

**Westfield High School PTSA Board Meeting  
February 20, 2003**

**Attendees**

Birgit Retson	Debbie Gregory	Destiny Burns	Debbie Anderson
Lori Knickerbocker	Al Schenck	Dana Cimino	Stephen Anderson
Lynn Terhar	Penny Douskalis	LuAnn McNabb	Vicky Francis
Becky Williams	Salma Ashmawi	Denise McCarthy	

The February meeting of the Westfield High School PTSA was held on Thursday, February 20, 2003, at the home of PTSA board member Denise McCarthy. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Minutes (Vicky Francis for Beverly Basoglu)**

The minutes for the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report (Destiny Burns):**

The current balances for the period 1/15/03 to 2/19/03 are as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$9,420.13
Income:	\$0
Expenses:	\$9,250.00
Ending Balance:	\$ 170.13

**Committee Reports**

**Minority Achievement** (Mark Richardson) - Birgit provided the minority achievement report for Mark because he was unable to attend the meeting. The next parent coffee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26. Mark wanted to see if an SOL update could be put together for the Minority Achievement group like the one the PTSA is planning. Birgit suggested that maybe they combine that with the regular PTSA Meeting.

**Legislation** (Luann McNabb) - JLARC has been eliminated and there are plans to form a new group similar to JLARC. Updates of the active and failed legislative bills (as of February 18, 2003) are attached to the minutes.

**Fairfax County Council PTA** (Lynn Terhar) - The PTA Day had a good turnout, particularly from the Western part of Virginia. The National PTA Convention is scheduled for June 20-22, 2002, Charlottesville, Virginia. See Dana Cimino or Lynn Terhar if you are interested in attending the convention and would like more information about it.

The next Fairfax County Council PTA event is the Sizer Program jointly sponsored by the FCCPTA and the Fairfax County Public Schools, March 15, 2003. Coffee will be served at 8:30 a.m.; the Conference and Book Signing is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This quality education conference titled "Our Kids Deserve More Than 'Just the Facts'" features education specialists Ted and Nancy Sizer who "will instruct participants in how students learn and develop character not just from academic instruction but also from their school's policies, routines and climates."

#### President's Report (Birgit Retson)

- Birgit attended a Cluster 8 Advisory Council Meeting. School Board Chairperson Stu Gibson and Members Kathy Smith, and Ernestine Hasty were among those attending the meeting. Some of the issues mentioned: budget is tight and they hope more money from the State will come true. The gap between city schools and school board is down to \$11million, and enrollment that was expected to 3,400 came out less, projecting 2,700.
- Birgit attended the Cluster 8 meeting and asked what the schools could do about the political flyers that are distributed at the schools. They have no authority to prohibit it.
- Website issue - There is a website called "Westfieldhighschool.com" which takes you to "rocket search". Birgit is concerned that this type of activity could lead to an implied endorsement on the part of our school. Apparently, the website "herndonhighschool.com" is being used by a real estate agent as a sales device to her own home listings in the Herndon area. Betsy Goodman, Cluster 8 Director, is looking into this matter.
- There is a rumor about a boundary change in the Floris area. There is no boundary change being considered for Westfield High School.
- The PTSA board agreed to reschedule the No School Left Behind Act and Standards of Learning PTSA sponsored presentation. It will be held during the April 24, 2003, PTSA Board Meeting. We will need to advertise it in the PTSA newsletter and the newspapers.
- The rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum night has been rescheduled to Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Birgit suggested that the speech to the parents include their need to be more involved and less disappointed as their kids start high school. She will also mention the SOL presentation and flyers at the PTSA table. Since Birgit will be out of town the week that curriculum night is scheduled, Birgit will ask Sue Kiely to speak for her; Destiny Burns will serve as the alternate.

- A nominating committee is needed for next year's board. Committee in March, slate in April and voting in May. So far Lori Knickerbocker and Dana Cimino will serve on the committee.
- Janice Gigliello, from the All Night Grad Party Committee, needs storage space for this year's party stuff. All the items from last year were thrown away. Suggestion to get some form of storage to be placed somewhere inside or outside the school. Suggestion to possibly share the usage of the storage with other groups such as SGA.

**New Business**

Debbie Anderson introduced herself and her son Stephen before the PTSA Board. She works at Herndon High School. Her son Stephen is a freshman at Westfield High School. Stephen spoke about a Prom for Students with Disabilities initiated last year by Herndon High School and held at the Reston Hyatt. Students from other Fairfax County High Schools attended including Westfield High School.

Plans are being made for another prom this year. The high schools that will participate in the prom are Herndon, Langley, South Lakes, and Westfield. They hope to hear from Chantilly. Centreville High School is not participating. They anticipate 200 people participating.

The prom is planned for May 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. They are asking from each participating school's PTSA a \$100 donation for food, drinks, flowers, and a DJ. It is open to all classes, grades 9-12. This year they anticipate twice the number of students than last year. If possible, they ask for donation of dresses and tux. They will be asking SGA to help at the prom.

Treasurer Destiny Burns indicated that there was no line item for Special Ed. We will have to think about it for next year's budget. There is a Student Support line item available for this activity. Destiny moved to use this line item to support the Prom for Students with Disabilities in an amount up to \$200. Lynn Terhar second the motion. A vote was taken before the board with a unanimous yes. The motion was carried.

No old business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicky Francis, WHS PTSA Corresponding Secretary

Approved as written \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_