

Minutes of the September 5, 2007 WSHS PTSA Board Meeting

The September 5, 2007 WSHS PTSA Board Meeting was held in Spartan Hall with the following members and guests in attendance: Nancy Baldino, Jan Brecht-Clark, Lois Kurth, Kim Cecelski, Linda Gillespie, Laurie Chadwell, Sharron Slachta, Diane Bursley, Denise Ahola, Tonia Parker, Mike Mukai, Laurie Keninitz, Cindy Henderson, Becky Brandt, Christine Bonheim, Leslie Carlin, Lynn Smith, Jane Tinsley, Francine Picoult, Diane Rybinski, Iris Warren, Chris Williams, Connie Williams, Paul Wardinski.

Meeting began at 7:05pm. Welcoming reception for Mr. Wardinski was held at 6:30pm

President

- ✓ Introduction of Mr. Wardinski and staff members, Mike Mukai, Becky Brandt, Asst. Principals and staff representative, Christine Bonheim.
- ✓ Nancy asked to please keep all reports concise.

Secretary's Report

- ✓ Minutes approved as written. Jan 1st, Leslie 2nd.
- ✓ Kim mentioned that the calendar included in the summer packets had wrong dates listed.

Treasurer's Report

- ✓ Lois mentioned that all needed forms were in the PTSA treasurer's folder.
- ✓ Discussion on proposed budget to be presented at Back to School Nite for approval. Denise of Special Ed mentioned that Robinson had an Alternative Programs Scholarship that all students who had an IEP of 2 years or more and overcame obstacles could apply for. It is used by the selected student to fund post-secondary education. The student needs to be nominated by staff and parent. Robinson HS budgets \$500/year for this scholarship. Denise proposed \$250 for WSHS. Denise to speak with the Special Ed chair of Robinson PTSA to see how they fund the scholarship. Many ideas were discussed to raise "seed money" for the scholarship, but were shelved for the time being.
- ✓ A motion was made and accepted that: "A WSHS Special Education Scholarship be established and the Board to define the monetary amount in January 2008 when our PTSA fundraising activities have been completed."

Principal's Report

- ✓ Mr. Wardinski thanked the PTSA for the WSHS Bear and flowers.
- ✓ WSHS had 30 new staff members and we are fully staffed.
- ✓ 2250 students were registered at WSHS this year. 54 are "no show", we are budgeted for 2179.
- ✓ There are 30 staff Leadership Grant Projects ongoing
- ✓ FCPS projects 80M-140M shortfall for next years budget, Mr. Wardinski said that some of the grants may not be funded again due to this budget problem.
- ✓ WSHS is being "spruced up", doors painted, 9 water fountains fixed, the pipes were evaluated and deemed poor, and repairs of the pipes will start next year.

Principal's Report continued:

- ✓ Some members discussed creative restroom painting to help “mask our problems” until repairs can be done. The last renovations at WSHS were done on the “cheap end”, not like the renovations taking place at other schools now. We are not in line for renovations for CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) until 2017. Nov. 6th there is a Bond Referendum on School renovations. Jan 9th and Jan 24th meetings will be held. Dec.14 sign up for public hearing speakers, we need a speaker to discuss the state of our restrooms, pipes, etc. We NEED TO BE MORE VOCAL so our date can be moved up.
- ✓ Summer Mailings are very expensive, Mr. Wardinski suggests “Summer Festival” for next year to hand out all materials with vendors present. It is fun, exciting and inexpensive.
- ✓ Predictions that the benchmark for ESL students to continue to bring down FCPS scores of No Child Left Behind because they test children who have little English skills.
- ✓ Slight drop in SAT scores, same as rest of the County, but still high nationwide.
- ✓ AP scores were good.
- ✓ Agenda Books were distributed in English classes
- ✓ Leslie Sherman Scholarship Fund has \$33,000 to date. Apple Federal Bank has committed to fund the scholarship with yearly increases for inflation.
- ✓ Proposal to name the Track and Scoreboard in Leslie’s name with dedication at the first game next football season.
- ✓ Nancy and Bob Barber of Spartan Boosters have been asked to write letters in support of this motion.
- ✓ “High Schools for the Future” FCPS initiative to think “outside of the box” with online and distance learning etc. Use technology.
- ✓ ACT Explore is a 9th grade test of the ACTs. It is geared for the 9th grader unlike the PSATs and more well- rounded test. Mr. Wardinski to put in for it at WSHS.
- ✓ Professional Learning Communities-educators talking to each other and collaborating to produce a better educational product. McLean HS had “late start” Fridays to allow this collaboration which benefits the teachers and students. Another way to accommodate this is to block a certain period for each subject to allow the staff to meet. “Work Smarter, Not Harder” initiative. WSHS may start it 2nd semester this school year or next school year.
- ✓ Technology push this year. Blackboard used more. A Blackboard parent portal is being synchronized for grades, schedules, academics. We had our first POD cast by a chemistry teacher.
- ✓ Mr. Wardinski stated he “believes in the whole child, not just the test scores!”
- ✓ Sept. 8 Hispanic/Korean families Potluck Lunch will be held in Spartan Hall. Jan and Nancy to attend. Try to help families be more proactive at school.
- ✓ Oct. 27th is “National Make a Difference Day” which WSHS will use as “cleanup day”. We will tidy up the outside of the school with the help of volunteers and sport teams and activity clubs. Custodian Becky Mullen will have mulch delivered. Time is 8am -12pm.

Committee Reports

- ✓ Membership doing fine for now. Sharron has volunteers lined up for Coffees and Starbuck Huntsman Square has donated coffee. Baked goods will be served as well.
- ✓ Spartan Fest is early this year. We only have 47 paid crafter spots, down from the normal 75-80. If know of crafters have them contact Monica Rushton at wshsspartanfest@msn.com. Signs, flyers to feeder schools, also auto-dialer, Keep in Touch to be used. The early date is hurting us because Occoquan Days is the same day and we have little time to prepare.

Old Business

- ✓ Sally needs forms put in alphabetical order on Sept. 13th. We do not have a volunteer coordinator to arrange this. It requires 8 volunteers for the morning per Jane T. Connie and Chris Williams said they would help. Leslie Carlin to help get volunteers.
- ✓ Open Board positions: Health and Safety, Student Rep, Booster Reps, Volunteer Coordinator.
- ✓ Leslie and Lynn said they may be able to handle hospitality for the End of Year Luncheon.
- ✓ Back to School Nite is 9/18. Membership, Directories, ANGP tables. Grounds committee will have volunteer flyers to distribute.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Cecelski, WSHS PTSA Secretary

Accepted as Written _____

Accepted as Amended _____