

Minutes of the Meeting May 7, 2014

Winchester High School Parent Faculty Association

Attending: Audrey Loria, Malini Dutta, Jody Skinner, Brenda Reishus, Karin Sangster, Kathy Czeck, Leah Holber, Susan Verdicchio, Ingrid Geis, Cindy Bohne, Barbara Adolph, Jayne Micciche, Sam Kunes

Audrey Loria called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Loria asked Susan Verdicchio to act as Secretary *pro tempore* and she agreed.

Minutes of the March 5, 2014 meeting were presented and approved with one amendment.

Treasurer's Report — Leah Holber highlighted income through April 30th of \$27,745.53 and fund balance in bank account of \$15,763.81. \$6,649.95 of \$18,000 total teacher grants has been disbursed. If all grant money is distributed, we will have approximately \$4000 to carry forward into next year. This is slightly less than normal, but due to Direct Appeal approximate shortfall of \$3000, and should not be a problem.

Co-Presidents' Report — Audrey Loria noted that notification letters have been received from both the federal IRS and Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue granting WHSPFA 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Tax exempt status should help Direct Appeal next year and facilitate parents' obtaining employer matching funds. The PFA is grateful to parent Jean Kolling, Esq. and Treasurer Leah Holber for their work on this.

- The Teachers' Appreciation Lunch on Monday May 5th at China Sky was very well attended. Tom Gwin expressed the teachers' gratitude. Retirement gifts were presented to Ms. Daniels, Ms. Letterie, and Ms. Brooks.
- The June PFA meeting date will be changed from June 4 to June 11th. The business meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. and a retirement reception in honor of Tom Gwin will follow at 7 p.m. More information will be sent to parents soon.
- Volunteers for the 2014 -15 PFA Board are still being sought. Karen Sangster has volunteered to work with Kathy Czeck on the Grants Committee. Still needed is a Co-President to serve with Malini Dutta. The plan is now to vote on next year's board and budget next fall.

Principal's Report — Tom Gwin reported the "Distractology" driving-and-texting simulation sponsored by the Coalition for a Safer Community has been a great success, with over 140 students participating. The mobile trailer with driving simulation was financially sponsored by Arbella Insurance and Saltmarsh Insurance of Winchester.

- This week students are taking Advanced Placement exams; every year the number of students taking AP tests increases.
- Several collection drives by organizations such as Winchester Got Lunch and others are going on, with bins located outside the Main Office.
- Phase 1 of the building renovation is on schedule to start as soon as classes end for the summer. The music department will be displaced (chorus to be in modular space, instrumental in WinCAM area), as well as the library (moving to one side of the cafeteria) and SPED learning center, science classroom, and Mac Lab located above the library (moving to modulars). There will have to be 3 lunch periods next year. During Phase 1 all student parking

will be re-located to Skillings Field, with no student parking on the WHS site. Students will have to allow extra travel time in order to walk from Skillings to the building. With the auditorium under renovation, the current plan is all WHS programs will be relocated to the middle school.

- Last Friday a presentation on mental health, organized by two students in the Senior Focus class, was held at the auditorium.

Special Reports

Youth Center — WHS students and Youth Center Peer Leaders Ian Whitney and Cam Curry, along with the Directors, Rebecca Levine and Becca Epstein, gave a short presentation outlining their role staffing the McCall Youth Center, running activities such as Coffee Houses and Halloween Window Painting, and serving as role models for middle school students.

- Goals of the Youth Center program are encouraging students to make good decisions and community-based service learning. The Youth Center students participated in a Habitat for Humanity project in Wilmington, Delaware this spring.
- In June they will work on the American Cancer Society fundraising event “Relay for Life” at Manchester Field behind McCall on June 21-22, 2014, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The Relay for Life is an overnight relay, with teams of 8-14 people taking turns walking on the track all night to raise funding for cancer research. The Cancer Society has a new rule this year that requires one adult chaperone present overnight for every group of 10 students. More info at www.Relayforlife.org/WinchesterMA

Connect & Commit — WHS junior Serena Trethewey discussed the Connect & Commit program as a way for students to both make friends and pursue service learning opportunities.

Coalition for A Safer Community — Winchester Police Officer Dan Perenick, School Resource Officer Phil Coss, along with Dot Butler of the Coalition, made a presentation about the new Text Anonymous Tip Line now available for students, parents, and residents to communicate with the Winchester Police Dept. on an anonymous basis via text message about non-emergency but potentially dangerous or potentially criminal situations. The text message you send is encrypted so the police do not know who sent it, but they are alerted about a questionable situation before it gets out of hand. Dial 847411 and Text the word “Winchester” and your tip as a text message. Officer Perenick emphasized that if a true emergency or crime is in progress, you would dial 911 for immediate help.

The next PFA meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2014 at 6:30 (reception for Tom Gwin at 7).
The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Verdicchio — Secretary *pro tempore*