W-L PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2017

Present:
Principal Gregg Roberts
Counseling Co-Directors, Jessica Greggory and Kristen Devaney
W-L/School Board Liaison Nancy Van Dorn

PTA Officers
President Tish Jenkins
1st VP Ted Black
2nd VP Deborah Wooldridge
Treasurer Scott Burka
Secretary Tina Evans

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:
Scott Burka presented the budget. PTA dues and contributions constitute the majority income. There are very few fundraising events.

PTA Income: We are hoping to increase contributions. In addition to online payment and checks, we will have available payment apps such as Venmo and Paypal. Other sources of income are the grocery card program (linked accounts need to be re-activated every year) and Plant Sale (early May).

During the executive meeting a few weeks ago, the board discussed ways to increase the PTA membership and fundraising. Of 2,250 students, only 1/3 of those families pay dues. It is also suggested that we increase dues from $10 to $15 in 2019 to help offset low enrollment.

With the "No-sweat" Tax Deductible Fundraising Campaign, a PTA parent suggested offering examples of what the grants program has done for teachers in the past to help encourage donations.

PTA Expenditures:
Teacher grants and Student Clubs are by far the largest expense for the PTA. Teacher grants allow for professional development, ability to purchase classroom and art supplies, subscriptions to journals and magazines, etc. Additionally, PTA funding supports Community Engagement, Freshman Orientation, Senior Boat Party, Staff/Teacher Appreciation, Hispanic Parents, Principal's Discretionary Fund, PTA President Discretionary Fund, Family Network Program, Science Fair, Arlington County Scholarship Fund, Library Study Night among a few others.

2017 – Finished with a deficit. 2018 – trying to minimize the anticipated deficit. We are intentionally drawing the reserves and not carry over as much money into the following year. We plan to carry over a cash balance of approximately $10K to ensure enough money to pay for unanticipated costs.

2017-18 BUDGET: Voted and Approved

PRINCIPALS REPORT:

First Day of School/Enrollment: New freshman were applauded as they entered school on the first day of school. There are 2,253 students at W-L (9^{th} – 507; 10^{th} – 586; 11^{th} – 659; 12^{th} – 501). Workrooms have been transformed into classrooms to support increased enrollment due to redistricting.

Each grade level has their own Welcome Back/Safety Assembly facilitated by their Vice Principal. The assembly is class-specific. In addition to a formal welcome back, Vice Principals remind them of rules, standard practices, and information specific to their grade

Connect Mentors: 11^{th} and 12^{th} graders welcomed incoming freshmen. From applauding freshmen as they enter W-L on the first day of school to organizing team building activities, this small group of students will continue to mentor freshmen throughout their first year. Students apply for the mentor position, are reviewed and carefully selected.

Early Period: 11^{th} and 12^{th} graders have the option to start school earlier with an Early Period. This early start allows students the ability to be released one period earlier but still take the same number of required classes. Under special circumstances only, a student can be approved to take an additional class in addition to the normal class load. "Early Period" starts 45 minutes before the first class.

Gen Flex: Not to be confused with Generals Period, 11^{th} and 12^{th} graders who are on target to receive an Advanced Diploma can take one less class than normal by dropping a class, usually at the end of the day during 6^{th} or 7^{th} period.

Zero Period: Throughout the year, Math and Science help sessions are offered daily before school. In each class, a math and science teacher is available to provide tutoring and HW support. The teacher will remain the same teacher throughout the year and can assist with each level within that subject. 7:30am start time.

Smart Trip Cards: APS entered into a partnership with Art Bus. Students can obtain a metro card and ride a bus for just $1. One of the routes stops right in front of the school.

Back to School Night: Sep 26. Parents will spend 10 minutes in each child's classes. Period 1 begins at 7:00pm and proceeds through the evening. If a child is enrolled in Early Period, their Back to School night begins at 6:40pm.

Columbus Day: Monday, Oct 9

IB/Julie Cantor: New IB coordinator

Homecoming Game/Dance: Friday night game, 9/15. Saturday night dance, 9/16. 2017 Theme – Video Games (8-11pm). Spirit Week takes place all week long throughout the school day. There is a pep rally on Friday during 6th period.

Senior Parent/Student Exit Survey: In addition to their parents, a survey is given one hour after seniors graduate to help collect data on each senior's experience at W-L.

Freshman Meetings: In the Fall, groups of (10) are invited to meet with Principal Gregg Roberts and Jessica. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce themselves to each other and state one activity they are involved in or what they would like to be involved in. This informal meeting provides an opportunity for students to get to know the principal and Co-Director of Counseling in a small setting and vice versa.

New Students: New students can be connected to student ambassadors through the counseling department to help show them around and offer mentoring. Additionally, new students will be invited in a group setting to meet Gregg Roberts and other staff as well.

School/Home Communication: Principal Gregg Robert's Twitter account is a popular means of getting daily and weekly updates at W-L.

IB Diploma: W-L pass rate is consistently above the world pass rate and the American Pass rate. 96% of full IB students received their diploma at W-L in 2017.

AP/IB program: At W-L, freshmen are encouraged to think about taking at least one IB/AP classes during the upper grades in order to experience a higher-level class before graduating. W-L has 100% participation in the AP/IB program. The national average is 25% for students taking AP or IB.

COUNSELING REPORT

Staffing: Jessica Greggory and Kristen Devaney will now serve as Co-Directors of the Counseling Department and share offices.

College Planning Night for Seniors and Parents– Nov 17

PSATs - 10th and 11th graders will all take the PSAT and be released after completing the exam – Oct 11

Senior Seminar Day – workshops to help with college applications, essays, and navigating financial aid – Oct 11 (same day as PSATs)

Freshman/Parent Conference Day – Oct 11 (while upper classmen are taking PSATs, freshmen and parents will meet with teachers)

Annual College Fair: October 17, 6-8pm at Wakefield H.S. At the fair, there will also be a few workshops for parents that will include financial aid, school applications. There are a large number of universities and colleges that participate in the APS High School College Fair.

Suicide Awareness Month – September

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Volunteering is a great way to meet parents and become active in the W-L community. Please consider signing up for the many opportunities.

Grocery Card Links: Harris Teeter – Code 3917 or call (800) 432-6111; Giant - code 02195

Homecoming: A Sign-Up genius for Homecoming Dance volunteer opportunities will go out to all parents on the PTA listserv. Parents can volunteer the entire evening or in split shifts. The school also need donations of snack and water bottles as well as parents to help coordinate receiving of those items. Parents are needed Friday morning at drop-off to help receive items being dropped of at the curb.

Community Engagement: The PTA would like to bring in speakers on different topics and have those speakers talk at the monthly meetings. Very soon, the PTA president will send out a survey to poll parents to see what topics would interest them.

Holiday Bazaar – The PTA is in search of a Chair to coordinate the Holiday Bazaar which is a large school fundraiser. The former chair no longer has a child at W-L but can assist for one more year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

NEXT MEETING: October 16, 7:30pm (*Date changed due to Columbus Day)*