

Minutes of the June 11, 2014 Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association

Attending: Audrey Loria, Malini Dutta, Elena Langlois, Leah Holber, Kathy Czeck, Lisa Vahey, Brenda Reishus, Lynn Phillips, Karin Sangster, Susan Verdicchio, Tom Gwin, Marc Arria, Anne Marie Hill, Michelle Nathan, Michael Loria, Carol Cashion.

Audrey Loria called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Co-President's Remarks- Audrey:

The PFA had two big accomplishments this year:

- 1) Became a 501c3 (non-profit) organization this year. This translates to hopefully increased Direct Appeal through corporate matching and tax deductions for individuals. A big "Thanks" goes to Leah Holber and Jean Collings.
- 2) An Athletic Budget Task Force was created. Athletic Director Marc Arria is on the Board and Tom Gwin is in full support of this. Thanks to Jody Skinner who spearheaded this effort.

Thanks to Jody Skinner, who is leaving the Board, for her 3 years on the Board including Co President. And thanks to Brenda Reishus who is also leaving the Board after 4 years of service.

Also thank you to our Senior Parent Advisors for their hard work—they are all moving on.... Karen Janson, Kathleen Foley, Patti Green, and Sheryl Brennan.

Lori Scully has agreed to step into the Co-President's role for next year with Malini.

Malini Dutta: thanked Audrey for all of her hard work and her advice over the past year. There is an opening for Publicity Chair and one on the Social Committee on the PFA Board for next year.

Secretary's Report –The minutes from the last PFA meeting on May 7, 2014 were reviewed. There were no comments. Motion to approve minutes was passed.

Treasurer's Report– \$28,000 has been raised in the Direct Appeal this year. The goal was \$30K. Balance is now \$11,910. We have distributed \$10,000 of the \$17,000 that was earmarked for grants. We have about \$6500 still to give out. Kathy Czeck explained why the \$6500 has not been distributed yet, but will happen soon or early next year. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was passed.

Principal's Report – Tom Gwin

This is the last report by Tom Gwin as he is retiring.

Tom said it has been great to work with the PFA- they have done so much for the teachers: Chocolate Strawberries on Valentines Day, Teacher Breakfasts, Staff Appreciation Lunch.

The end of the year for Seniors went well. There were minimal pranks, the Prom went well and the Luau was really nice. Graduation – new this year is that Faculty were NOT required to be at the ceremony, but almost 60 teachers chose to attend and march in ahead of the graduates. Many of the teachers were in university cap and gown. It looked very impressive.

The incoming 8th graders had their moving up day. PALS (Peer Alliance Link) gave tours to them and they were given a talk by Parent to Parent.

The new principal, Sean Kiley, starts on July 1. The main office will be housed at Lincoln school over much of the summer after construction starts.(July 1- Aug 15)

The entire school district is changing over to a new domain name for all email addresses—it will be [name@winchesterps.org](mailto:winchesterps.org)

At their next two meetings, the School Committee will be reviewing the Breathalyzer Policy which was written last year but was not implemented. The Policy needs to be vetted with an attorney.

Marc Arria – AD- Athletic Fee Schedule

When Marc started as AD in Fall 2013, he was asked to build a new budget. There was not really a complete budget before that time.

Marc has done the budget and the funding gap after projected revenues minus expenses is \$160,000.

One recommendation to bridge this gap is to look at a new User Fee structure. Some possible options:

- 1) Tiered system based on the actual cost of the sport—High, Medium, Low- maybe \$450, \$350, \$300 tiers for each athlete per season.
- 2) 12% increase across the board from \$290 to \$325. And family cap going from \$950 to \$1500.

Other options include:

- a) cut uniforms for one year, or delay new uniforms and
- b) partner with The Winchester Sports Foundation to act as a booster club and streamline all of the fundraising so it is more equitable among teams.

Examples of “high” cost sports—Hockey and Football; “medium”: cost sports-- baseball and basketball, “Low” cost sports-- cross country.

There should be no fundraising for “needs”, only “wants”. The budget should take care of uniforms and other necessities. Fundraising should only be for extras—banquets, etc.

What about kids who cannot afford the User Fee? There is a waiver process—students who get free or reduced lunch will typically get a free or reduced User Fee. What % of students get a waiver? Marc did not know off hand.

Marc reiterated that “no student is required to fundraise”. Even though parents gave examples of Coaches “requiring” fundraising, he said that is not the case and he is working on that. Marc asked that any parent with that issue to please email him. He does not ever want to have a student feel burdened by a requirement to fundraise.

Celebration for Dr. Gwin’s Retirement

Audrey Loria indicated that following this meeting there is a celebration for Tom Gwin’s retirement. There is a cake and lots of other goodies. A large number of parents, teachers, former students, and local officials were in attendance to honor Dr. Gwin’s years as principal at WHS.

The next PFA meeting is scheduled for the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Elena Langlois
Recording Secretary