

APPROVED  
W.T. WOODSON PTSO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 12, 2016

**Attendance:** Denise Parker, Kim Adams, Kristen Summers, Mary Ellen Horn, Shawn Guth Jennifer Metege, Jennifer Pryor-Abraham, Melissa French, Kristen Driscoll, Raquel Bishop, Dr. Scott Poole, Principal, Rita Manfredi, Selome Mersha, Emma Kaltner, Clare Baker, Karen Moran, Joanne Ladino, Liza Cooley, Fereshteh Mousapour, Linda Vasquez, Alicia Ward, Joan Fisher, Heather Villavicencio, Sreekanth Taduru, Margaret Behning, Michele Johnson

**I. Call to Order - Introductions**

**II. Approve June Minutes** – Approved June minutes

**III. President's Report – Monica Cameron** (Outgoing President)

1. **Call membership vote to elect Raquel Bishop as the 2016-2017 PTSO President** - Approved  
Raquel introduced the new Board who in turn told a little bit about themselves:  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Melissa French  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP: OPEN POSITION  
Treasurer: Kristin Driscoll  
Recording Secretary: Michele Johnson

**IV. Principal's Report – Dr. Scott Poole**

1. Updates on first week of school; buses; schedules; what's new and upcoming
2. Back to School Night (BTSN) will be held September 20, 2016

Dr. Poole welcomed everyone, noting it is his second year as Principal of W. T. Woodson High School. He commented about what a difference a year has made, and shared he wants feedback about what we can do to improve. He reported that buses had been running well the first week or so of school, much better than at this time last year. The first football game was held against Robinson High School and had the largest crowd in 14 years, primarily due to the large staff tailgate held. The game was followed by a dance which was also well-attended. The boosters made good money through ticket sales which were split with Robinson.

**Parent feedback:** Feedback from the freshmen class is that they were very impressed with the dance – that it was very well done. There was a big attendance increase versus last year's first dance, and the upper classmen were very inviting and welcoming. The dance cost \$1 per person. The PTSO sponsors it, and the leadership class runs the event. Overall, there was a theme of it being a “caring environment”.

Feedback was also shared that people valued the communication from the principal and school, particularly the emails.

There are plans to improve the school website, and Dr. Poole shared that there is an open position for the school-based technology specialist, which he would be interviewing for later in the week.

People requested more on Twitter.

The homeroom teacher concept is continuing, although people were assigned a new homeroom teacher this year, versus continuing with the same teacher as last year, through all years at the school, which was the original intent.

The school has on boarded 42 new staff, 70-80 of whom are experienced educators but are new to WHS. The remaining 10-20% are career switchers. Dr. Poole met with each one of them. He believes

they are all very qualified and have good intentions as educators.

**Parent feedback:** Could improve communications between the counselors and students, with an emphasis on involving the parents more. For example, if a child speaks to a counselor, the parents would like to be notified.

Other forms of communication: Daily announcements on the website – recommend parents read them each day. The weekly announcements are taken from the email.  
Odd/Even days and homeroom/returns – Dr. Poole will ensure this information is added back to the sidebar calendar. Parents noted that this information is included on the daily planners distributed to the students.

The group discussed Parent Vue and SIS.

Dr. Poole announced that the Parent's Guide to Grading had been updated and would be distributed during BTSN.

Each Friday Dr. Poole sends an email to parents through the KIT system.

Dr. Poole also established a communication protocol with the teachers, outlining his expectations of the staff.

He encourages recognizing student successes and plans to continue that in his weekly emails, focusing on growth and improvement in academics and citizenship. His philosophy is “catch ‘em doing the right thing”.

His vision is that our school has a culture of inclusion and is a place of hope for every kid, more psychologically safe, with less stress and no one feeling ostracized.

BTSN: the school board has some video's that will be shown upfront. The schedule includes:

7:00 pre-recorded messages from WHS administration, which will be shown during the first class  
Parents will then rotate through each of the remaining classes.

They created enlarged versions of the school maps which will be posted on the walls and the leadership class students will be placed throughout the school to provide guidance.

There was a discussion about special education teachers, who are more than an aid. He encouraged them to meet in advance to create working agreements about co-teaching and collaboration.

#### **V. Treasurer's Report – Kristin Driscoll**

Kristin reported that the guiding principles are to keep PTSO money in the schools for parents, teachers and students.

This year's budget has an increase in grant money to better serve teachers during harder economic times. Also an increase in hospitality for teachers and students, including funding for DJ's at dances.

Intend to spend during the current year more of the surplus so funds raised benefit the current students.

**Parent input:** Consider tapping into the Gates Foundation for AP programs and programs focused on increasing lower GPAs. Suggestion to create a task force of people who write grants.

There is a program to provide every student with an electronic device. Is being awarded by pyramid. Chantilly won last year. Must provide appropriate staff development showing how they use it as a tool to

engage students in learning.

### **The budget was approved.**

### **VI. Vice Presidents Report – Melissa French**

Melissa reported that the membership drive is going very well. Raised \$5,500 in directory sales and sponsorship ads.

There was a pre-order option on this year's membership form. Sue Taylor and Meri Farling are teaming to create this year's directory.

### **VII. Representative Reports**

Stacey Brahmey (Volunteer Coordinator) shared a list of open positions.

Suggestion was made to add a snapshot of the committees and what they do to encourage volunteers to step up. Also suggested offering co-chair roles.

Graduation was held on a Saturday last June, which the staff didn't like, but parents did.

Baccalaureate will be held on Sunday, June 18, 2017 and Graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at a location to be determined.

Hospitality held 8-10 events last year.

Kim Waxman (We-Mails) – will be distributed via email at 2:00 on Mondays, with a submission deadline of 5pm the previous Friday.

She is coordinating updates to the PTSO website.

Discussed adding hyperlinks to the WeMails but unfortunately the KIT system strips out that formatting.

Bricks & Scrips – Linda Vasquez encouraged people to purchase bricks for the courtyard by the auditorium, and Scrips/gift cards. Once the inventory is depleted, the Scrips program will be complete and not renewed.

Margaret & Karen reported that the *Welcome to Woodson* program was well-attended by ~125 students & families new to the Woodson pyramid.

We discussed a new concept Welcome to Woodson for Teachers.

Two more sessions to be held for new families, one on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 9:30am and another Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm.

Teacher representative- the PTSO needs one.

The student representatives reported that the Homecoming theme will be *Around the World*, and spirit week is October 1-7<sup>th</sup>.

The game on September 23<sup>rd</sup> will be “navy out” and there will be a marching band show.

The marching band booster reported that there was an increase in collaboration with respect to concessions and all went smoothly at the first game.

### **VIII. New Business**

**IX. Meeting Adjourned** - Next meeting was scheduled to be October 3, 2016 at 7pm and was rescheduled to October 17, 2016 at 7pm in the library, to avoid conflicting with the holiday.