

Minutes of the Meeting December 7, 2015
Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association
Approved

Attending: See attached sign in sheet

Lori Scully called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Mikie Ulwick discussed the PFA's need for someone to take over for Publicity. This person would be responsible for daily postings on Facebook and tweets on Twitter. Currently the PFA's Facebook page has 1019 likes and 6500 views and the Twitter account has 100 followers.

Special Guest Speaker #1: Student Council: Chris Kuang President, Elizabeth Andrews - VP, Kirk Aharonian - 12th and Mia Carazza - 10th grade.

They talked about what role the student council is. Each grade has 6 student council members and they meet every Wednesday night. The council has a charitable part: make ribbons for breast cancer and a Sci tour. They also host events such as:

- Nepal Earthday (red is the national color) - students where red and will match dollar for dollar that is donated.
- Spirit week - where there is a theme for everyday
- Dodgeball tournaments
- Talent show called "Created night of the Arts" in the Spring.
- Cookie walk

They advocated for the student body to the teachers and Dr. Evans on such hot topics as:

- sports banquets venues
- Mental illness and depression to raise awareness in the school.

Q. Was it difficult to come here (meaning the student council to speak).

A. They are appreciative of it so they can say what they are doing for our kids.

Q. How do you get elected?

A. You get a petition and need 25 student signatures and 3 teachers signatures. 6 students from each grade form the student council.

Q. How do the kids like the HS project?

A. They love it! The cafeteria , library as a whole they are ready to move with it. They are excited about the tv's in the cafe and chrome books.

Q. Are the students voices being heard? What is the protocol to have a meeting with the principal?

A. No, there is not really a protocol. They would like to bring their views and ideas, whether it be about sports or school, to the committee to get a students perspective so to know that they will be heard.

Q. How do the students know who their representatives are? How do you get to know what they really want?

A. They say they hope that the students are telling their grade student council representatives their needs.

PFA Business:

Secretary's Report

Minutes of November 2, 2015 meeting were presented. There were no changes. A motion to accept the minutes, as presented, was made and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Holber presented a recap of the financial situation. The Direct Appeal raised \$23,490, the goal was \$30,000. We have \$28,500 in the bank account to date. No other significant activity was noted.

Interim Principal's Report:

Christine thanked M. Robot, advisor student council, "He is great and making all the connections."

Christine went on to explain the new RAD program.

Q. Why is it just girls? Why are they missing school to do this program?

A. We need to change how we plan things.

Q. How do you communicate with the Student Council?

A. They write a letter and are respectful as to what goes on and how to get things done.

Christine mentioned the school was getting ready announce results of risk assessment survey. She plans on discussing the results with student council.

Christine introduced Joel Buford, as he is now at WHS and how the students LOVE him. He is hoping to raise money to bring in some professional singers to his classes. A parent suggestion was made to write up a grant to try to get funding.

Principal Kelly also talked about the Coalition's program on Depression.

She reiterated that the Student Council team needs to be comfortable for teens to bring friends and work together to help one another to have a good robust group. She talked about spirit week and the pep rally how well it was received. This year the pep rally was held on the front steps of the school and Principal Kelley made a speech. She felt the kids really responded to her - telling her how great her speech was.

She mentioned that she had suggested to the teachers to send a thank-you for the grants that they received from the PFA.

The high school hired a new musical director, Sharon Martin, to direct this years musical production. It is an old classic favorite so people from all aspects of the Winchester community from the jenks seniors, families and kids alike would all love it.

School Council Representative Janice Jens:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday Dec 10th at 6:45 am.

She discussed the minutes from their last meeting, reiterating the purpose of the school council is to help with school improvement. Other items discussed were their goals to achieve this year, goals outline from Dr. Evans Tech support, and WAG (Winchester Advisory Group). WAG will not be implemented this year - this was simply to talk about different issues with the students. In some classrooms it worked and some were not so engaged. Chris Kelley spoke again as to why did it or didn't work -it used to be very successful.

Committee Reports:

Direct Appeal

Only 183 of 997 families have donated. We still need to raise \$6,500.

Q. Where is all the information about what the funds are used for reported.

A. It is on the PFA website and it was discussed about putting the information on facebook and twitter.

Social Committee

The committee thanked students from Mary Pace's cooking classes for the desserts they they made for the meeting.

They discussed the upcoming holiday breakfast for teachers and staff on Wednesday December 9th. The next teacher and staff appreciation event is in February & they will again be looking for parent donations.

Special Guest #2: Jim Burrows, Skanska (WHS Building Project - See attached presentation)

One concern raised was the amount of modular classrooms; the will be adding an additional 20 in phase 3. It was noted that it should not be a problem as the teachers and kids seem happy.

The time line for the entire project is fours years.

Q. What was the delay on the auditorium?

A. It had to do with the FM hearing system which needs to be installed in a school setting. As this issue has been resolved they are working on bringing back the chair installer with a hope of having this space completed by the end of January.

Q. Were there any un foreseen problems.

A. The manager said yes in phase 1, but not really in phase 2.

Dr. Evans commended how the students have really worked well without the use of the gym and auditorium. She also commented on how she thought the play was the best she has seen.

Q. Freshman lunch and where they sit?

A. They sit urban legend. Principal Kelley noted that she asked a student to move to a table with seats and but the student said she would rather sit on the floor at the table where her friends are. However, in the winter months they may go back to 3 lunches.

The next PFA meeting is on February 1, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Medzorian
Interim Recording Secretary