***WHS Parent Faculty Association (PFA) Meeting***

***Sept 27, 2021***

Welcome/Introductions/Quick update from Co-Presidents (Abby & Brenda)

* Principal Update (Principal Dennis Mahoney) –

Not much guidance from the states this year. We are doing the best we can, to keep everybody safe. Smooth enough transition. Some new programs like peer mentorship and Freshmen orientation. It’s OK if your freshmen student is confused a bit. They will figure out soon. We feel the building is as safe as possible. Our vaccination rate on an average is 84% per class. Mask issue rages on!!! 50 kids (out of about 1400) on an average come without a mask every morning. Masks are a financial drain too for the district, it is a concern. But most majority is doing good. No midterms, no finals mandate this year. Teachers can still offer if they wish to. The teachers have already communicated to their students.

Jenn Markham, nurse, has been working hard and risen to the challenge. A new nurse joining early October. 17% in-school testing last week. WHS did great on MCAS.

* Anna Paradise (Dean of student life) – Grew up in Winchester – class of 94. Engineering degree – usability engineer. Came to coach freshmen basketball girls. That is when she realized how much she loved being with students. Been a math teacher for 20 years. This is a new role. Her job solely on your children’s engagement with WHS. Where do you fit in WHS? What clubs? Help students figure out where do you belong? 20% students don’t feel they have an adult anywhere. Her job is to help kids take the next step.

So far mentoring program. Juniors and Seniors on that.

Phase 2 – 1:1 mentoring

WIN stands for What I Need – school pauses and kids get to assess what they need. Teachers get some common planning time.

If you are worried about your kids, reach out to us. 4 administrators.

Will host a meeting with PFA, class advisors, class officers and Dot Butler – brainstorm ideas.

* Approval of minutes from May meeting (Yogita Miharia) - approved
* Treasurer’s Report Update (Kim)  - Was a treasurer 2 years ago, and back. Off to a good start. Starting balance healthy. Raised over 10K Direct appeal. Amazon Smile. Email Kim if you don’t know how to use it.

Be on the lookout for Winchester Gives back – a program run during the holidays. Students raise kids and goes back to needy local families.

**Committee Reports:** We have all the committees represented but there may not be updates

* Grants (Adrienne Spignesi & Maria O’connor): Teachers submit a proposal at the beginning of the year until end of October requesting money. This year the request is already upto 40K, which is much above the typical year. Direct appeal. Go to PFA website and check out grants for previous years. All Grants go through an approval through Mr. Mahoney. Thought through process.
* Direct appeal (Ann & Laurie) – Started the campaign end of August. 92 donors, over 11k. Set a goal of 30K. All the money goes back into the school. We want as much done before Thanksgiving.
* Newsletter (Tara Salvietti & Audrey. *Laura Colella?*) –
* Technology/Website (Lauren L’Esperance) – None
* Social: for teachers and staff. Typically do for holidays and end of the year.
* Gifts (Kristen Geddes) – None
* Class of 2022 (Senior class) – Musical Bingo – have to postpone as it was an indoor event. Prom venue.
* Class of 2023 (Junior class) – None
* Class of 2024 (Sophomore class): Need to brainstorm to come up with ideas to raise money.
* Class of 2025 (Freshmen class) – No updates

**Community Updates**

* Winchester Got Lunch (Mai) – Oct 14th musical concert.
* PISC (Nora, Stacy) – Parent Inter School council – meet once a month with PFA presidents from all schools once a month as well as other non profit committees. Every school attends together.