurer@whspta.org](mailto:treasurer@whspta.org)
6. **Principal’s Report** (Mrs. Clarino)
   1. The teachers really bring the JOY factor!
   2. Parent survey results (40+ responses) - most of it was positive or constructive; some of it not helpful because it wasn’t specific or constructive. Results were shared on the screen and will be shared more broadly soon - for full transparency.
      1. Question re: masks - NHPS decision. Per the BOE meeting, they are looking at the data and rates are slightly up; masks will not be lifted at this time.
   3. Parents can come into the school now! We are so excited and the grades are all coming up with plans to invite parents into the building to see the school and the classrooms. If you haven’t had an invitation yet, you will soon!
7. **New Business:**
   1. By Laws (William) - The committee was formed in the fall - William H., Sandra E., Hope M., and Vicki G. and reviewed and met in February. The only changes recommended by the committee are the required changes per the CT PTA (put a nominating committee in place). Committee learned that no material changes could be made to the bylaws per the CT PTA - only additions. The committee took the stance that future PTAs shouldn’t be bound by any more structure (i.e. committees, board positions, etc.) than required.
      1. The By laws will be voted on at April meeting, giving PTA members time to read them. Link to current bylaws is here: https://www.whspta.org/\_files/ugd/7b6a1d\_9e573cacf888457a90d034af23fe3058.pdf

Attached in the email are the bylaws with the required changes by the CT PTA; the text in yellow the committee suggests removing, which is only suggested but not required by the CT PTA.

* + 1. Nominating Committee - This will also be formed at the April meeting. The role of the committee is to finalize the list the slate for next year’s board. Alana - historically, the committee has approached parents on the playground and encouraged parents to be on the board versus competitive positions. The by-laws outlined the responsibilities and expectations for the required roles. Mrs. A. has a copy from a former board re: positions she will share. If you are interested in being on the Nominating Committee - please make sure you attend the April meeting or reach out to the PTA officers to express your interest ([officers@whspta.org](mailto:officers@whspta.org)) **Opportunity to get involved**
  1. Format for future PTA Meetings (Peter)
     1. We want to engage more people and want to figure out how to make the meetings more valuable so people will attend. We had high attendance at the speaker last month and lots of feedback that people appreciated the speaker.
     2. April meeting idea - short business + social.
     3. What other ideas do we have? Keep inviting other guest speakers? Maybe a service project or something else?
     4. Move to in-person as of next month!
     5. Recommendation to do a survey - what do parents need? What would be valuable to you? Speakers re: social media, lots of topics impacting parents today. How does the time work for parents? (Awkward time - so early - could we do childcare and pizza again? This would help.)
     6. Some people just want to be part of the school and just aren’t going to show up for a meeting.
        1. Are meetings even important? Not really perhaps - but how can we get ideas and engagement from a broader group of parents - cultivating community and relationships’ survey - how can meetings be of service and how can PTA be of service?
     7. We need to look at the reputation of the PTA. Dr. Rayford (Veronica) was invited in the past but cannot participate in one-day workshop re: DEI, because he believes to be effective it needs to be more than one-time. History - things have been started in the past (workshops were scheduled Spring 2020, per Mrs. Gethings) but haven’t happened due to pandemic. This needs to be an intentional effort and to involve parents. Mrs. Gethings agrees this is needed.
     8. Survey will be coming - but if you have ideas or thoughts, we want to hear them! [officers@whspta.org](mailto:officers@whspta.org) **Opportunity for feedback**

1. Spring Fair - (Mrs. Ackerman)
   1. Best Spring Fair ever! WHS would like to revive the spring fair that hasn’t happened since 2019! More to come - if you would like to get involved, email Mrs. A or [officers@whspta.org](mailto:officers@whspta.org) **Opportunity to volunteer**
2. Motion to Adjourn
   1. Motion to adjourn - Vicki G.
   2. Second - Ms. Clarino

Thank you so much for coming tonight! We value your presence and hope to see you again!

**Next meeting: Wednesday, April 27 at 5:30pm (in-person, details to follow)**