

Minutes of the Meeting April 6, 2015 Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association

Attending: Malini Dutta, Mikie Ulwick, Marc Arria, Sean Kiley, Paula Michienzi, Susan Wiseman, Cindy Bohne, Roger Hain, Susan Wolf, Sam Kunes, Susan Verdicchio, Audrey Loria, Elena Langlois, Jody Collins Skinner, Lori Scully, Roger Hain, Susan Fagerstrom, Martin Faulkenberg, Leah Holber, Janice Jens, Anita Colasante

Malini Dutta called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Because two of our speakers have other commitments this evening and need to leave early, the agenda will be out of order --the HOT TOPIC will come before the business part of the meeting.

HOT TOPIC – Marc Arria, Athletic Director, and John Danizio Director of Finance – the state of WHS Athletics and the Athletic Budget.

- Most spring sports have started their games/meets already
- We have the largest number (in recent history of WHS) of athletes participating in Spring sports
- Sport locations for next year are being worked out; most will be at McCall with trickle down for practices at elementary schools
- For basketball teams next year- “home” games will be at Woburn HS, unless that is not available, then teams will play at Stoneham HS. McCall is not big enough to handle crowd for both boys’ and girls’ teams together.
- There will be no district- provided transportation to elementary schools for practices. Need to be consistent with other team practices (ski teams, for example) who provide their own transportation to practices. Will look into possibility of using current town bus routes to get athletes to VO. (for volleyball team).
- All of the athletic fields will be online for next year

Q. There were 120 kids on the Cross Country team and many did not have real uniforms. Their families paid the same User Fee as other teams-- Will they have them next year?

A. Yes, uniforms for CC have been ordered. John Danizio: the Athletic budget has now been broken out, by team, and each has its own budget. Will be much easier to track now.

- There will be “sport budget reports” generated for each season to track all income and expenses by sport. The Fall 2014 season report was approved by the School Committee. The Winter 2014-15 report will be approved by SC soon. Request by parent was made to have those available on Edline?
- The athletic budget had a \$150k deficit when Marc came to WHS. We had to raise the User Fees to bridge that gap.
- There was a projected \$80k budget gap for next year—the School Committee appropriated \$40k and the Winchester Sports Foundations donated \$40k- to fund the budget 100%.
- Coaches’ stipends have been increased. WHS stipends were very low; this increase will get them to the midpoint of pay for the Middlesex League.

- School is looking for a new Cheer coach.

Q. Has anything been done about Booster clubs re: fundraising?

A. First we need to take stock of which teams are fundraising, and how much money they are raising. We have a Fundraising Policy in place and we are enforcing it. It was not being followed by every team prior to Marc coming to WHS. Teams must fill out paperwork in order to fundraise, and they need to be approved by Marc. Fundraising must be voluntary—no team member can be forced to fundraise. There cannot be a mandatory “Booster Fee” enacted by teams or Captain’s parents—it must be voluntary.

Q. We have increased enrollment, and still many teams that “cut” athletes. Will there be sports added so everyone can play?

A. No varsity level sports will be added. We already have 31 Varsity sports—more than any other school in the large division of the Middlesex league. We are also in danger of not having enough boys for the swim team next year.

Q. What about intramural sports as a possibility for “cut” athletes and others?

A. There have been programs, one run by the Winchester Basketball Association, in the past that is similar to intramurals. Sean would like to see an “open gym” concept for kids to at least have access to play.

Q. Any possibility of sports teams at McCall?

A. Has not been looked into as of yet. Time has been spent trying to get HS athletic budget fully funded.

Q. Explain the waiver for gym class for Juniors and Seniors.

A. If you use a WHS sport as your sport in order to get a waiver, a student must be on the team roster, in good standing, at the beginning of the season, and on the roster, in good standing, at the end of the season or no credit will be given. There is no flexibility on this.

PFA Business

Secretary’s Report- Minutes of December 8, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report Year-to-date expenditures total \$6,511.49. Revenues total \$25,844.03. The Direct Appeal has raised 86% of the goal, but only 203 of approximately 900 families have participated. Would still like to raise the additional \$4,150 to get us to our goal of \$30,000.

It was suggested that there be another email blast just for Direct Appeal—not as part of the PFA Newsletter. Maybe focus on providing information about exactly what the money is spent on. There may be a perception that the PFA is sitting on a large amount of cash in its coffers- such has been the case at some of the elementary schools. The email blast could explain that there is only about \$5,000 of a cushion- mostly for cash flow early in the Fall.

One attendee said there is a general feeling of “dissatisfaction” with the High School and that is why people may be unwilling to donate to the DA.

The Treasurer’s report was approved.

Principal's Report — Sean Kiley

- Sean reported feeling mentally tough right now—because of all of the things that have happened this year—it's been a tough year.
- He is excited about hiring new teachers for next year—has been interviewing some great candidates.
- We have a group of female students developing a driver safety app (thru a Women in Engineering program)
- Chris Herron, former Boston Celtic and basketball star, will speak to the entire student body about substance abuse- on 4/13/15. Evening program that night for parents.
- Parent raised issue: what to do about athletes, on any sports team, who want to visit colleges over April vacation- coaches can be very tough on the kids about this. Sean said he will exempt kids, from sports practices, for college visits, on a case-by-case basis.
- Parent raised issue: where does WHS stand on assessing teachers? Sean said that evaluating teachers can be very powerful—it helps the teacher get better. The Assistant Principals each go into 10 classes per week to evaluate teachers.
- If any parent has any issues with a teacher's quality of teaching—email or call Sean directly.

The next PFA meeting is scheduled for Monday 4, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elena Langlois
Recording Secretary