

**The Westfield High School PTSA Meeting
October 17, 2002**

The October meeting of the Westfield High School PTSA was held on Thursday October 17, 2002 in the Cafeteria. President Birgit Retson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

In attendance were:

Trish Manghelli	Lynn Terhar	Destiny Burns
Bev Basoglu	Sue Kiely	Denise Mc Carthy
LuAnn McNabb	Robbin Almen	Debbie Gregory
Vickie Francis	Susan Tindall	Laurie O'Bryan
Patty Dressel	Mark Richards	Dale Rumberger
Penny Douskalis	Linda Nicklyn	Dana Cimino
Salma Ashmavi	Birgit Retson	Dave Thompson
Susan Vaccarino	Clair Girard	Heather Grayson
Becky Williams	Bobbi Cordingley	

The September 2002 minutes were approved after a change was made for the amount in the money collected for Directory sales. The correct amount is \$3,250. Also, the sentence about unlisted phone numbers was taken out.

The Treasurer's Report (Destiny Burns): \$23,051.34.

The Committee Reports

Bits (Trish Manghelli) The Bits program will start on Oct.26th. Tudors are still needed.

Landscape (Susan Vaccarino) Nov. 16th is landscaping day. Volunteers are needed to clean out the flowerbeds and mulch. 5 Hollies and 14 Jumpiers have been purchased.

Academic Achievement (Sue Kiely) The first awards will be on Nov.26th for sophomores, juniors and seniors who have GPA's of 3.75 or better. There was a discussion about a more permanent honor wall and putting names in the newsletter. We should try getting more students involved in the award ceremony.

Minority Achievement (Mark Richards) The group has meet 3 times so far. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. 480 letters where sent out to minority students.

Directory (Deb Gregory) 800 were ordered and over 700 sold so far. Over \$3,500 collected.

Reflections (Laurie O'Bryan) The Art, Music and English Dept. have received the entry rules and guidelines. The theme for this year is Signs of Courage. The entries must be in by Nov. 8th.

President's Report (Birgit Reston) PTA State Convention Nov. 15th –17th

Freshman Parent Program

The program started at 7:40 pm. 10 Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors talked about what it was like when they were freshmen. They discussed the problems they faced and they wished someone had told them about some of the things they found out. They said that the parents should not push the students to take honors classes and to let them try to find a lot of things out for themselves. They are already under a lot of stress. Encourage them to get involved in different clubs or activities or sports. Tell them to go with friends to check out different activities. This is a great way to meet new people or even start up a new club. Time management is a big factor to be able to manage homework, jobs or sports. Another point that was made was how difficult it was for them to get used to not being reminded constantly about homework, projects, etc. Start early to think about college. Start in the freshman year to see what colleges are looking for. Keep up your grades it is hard to bring up the GPA in the senior year. Try to do some volunteer work, community service. High School is a big adjustment. Students should think about what they want to do with their life.

Dave Thompson (The School Psychologist):

Talked about New Freshman, what may work for different students, the adjustments to High School, what to do for your shy child, etc. Some of the suggestions included something similar to big sister/big brother program where the upper classmen would answer their question and show them around the school. Also, parents should talk to their children to let them know you are there for them. "Be a parent, not a best friend. Pick your battles, listen to your child. React to their actions and not to them. Hate the behavior not the child."

Parents talked about what worked for their students trying to adjust to high school.

The next WHS PTSA meeting is scheduled for Nov.19, at 7 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bev Basoglu, WHS PTSA Recording Secretary

Approved as written _____ Date:

Approved as corrected _____ Date:

Addendum

After the meeting was adjourned, Mr. Rumberger made the following comments:

He was proud of how well the students behaved at the Homecoming Dance. He talked about the sports games to be played at undisclosed locations. The final draft plan for the parking spaces in front of the school was turned in. There will be 46 additional parking spaces when completed. SAT dates will not change. The Dec. 28th issue of Time Magazine will feature the Westfield Eagle Scout project.