

## Wheaton HS PTSA Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2020 at 7 PM

Quorum met - Yes

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Meeting began at 7:02pm with Daria welcoming attendees and providing a brief overview of the agenda.

### Principal/School Updates - Dr. Mugge

- Wheaton HS has a new website, take a look
- Morning announcements are now available for viewing on the website. Ms. Polischek manages the website - contact her directly if you have any updates or questions
- Spring sports tryouts and practice are underway for baseball, lacrosse, volleyball, softball, tennis.
- Report cards went out in student backpacks last week. Ask your student if you didn't receive it. 2nd quarter grades are important to be eligible for athletic participation.
- Mandatory 9th grade lunch and learn is being imposed for those students who have D's and E's in core classes, of which there are quite a few. This is a challenge but staff are focused working with students to improve their grades.
- Administration is working on the incoming 9th grade class. There are close to 700 students coming to WHS, which is a more popular choice than Blair this year. Dr. Mugge is re-configuring "collaboration" rooms to become classrooms to accommodate the large incoming class. Some walls will need to be removed to enlarge these spaces. In addition a study of lab space is underway, there may be a shortage for the Bio and Engineering programs.
- The baseball field is just about ready for the season, but the softball field is not. Athletics are looking for a practice site for the soft ball team.
- It has been a challenging couple of weeks due to the non-credible threats made against WHS and other MCPS schools. A non-credible threat means law enforcement have identified the perpetrator, searched the home and determined there is "no-ways-and-means" that the threat can be carried out. Social media is monitored by ATF and FBI who report any issues to local law enforcement for action. The threat made on January 30 to WHS was picked up on social media at 10 pm by the authorities, as well as Wheaton students. After the incident was reported to MCPD and Dr Mugge, they worked to identify the source. Once the student was identified the police worked through the night to investigate, keeping Dr. Mugge apprised of all developments. The student was taken into custody and charged. MCPS policy states Principals have the authority to suspend a student for up to 10 days and recommend expulsion from the school. Each situation is reviewed by MCPS. In addition, MCPS reviews all statements from the Principal to the school community prior to their release, which may result in a slight delay in communication. Over 700 students were absent on Jan. 31 (day after threat).
- A second incident occurred when a person claiming they were a student was buzzed into the main office. The person was questioned by office staff and once they determined he was not a student, but felt there was cause for concern, he was asked to leave. Staff called police who arrived quickly and picked up the person who was on his way to Edison. **Stress to your students that if they see or hear something, say something.**
- February 28th is an early release day to allow teacher preparation time.

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**Guest speaker - Ms. Lisa Gerhardt, Coordinator of Academy and Application Programs,** discussed summer opportunities (see separate handouts)

- Ms. Gerhardt previously held a teaching role at WHS prior to becoming the program coordinator this year.
- Reviewed the programs available to students at WHS and discussed at length the new partnership between WHS and Edison. There will be 25 slots available in the partnership to non DCC students via a lottery system. Edison will be hosting an open house in March for anyone interested in the programs or just to check out the school.
- Amy Wolfe handles all internships that occur during the school day and Ms. Gerhardt handles summer internships. Reviewed summer opportunities as listed in handouts, noting that the GEMS program is open to incoming 9th grade students.

### Updates from Officers and Committees:

#### 1. Treasurer's Report - Stacy Menendez

- Treasurer provided report (see separate handout)
- Proposal to amend 2019-2020 budget - add \$100 for refreshments for meetings
  - i. Shawntel Chin motioned to add \$100 to budget for meeting refreshment, addition was approved.

#### 2. Staff Appreciation Committee Update - Shawntel Chin, Chair

- Candy and note of appreciation went out to mail boxes yesterday.
- On March 17, PTSA will host a staff luncheon for 250+ teachers and staff. We need lots of volunteers for the event. Sign-up genius to be sent out soon.
- No event scheduled for April
- In May, due to a heavy testing schedule, PTSA will provide stress balls for staff. Anyone who has access to this item please reach out to make a contribution. Company donations gladly accepted.
- In June, the PTSA will provide two sheet cakes for the staff appreciation lunch hosted by Dr. Mugge.

#### 3. Fundraising Committee Update - Gillian Hay-Chatterjee, Jeannie David, Co-Chairs

- Attendees encouraged to visit the PTSA website as a source of information
- Fundraising event dates:
  - i. 3/27/2020 (8-10 PM) at Launch Trampoline in Rockville. The fundraiser will benefit the after-prom party. Fundraiser is open to all WHS students
  - ii. April (date TBD) basketball game - Seniors vs. Staff. The fundraiser will benefit the after-prom party. A request to host concessions has been made to administration, approval is pending.
  - iii. 4/28/2020 - Primary Day Bake Sale at WHS. The fundraiser will support the general PTSA fund. Sign-up genius will go out after Spring Break.

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### **4. Post Prom Committee Update - Gillian Hay-Charterjee**

- After-prom will be at Launch Trampoline Park in Rockville on 5/22 from 11pm-3am. Event is open to WHS seniors and their dates with all students encouraged to attend. The event is designed to discourage private house parties by allowing the seniors to extend their prom night into the morning hours in a safe and fun environment.

### **5. Mini Grant Committee Update - Nora Vacariu Webster, Oriole Saah, Co-Chairs**

- Three mini-grants have been submitted: (1) \$80 request for the It's Academic Program, (2) \$367.60 for a rocket launcher submitted by Mr. Ball and (3) \$400 for MoCo Hacks submitted by Ms. Dunbar
- Funds are available for additional applications

### **6. Scholarship Committee Update - Daria Daniel**

- The Senior Scholarship Award is accepting applications through the end of April. Students applying to a vocational or technical school are eligible to apply. Application is available at the PTSA website.

### **7. LGBT Committee Update - Cori Lathan, Liora Moriel, Co-Chairs**

- Cori and Liora met with Dr. Mugge and Ms. Barkin to discuss how PTSA can support the Rainbow Alliance club.
- The Committee will invite a speaker to the April PTSA meeting.
- MOCO Pride will host its second prom open to all 9th-12th MoCo students. This Prom will be on May 15 at Strathmore.

### **Other matters/open discussion**

- **Seeking 3 volunteers for Nominating Committee**
  - Officer vacancies next school year - Treasurer and Secretary

**Next PTSA Meeting - TBD**