



WHS PTO

WHS PTO Board and Advisory Team Minutes Friday 10/9/20

In attendance: Nan L., Elisa S., Jen C., Pam C., Sejal S., Stephanie L., Alexia O., Tracy S.

Alexia called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Principal's Report: Discussion with Allyson about what PTO can do to respond to the changing classroom environment with Mini Grants and Wish List. Allyson welcomes PIE Meeting topics from the PTO. Alexia requested teacher attendance at PTO board meetings. Joanne Schmidt was the liaison making sure there was a teacher at the meetings last year. Alexia is trying to contact METCO to send a representative to Board meetings.

Treasurers Report: Because the Gift Your Child letters just went out and no money has been donated yet this year, the only money available at this time is the \$10,000 budgeted from reserves last year. Alexia raised the question if there is a way to post how PTO money is spent. Jen reported that last year PTO posted pictures of how the money was spent. Next post should be the cameras purchased for Waycam. Jen will contact Jim Mullane and get it ready to go out a couple weeks after the Gift your Child letter. Sejal will send photos of the Teacher Appreciation Lunch to Jen. There was a suggestion that the photos include a tag, "This is your Gift Your Child money in action."

Faculty Appreciation: Any ideas for appreciation should be sent to Nan. There was a discussion about possible grab and go things such as Halloween candy. High School is responsible for organizing Bus Driver Appreciation this year.

Student Support: Alexia reported that the Career Fair for Juniors and Seniors was dropped last year because of the pandemic and raised the question on whether the school was planning on running it this year and if PTO could help keep it going. There was a discussion about different scenarios such as getting space at Town Center to hold it outside, or maybe record the presenters.

Newsletter: Tracy reported that there hasn't been a Newsletter yet. The Administration has increased the volume of communication and is funneling its information through the new Leadership Page on the WHS website. Tracy reported that there was a fifty percent click rate for the Newsletter and it included important information about class fundraising which may not be included in the current system. There was discussion about moving the Newsletter onto social media. PTO Facebook tried to add value not more noise and anytime it was advertised, there was an uptick in traffic on the PTO facebook page.

There was discussion about PTO using Twitter which the administration already does. It was suggested this might be a good way to get information out especially about clubs. Since Twitter is low risk, and a small investment Jen will try it. Tracy will check in with Shawn and maybe advisors to see if class information is being posted anywhere. PTO still wants to email information once a month.

Social Justice Equity Committee: Alexia reported that each school should come up with a committee of parents and teachers to discuss how to bring equity to the schools. Students should be included at the high school level.

Coffee Chats: Alexia thought having coffee chats with different topics to bring parents together would be useful just as the Chats with Kim for the School Committee are good forums for open discussion. Alexia suggested it would be good to have Kathie Steinberg from SC come. The Chats would be an opportunity for people to talk during the pandemic opportunity. Alexia will initiate it.

Beautification: The lights at the High School sign were replaced with solar ones. Stephanie will check to make sure they are working. Missy put some plants at the sign.

On Line directory: Questions were raised about whether new students can be added midyear and if new families are sent the information about the directory. Pam will check.

Grants and Awards: There was discussion about the grant process for this year. Last year, the Mini Grants were completed in the fall as usual and then because of the pandemic, Wish List monies were granted on a rolling basis. The Board decided that there should be one rolling grant process with a five hundred dollar limit spanning the school year until the money runs out. The more flexibility the better. The Board decided a committee should be formed to consider grants including Allyson, Pam, Elisa and a student. Elisa will prepare announcement and send it for review.

School Council: Alexia reported that the WHS Council is not run correctly. Under the rules, the PTO is supposed to run the school council election and there should be a running nomination process to rotate members through. Pam will follow up with School Committee and Town wide PTO.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 6 at 10:00 am