



**Westfield High School  
General Membership PTSA Meeting  
September 15, 2005**

**Attendees**

Dana Cimino	Pete Torres	Mary Torres
Linda Nicklyn	Grace Duke	Mark Richardson
Jodi Border	Phil Border	Yolanda Thornton
Salma Ashmawi	Amy Mann	Alana Heng
Edie Walker	Susan Tindall	Heather Grayson
Lorraine Arora	Carol Jasper	Pam Jones
Anitta Dudley	Karen Panafiel	Christina Mincey
Pat Hartman	Jessica Sutton	Natanya Plotnitskaya
Lynne Swartz	Kilipkumar Giampa	Mona Miller
Meg Lawless Crossett	Domenic Sanza	Cynthia Grant
Mike Campbell	Jennifer Campbell	Ray Clements

The PTSA Business meeting was called to order at 7:05 by President Dana Cimino. There were 32 members present. The minutes for the 8/16 meeting were accepted with one correction under Minority Achievement. Lorenza Coffin and Josh Richardson were the award winners in June.

**SGA – Jessica Sutton**

The first back to school dance is this coming Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. They still need parent chaperones. The SGA is also seeking help with the homecoming tailgate and parade, as well as decorating for homecoming and chaperoning for the dance on 10/29. Decorating will take place at school after 8am until approximately 1pm; the homecoming dance is from 9pm until 11:45pm. Any interested parents should contact Diane Underwood at [Diane.Underwood@fcps.edu](mailto:Diane.Underwood@fcps.edu). The Class of 2009 will be having their freshman class elections. The Powder Puff game is 10/20. On October 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a Hypnotist Show from 7-9pm.

**Treasurer's Report – Edie Walker**

Edie received 182 affirmative ballot responses for the PTSA budget and 1 against. AGNP brought in \$14,383.95, 5K Run \$1,919.27, and the PTSA has \$18,902.80. Edie is looking into taking out CD's with the money that have no penalties. We would earn better interest since the money sits there for a large part of the year.

**Minority Achievement – Mark Richardson**

There was a meeting this past Tuesday, with approximately 15-20 attendees. It is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7pm at WHS. Mike Campbell presented to the group on the school plan and AYP. The next meeting is on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Their newsletter, MAC, will be coming out by the middle of October. There will be a link for minority achievement on the WHS web site.

**Library Presentation – Joy Sibley**

Joy described various data bases available to students.

Joy can be reached at [Joy.Sibley@fcps.edu](mailto:Joy.Sibley@fcps.edu), or 703-488-6520.

**Principal's Report – Mike Campbell**

Mike reported that WHS made the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) last year, in contrast to last year. AYP takes into account SOL's and 70% of students need to pass the test. The total passing for WHS was 94%.

The minority achievement gap improved as much as 18% in some areas. There is a big emphasis on decreasing the minority student gaps.

AP results from 2 years ago were 59% for approximately 700 tests to now, 61% for approximately 942 tests.

The school addition's completion date is 8/06. The addition has not impacted instruction yet.

Touching Bases will be on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, from 12-3pm. Teachers will be lined up alphabetically on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Students will attend school for the morning until about noon.

Six families have joined WHS since the Hurricane Katrina. SGA is involved with how to help the kids as well as the Guidance Department.

The volleyball team received an Academic Award. Cynthia Szwajkowski, Social Studies teacher, received the Teacher of the Year Award.

Mike is going to put out a regular update on Keep In Touch. There were 3,000 Keep In Touch members last year.

Ray Clements, Safety and Security Specialist, spoke to the PTSA and updated us on school fire drills. The school is required to have 4 drills within the 1<sup>st</sup> 20 days of school. The school lost the use of door 5 (E Hallway) due to construction. After the 1<sup>st</sup> 20 days, there will be 1 fire drill per month. Approximately 250 people/minute exit per door with 500 for a double door. Trailers are considered as secondary buildings. The trailers are not required to evacuate during a fire drill since they are separate buildings. The number of students outside has not changed; one half of the building is already outside in trailers.

In the event of a real fire, the football field or Rec Center would be used as areas to retreat to.

Ray reminded parents how qualified his staff was, with 4 retired policemen, 1 is a retired fireman, and Rick Call is a Fairfax County Police Officer.

### **President's Report – Dana Cimino**

Dana thanked Heather Grayson and the 100 + volunteers who put together packets for back to school. More volunteers are needed tomorrow to make 10,000 copies.

Mona Miller was thanked for her job improving the landscaping at school. The Bull Dog BBQ was well attended. Thanks to Karoline Hurd and the committee. Michele Plymyer was thanked for putting together the PTSA newsletter, which went out in the packets. It will be published quarterly. Volunteers will be needed for the Back to School nights from 6-7pm and from 7-9pm to help at the PTSA table on September 21<sup>st</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **ACE – Jodi Border**

Pins were ordered for the Academic Letter ceremony in November. The Honor Roll breakfast will have donuts and juice.

**ANGP – Pam Jones**

Pam attended the Senior Parent night yesterday at school. She will also have ANGP tables set up at the Back to School nights and hopes to get more volunteers.

