WL PTA Meeting

Monday, November 14, 2016

Meeting Minutes

WELCOME

SCA UPDATE: CO-PRESIDENT LUCY BANKS

* Thanksgiving Day assembly will feature students and teachers reflecting on Thanksgiving; the Assembly will be the Tuesday before the holiday - November 22.
* A Clothing Drive is kicking off this week to collect new and used clothing. Information will be distributed via the regular channels to students

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

* Winter sports started last week on November 7. The Athletic Department won a National Award. Criteria included student athletic sportsmanship among other factors. Dr. Robertson and Ms. Halloway will be collecting the award in December in Ashville. W-L is the only High School in the country to receive the award.
* There was a “Secure the Building” drill on October 26.
* A “Shelter in Place” Drill is upcoming.
* The Winter Pyramid concert was hosted at WL on November10th.
* Administrators and counselors will drop in to Freshmen P-E classes to play volleyball on November 16-17. This is an extension of the program aimed at helping new students make connections to administration and counselors.
* This Friday is the Youth Latino Conference - Leadership and career conversations with Latino Youth that the county puts on.
* W-L hosts a Thanksgiving celebration for our new HILT students. There are 100 new students in that group. This will take place on November 21.
* Early Release: students will be coming home at 12:30
* IB Information Night is on December 7.
* High School Information is on December 12.
* NICHE Rankings just came out. W-L is #2 in the state, behind Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax.
* College App help session is this Saturday 9-12. It’s the second one of the season.

PRESENTATION: W-L’S ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

* All Assistant Principals are also Instructional Supervisors for a curriculum/academic priority area. In the capacity, Assistant Principals act as liaison in terms of curriculum and content in the subject area. They also help with relationship management, working with teachers and students to make sure they have the necessary support; evaluating teachers.
* Assistant Principals can also help with day-to-day logistics for transportation, field trips, school and community relations (there are 70+ communities and civic organizations that want to come in and work with our students).
* IEP, Compliance Issues, and making sure students are placed appropriately (e.g. self-contained classrooms).
* Assistant Principals also attend athletic events and other after-hour student events.
* Interconnectedness that is focused on each student. The idea is focus on individual student success by trying to align school resources to help the success of each individual student.
* There are four full time and one half-time assistant principals
* Dr. Hoo oversees the Math department.
* Tony Hall: Instructional supervisor for English and Science
* Julie Cantor: Social Studies
* Claire Peters: Special Education
* Marlene: half the seniors, World languages, HILT
* Dr. Hoo’s role added as a function of the growing student population; he also continues to teach.
* Vice Principals help lead/facilitate team decisions to support students; everything is collaborative; multiple sources of input so that what is happening with the student; the student is getting a matrixed recommendation for success. The Vice Principal is an agent of collaboration to work with student success. “Focus on the student” as a mantra
* We involve the parents, other teachers, counselors, department chairs.
* The theme: interconnectedness.
* Upcoming: Senior Nudge Assembly: Half-way point; look out for each other; are we on track; January; promote the positive atmosphere to get everyone on the proper pathway to graduation.
* We really want the students to be comfortable with the fact that the Assistant Principals are not just the people you see when you get a lunch detention or an after-school detention. Our offices are part of the relationship building.
* We want to take the stigma away from the Assistant Principal’s office as intimidating.
* Whole Child aspect of working with each grade level. Your assistant principal will be with you until you graduate.
* We count on you, the parents, to help inform decisions for the students; thank you for the part you play in that.
* The touch-points that the Assistant Principals use to know the student:
  + They see the students in the academic settings
  + They interact with the students in the cafeteria where the students are in their own social/emotional world
  + Athletics, Choir, Band, Concerts - the Assistant Principals are there and you get student perspective
  + The meeting process and the socialization
  + The students get to know you too. Word of mouth to each other
* Priority: striking a balance between the high academic rigor and balance. Proactive programs including “Take a breather Tuesdays”: relaxing space for students during GP and Lunches; learn techniques for stress management. Where students are overwhelmed, they need to speak up and say something; teachers are encouraged to be very flexible to help to accommodate stress. Reach out when you see the warning signs; the teachers have flexibility and can help de-escalate situations.

PRESENTATION: STEM AT APS

* APS has a staff member that’s focused on embedding problem-based learning in the classroom that are related to STEM in grades 6-12
* Match students interest with opportunities to apply those interests. Examples: kids that want to work on robotics - get them the tools they need for hands-on learning.
* To find out more: Washington-Lee website <https://www.apsva.us/stem/>
  + STEM monthly calendar - Week 1 Science, Week 2 Technology;
  + Nuggets for learning.

TREASURER’S REPORT: PRESENTATION OF 2015-16 AUDIT

* Every year we do an audit. This year, the Audit was headed up by a former PTA President.
* They found that the records were complete and appropriate. We are running our treasury in the way that the national PTA guidelines are done.
* Audit was approved

PTA PRESIDENT’S REPORT

* Last year $16K for clubs and $8K for the Seniors. Please go the Holiday Bazaar and do your holiday shopping with our vendors. There are 70+ vendors in the cafeteria (arts, crafts). Clubs sell food, wreaths, nuts and more. Please go.

PTA COMMUNITY CHAIR UPDATES

* Hispanic Night was held two weeks ago, 100+ people attended. There were two groups from Bolivia, a group from Paraguay; a student DJ. It was a pot luck event and very well received.

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2017