

Minutes of the Meeting February 1, 2016  
Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association

Attending: See attached sign in sheet

Lori Scully called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Lori opened the meeting introducing the Hot Topic Box.

The March PFA meeting has been changed to Tuesday, March 8th, 2016.

PFA Business:

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the December 7th meeting were presented. There were no changes. A motion to accept the minutes, as presented, was made and approved.

Dr. Evans spoke re: "The Principal Search" she sent out an email and is now looking for 2 parents to be on the committee and join in on the interview process. The dates are March 15-17, 2016..

Dr. Evans also recognized Interim Principal Kelly and how great of job she is doing. She also wanted Principal Kelley to apply for the position and Principal Kelley declined for she is going to go back as Principal to Lynch.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Holber presented a recap of the financial situation. We are very close to the goal for Direct Appeal and once we get there we will have more money for grants. A motion to accept the treasurer's report, as presented, was made and approved.

Interim Principal's Report

The "Tours for the Community" open house is March 21st. They will also be touring the modulars. The new Auditorium is open and is being used already.

The teachers and staff will be packing up and also purging and getting ready for the move and the continued construction.

They are also planning Who we are and Where we are going for the 9th graders coming in the June for the 8th grades students coming in the fall.

Budgets were presented to the school committee. Things in general are going well. {Principal Kelley was thanking everyone for all they do staff and especially the Guidance department. She could not say enough about how great the department is and how they meet once a week to make sure everyone knows what is going on and want to do the best for our children.

Q. Where will the science labs be?

A. Chemistry and Biology labs will be in E wing for better ventilation.

Q. Will Principal Kelley be part of the interview process

A. Dr. Evans said once they set up the people she should be part of the process.

Lori Scully received a text that the 2017 Student speakers just cancelled.

Director of Guidance Suzanne Ontso

She introduced herself and Amber Haines.

They have new students coming in this week. All students in the High School will meet their counselors 2 times a year. Freshman are brought to the office so they can learn where guidance and then meet with their counselor.

Sophomores PE, Guidance meets them and gives different kinds of testing to help kids make decisions towards their life.

Jrs, they have workshops, computer labs secondary planning.

February 11th is college night at McCall the students will be getting a folder of information.

PSAT night went great and parents were also please with the information given.

The guidance department will be meeting with the juniors and seniors individually as they get older they need guidance more with making more decision in life.

The juniors are encouraged to come after February break to ask questions re: college night share their thoughts etc.. then in the fall they will meet again.

Amber Haines job entails coupling with guidance to help our kids with social, emotional well being. If our kids have a problem she is there and kids also come to her through

peer to peer referrals. She helps them with depression, panic attacks and anxiety. Students are also having a lot of body image disorders and this is with both genders.

She also touched on the social media and certain websites that are causing problems with our kids.

Amber also talked about how they have a Crisis Intervention plan is students are talking about harming themselves or worse. They would meet with a team access for risk with the student and then assess the situation.

Amber talked about GEM Girls empowered by more. This group started with 2 seniors and 6 freshman now there are 2 seniors and 15 freshman. This is a girls mentoring group.

Q. What if a sexual offense happened?

R. A. We have a student resource officer that this is reported to and Amber tells the student they have someone to support them

Students do come and really confide in the her and as long as they are not sounding like they are going to hurt themselves they keep everything confidential.

She also has a Inner peace group which teaches vulnerable students coping skills to use and to go home and practice these skills. This group meets on Mondays.

This week they were having a new school student lunch. They have pizzas and then the new students are invited and anyone else who would like to welcome the new students.

They spoke about the Innerpeace program they had which had 50 students attend and their topic was teen depression. They learned about what depression can do and gave them examples of how to deal with it and get help.

They spoke on the Stress Management group and how they have training in Mental health first aid.

Q. How many boys come to the Inner Peace Group?

A. out of 20 students 5 are boys.

Most boys will go to guidance and talk they do not have groups.

Q. Are you working with LC3 ( social/emotional)

R. A. Amber works with the general population and LC has someone specific assigned.

Comment from parent:

Parent is very pleased with Guidance and sees their senior with great results and getting ready for college.

Grades should be going out this week.

### Grants

Emails went out today for the new grants and they will have answers for them in March.

### Direct Appeal

Mikie said the goal is set for 30,000 and they are almost there. They are really pushing for the more they get the more they have for the school. The PFA is was also approached if they could buy Hi Tech walkie talkies for the school this is still being decided.

Q. If we still have 15,000 in our budget why don't we use that.

A. We bought tables for the outside for the students to have lunch. We usually have 5,000 for a cushion.

Q. We do not have the budget on the PFA website, can we?

R. A. Great point, We will bring this up at the board meeting.

We have a social on February 11th for Teacher Appreciation. at 11:30.

They have decided to have the the graduation at McCall on June 5th at 4pm. Rain date is Monday they 6th.

Q. Do students and parents get the same emails.

A. Yes, they also hear the announcements over the loud speakers everyday.

They also started doing the Pledge every day.

Q. Senior activities and when is the last day of school?

R. A. yes there are activities planned and the sheets will go out after school vacation.