**5K Race – Grace Duke**

The race is scheduled for Saturday, October 29 at 8am in front of school.

**BITS- Carol Jasper**

Bull Dog Instructional Tutors for Students will have an informational meeting on 10/1. The program starts on 10/15. It will be on Saturdays, from 8:45-11am and is for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> year that the program is going to be open to elementary schools in the beginning of the year. Carol's goal is to increase the number of days for tutoring compared to last year.

**Dog Dish Café- Linda Nicklyn**

The café will be open from 5-9pm on the Back to School Nights. Staff will be served from 5:30-6:30. Subway and pizza will be served.

**Kid to School Liaison – Meg Lawless Crossett**

This program is for students who are sick or out of school for over 1 week. Meg would assist in picking up homework, go to the hospital, etc.

**Landscaping – Mona Miller**

A gardening/environmental club is being started at school. Carol Truesdell agreed to be the faculty sponsor.

John DeBell, of Clippers will be donating company time to trim all of the school hedges. He and Mike Mandigo have met to discuss some landscaping needs.

**Webmaster- Alana Heng**

Alana explained the process of expanding the capacity of the service for forms, pictures, etc. on the school website.

**Reflections – Lynne Swartz**

The kick off letter will be forthcoming. There are opportunities for students in visual, photography, literature, and music composition.

## **Volunteer Coordinator – Heather Grayson**

Thank you's went out to the volunteers who assembled packets. Other volunteer opportunities included the health screenings on 11/9 and 11/10, and the Ethics Day on 11/21, at the Westfield Marriot. There are 891 10<sup>th</sup> graders. There will also a need to sort the Federal Survey forms when they come in. There will be little or no opportunities to volunteer in December through February.

## **Ongoing Business**

The current by-laws expire in August 2006. A copy is available in the PTSA box in the main office. Once revised the By-Laws will be available on our website. The By-Laws committee met and made the following changes:

Article VIII: OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION – Section 3a. #4 Removal of Corresponding Secretary. With the ability to communicate directly through email to members and others by the Executive Board, we feel this position is not needed.

ARTICLE XI: Executive Board Section 3g. Change “to approve routine bills within the limits of the budget” to “to present to the General Membership for approval, budget amendments over \$1,000.” This provides a quantitative measure to what the Executive Board is able to do with changes to the budget.

ARTICLE XII: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS Section 4. Change “Twenty” members, as defined in Article V, Section 11, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in any meeting of this association” to “Ten” members. Reducing this number will allow the PTSA to conduct business as needed since there are months where we lack a quorum.

ARTICLE XVI: FISCAL YEAR Change “The fiscal year of this PTSA shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30” to “The fiscal year of this PTSA shall begin on August 1 and end on July 31. WHS has several events that happen at the end of the school year, including the All Night Grad Party and After Prom. It is very difficult to try to close these out and close out the books by June 1.

A motion was made to approve and accept the changes to the By-Laws. There was a question from the floor about the quorum going down from 20 to 10. Discussion ensued. A motion was made to change the quorum from 10 to 15 and seconded. A vote was taken; 3 approved the amendment; 18 opposed. There were no abstentions. The motion failed to change the quorum from 10 to 15. The motion was seconded to approve and accept the changes to the By-Laws as printed in the handout. Members voted. There were 25 yeas, no nays and no abstentions. The motion passed.

## **Budget**

There will be a final ballot count for the budget next month.

The website was discussed. A new contract would cost \$166.50 for a 2 year contract (or \$6.95/month) This would give us 3,000 mega bites of space and the capacity for up to 500 emails, with front page extensions. Current capacity is 10 megabytes. We have

already paid for the Domain name, which was \$35/year, or would be \$25/year with a contract. A motion was made to purchase a 2 year contract at a cost of \$168.00 for the PTSA at Westfield High School. The motion was seconded and passed.

**New business**

A motion was made for the PTSA to make a \$75 contribution to the Fairfax County Citizen's for School Bond '05. A discussion ensued. The motion was seconded, and passed, with no one opposed.

The Katrina relief efforts were discussed. The county is dissuading collections at school. After discussion, it was agreed that the PTSA collect gift cards to give to local families impacted by the hurricane.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

**Announcements**

**September 21 – Back to School Night 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

**September 28 – Back to School Night 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>**

**October 1 – BITS Begins**

**October 3 - Special Ed parent Meeting**

**October 10 Columbus Day – No School**

**October 18 – Minority Achievement Committee Meeting**

**October 12 – Freshman Parent Night**

**October 16 College Fair at Fair Oaks**

**October 17 College Night at Hayfield HS**

**October 20 PTSA meeting – “The Bong Show”**

**October 28 End of First Quarter**

**October 24-29 – Homecoming Week/Red Ribbon Week**

**October 29 – 5K Run & Homecoming Dance**

**November 2 Special Ed Parent Meeting**

**November 7 & 8 No School**

**November 8 – Election Day**

**November 11 – Touching Bases Teacher Conferences – Students Early Release**

**November 17 – PTSA Meeting**

**November 21 Ethics Seminar**