

WHS Parent Faculty Association (PFA) Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021 - Zoom at 7:00 PM

- Welcome/Introductions/Quick update from Co-Presidents (Mai Harrison & Abbie DiMatteo)
- Guest Speaker: Mrs. Anna Paradis has been a WHS Math Teacher for 20 years, is current President of Winchester Education Association, and is a WHS graduate!
She was a basketball coach before she became a Math teacher and has an engineering degree. She enjoys being with teenagers. Says it is the greatest privilege in the world to be a teacher.
Anna gave an insight into what it is to be a teacher in the pandemic. Her key message for all parents is to always reach out to the teachers if you have a question or feel like you are not informed.
- Principal Update (Principal Dennis Mahoney)
Abbie and Mai have been writing detailed blogs that cover almost everything. He asked that parents please reply to the mascot email that went out today, give your ideas and put your votes in.
He also talked about graduation – hoping for one in the McCall field, maybe separate for each cohort. But lots of unknowns as of now. There is no plans for the town wide parade that was done last year, it was just a one off. Also conversations about prom, class dinner, and other senior activities are on but no concrete plans due to the volatile situation.
- Approval of minutes from November meeting (Yogita Miharia)
- Direct Appeal (Ann Mikula and Lori Sirignano)
Good news: \$31,324.91 raised. About 163 donors. (Last year 230 donors, which was 19% participation rate.)
- Treasurer's Report Update (Kate Carpini)
204 donations as per her list. Will send details to Ann and Lori. We paid about 3K in grants so far since the last time and about 7K yet to be sent out. Still shy of our 15K goal. We are in great shape.

Committee Reports

- Grants (Ruth Gagne & Adrienne Spignesi) – No updates
- Newsletter (Tara Salvietti & Laura Colella)
If anyone has children on hockey and basketball teams, would kids be able to take photos to share since parents aren't able to go to the games anymore? Also please send arts, photography or any other pictures that you want to share for the newsletter.

- Technology/Website (Lauren L'Esperance) – No updates
- Social (Kerry Curran, Bettina Parks, Deb DePeter, Becky Tellefsen, Danielle Adams) – No updates
- Gifts (Kristen Geddes) – No updates
- Class of 2021 (Senior Parent Advisors Cindy Luthern, Bettina Parks, Kerry Curran & Leigh Hurd)
 - They are trying to think of games and activities. Come up with ideas for them to have something to do. Did well in spirit fair, made \$700 in profit.
- Class of 2022 (Junior Parent Advisors Caroline Kinsbourne, Naro Khandjiah & Mai Harrison)
 - Spirit fair - sold blankets and zoom university shirts. Made \$1300. 20 small flannel blankets with W remaining, so reach out if you would like to buy.
 - Thinking of social events next.
- Class of 2023 (Sophomore Parent Advisors Gina Altara, Deb DePeter, Tricia Syed, & Maria O'Connor)
 - Spirit fair was tough for lots of sports teams. Sales weren't great. Class of 2023 did well in the spirit fair. 2 blankets, couple of sweatshirts and flags remaining to be sold. Senior parents - if you haven't purchased yet, this is your chance.
- Class of 2024 (Danielle Adams, Pam Balfanz, Michelle Blumsack, & Leigh Hurd) – No updates

Community Updates

- School Committee
 - Brian Vernaglia – Budget season is on. Next week is budget hearing meeting. Feb-June calendars will be voted at next week's meeting. Will also be looking at draft calendar for next school year. Planning for an in-person return to school. Superintendent: Will be looking to have an interim for next year and then will start search for permanent. Ground work between now and fall for that, when they will start official search. Stay tuned for more info.
- Parent to Parent
 - Next event is Rick Irving
- Winchester Coalition update (January 21st “Social Dilemma” Panel Discussion)
 - Watch the documentary on Netflix before you go to the event.
- WFEE update (Virtual Authorfest, featuring Matt de la Pena, January 27th)
 - One author for whole high school. Working with English and History dept. Kids will get extra credits for showing up. Encourage your kids to sign-up.
 - Thanks to WFEE, the Winchester Co-operative Bank and the WHS PFA we will be welcoming Matt de la Pena on Jan. 27th as part of WFEE's Virtual Authorfest. Matt is the New York Times bestselling, Newbery Medal-winning author of 7 young adult novels. His critically acclaimed books are known for their vivid depiction of young people trying to find their way in the world. De la Pena*

teaches creative writing in NYC where he lives with his family. He will be talking to WHS students about his journey as a writer. Matt's best known young adult novels are Mexican White Boy and Ball Don't Lie.

- SpedPAC update – No updates
- Other business - None

Future Meetings: Hope to see you at our next ZOOM meeting, **Monday, March 15th at 7pm.**