

## **Westfield High School PTSA Meeting November 15, 2001**

The November meeting of the Westfield High School PTSA was held on Thursday, November 15, 2001 in the Lecture Hall at the school. President Lynn Terhar called the meeting to order at 7:09pm. In attendance were:

Destiny Burns	Debbie Gregory	Salma Ashmawi
Toni Garcia	Kathy Rutkowski	Ray Clements
Doug Wright	Lynn Terhar	Dale Rumberger
Nick Owens	Bev Basoglu	Vicky Francis
Joyce Pickens	Becky Williams	LuAnn McNabb
Al Schenck	Pam Grainer	Jason J. Johnson
Carol Brooks	Sue Vaccarino	Mike Allocco
Penny Douskalis	Sue Kiely	Lori Knickerbocker
Nancy Kruchko		

The minutes for the 10/18/01 meeting were read and approved as written.

Guest Speaker Ray Clements was first on the agenda, speaking about the school's security posture. He highlighted the following:

- His background in law enforcement and as an SRO
- The planning and security exercises he conducts, and the lessons learned he and the staff have gained from them
- The policy that people in the school without passes or badges are challenged
- There have been no direct threats to the schools, and there is a delicate balance that must be struck to keep a school safe but not turn it into a fortress.
- The staff is well trained and prepared, and the kids are the school's best security asset and they are more aware than ever of security issues
- The school has Crisis Plans
- Major schools entrances are sequentially numbered (clockwise around the building), and this standard is now employed throughout the county

Mike A. and Ray are going to meet directly after the PTSA meeting to examine enhanced security options (such as more personnel on site after hours) for the letter to Dr. Domenech (refer to the discussions at the Sep 01 PTSA meeting).

The second guest speaker was Doug Wright, SubSchool III Assistant Principal. He spoke about the school's technology plans, and highlighted the following:

- On Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, the school's website will be updated. Computer Graphics Class is the sponsor
- Teachers have received training and department representatives will provide content updates for the website
- There are 892 computers in the school (130 are new since Sept 01) and 6 computer labs
- In the next 2-3 weeks, the school will be getting a 30-station wireless lab with laptops
- The school uses "Clean Slate" software
- Mike Mandingo (Computer Specialist) is the point of contact for volunteers
- Computer theft has been an issue, locks have been purchased for CPU cabinets
- There is a mounted LCD in the Lecture Hall, and an Auditorium unit is being researched

Mr. Wright then spoke about the Ethics Seminar on Dec 7th planned for all WHS Sophomores (“Opt out” option available, though) at the Fairfax Co. Government Center sponsored by the Herndon/Dulles Chamber of Commerce. This is planned to be an annual event for the Sophomore class. Mr. Wright requested funds from the PTSA to help defray the cost of transportation. Debbie Gregory moved that \$1000 from the Student Activities budget line item be allocated for this purpose, there were numerous seconds. The motion passed unanimously. In next year’s budget, this activity may be included as a separate line item.

SGA Report (Nick):

- Mr. Westfield competition has been moved to Jan 02.
- There will be a dance on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> after the basketball game
- There will be a winter pep rally either on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> or after the winter break
- SGA will box cookies for “Our Neighbor’s Child” and participate in the Reading Buddies program with 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Londontowne Elementary
- Student Congress was held on Nov 13<sup>th</sup>; topics discussed included driving/speeding.
- SGA Club meets every Wednesday

Treasurer’s Report (Penny): The current account balance is \$17,737.13. The Treasurer’s Report will be filed for audit.

President’s Report (Lynn):

- 380 students will be eligible to participate in the American Mathematics Contest on Feb 12, 2002. The Math Department requested funds from the PTSA to help defray the cost of the test. LuAnn McNabb moved that \$260 from the Student Activities line item be allocated for this purpose, Lori Knickerbocker seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The administration will fund an equal share of the cost for the test.
- Lynn commented on the excellent workshops at the convention, including the “Ten Keys to Reaching Your Kids.”
- 5K Committee update – there is \$5000 from last year to use for Scholarships. \$2500 will go to the Boosters Clubs and \$2500 to a general fund focused on kids involved in school and community activities, and to a \$500 Aviation Scholarship. This year’s event will be held on May 11, 2002 at 8am. Jan 10<sup>th</sup> will be the first organizational meeting.
- Fairfax County will be holding Emergency Preparedness Community Forums on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> and Nov 28<sup>th</sup>
- FCCPTA approved the new TJ admissions policies.
- There was a Cluster 8 meeting on Nov 14th
- The School Bond Issue passed at the recent election.

Principal’s Report (Dale):

- A student died early this morning from injuries sustained in an automobile accident last evening. Another student was injured. A Crisis Plan was put into action in response to assess the faculty and student reaction and assist as needed.
- The bleachers in the gym are broken – there are issues with the warranty that need to be worked out
- Stations have been set up at the school for Ramadan for students who are fasting and want an alternative to being in the cafeteria during lunch periods.
- On Nov 12<sup>th</sup> (Veteran’s Day) there was a musical performance at Northrup Grumman Litton TASC.

- Students are being given the opportunity (in twos) to raise the American Flag at the school
- There is an new book challenge – Gates of Fire – currently on the Supplemental Reading List
- The student population is currently 2325.
- The Academic Letter Ceremony was outstanding, 201 letters were given out.
- Reports on Department strengths and weaknesses are being assessed to deal with projected student enrollment next year
- Gary Reese’s resignation from the School Board is pending; this will leave a vacancy in the Sully District. There will be a special election in March 2002.
- WHS’s first musical production, Godspell, will be presented this weekend
- Data on SOL scores were handed out
- Speeding is a big issue that we as a community need to deal with

Miscellaneous Reports and Items:

- Dale plans to brief the PTSA on the School Plan next month as a prelude to summer assignments, and an update on the Academic Boosters will be given
- Sue K. gave highlights on the Middle School boundary discussions
- Deadline for the Reflections Program is Nov 30<sup>th</sup>
- The PTSA Newsletter was superb, and there’s been great feedback on it

The next WHS PTSA meeting is scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Destiny Burns, WHS PTSA Recording Secretary

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

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