

APPROVED
W.T. WOODSON PTSO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES
March 8, 2016

Attendance: Rita Manfredi, Linda Vasquez, Rebecca Phalan, Scott Poole, Mary Beth Quick, Rebecca Watt, Lauren Kinne, Stacey Brahmey, Bruce Waxman, Ally Kammerman, Gwen Cameron, Melanie Do, Jennifer Pryor-Abraham, Karen Moran, Kathleen DeCarlo, Chris DeCarlo

I. Call to Order

II. Approve Minutes – There are no February minutes to approve due to a family emergency.

III. President's Report – Rita Manfredi

Monica Cameron is not present this evening so Rita will be running the meeting. The Career Center needs more volunteers so interested parents should talk to Mrs. Ishii. New Parent Meetings have been taking place and Saturday Night in the Suburbs is next Tuesday, March 15th. Ms. Watt inquired why the last PTSO Meeting occurred during the day. Rita indicated that the PTSO was trying to attract new attendees. However, because it is difficult for teachers and the student representatives to be present during daytime meetings, it is unlikely that many more will be held. Rita reiterated the PTSO's support of the new tardiness policy, which seems to be meeting its intended goal of reducing student tardiness.

IV. Principal's Report – Dr. Scott Poole

Dr. Poole was contacted by Eileen Filler-Corn, who wanted to recognize Woodson on the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates. She was sent a list of achievements and decided to highlight that Woodson was a Blue Ribbon School (since Band, Chorus and Orchestra all received Superiors at District Festival) and had a team that did very well at the Academic Bowl for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Department Chair Meeting was today. The pros and cons of homework were discussed as attendees looked at research about the subject and talked about grade distribution, comparing Woodson to like schools. Dr. Poole encouraged everyone present to get involved with the budget process. He met Dalia Palchik, the new Providence School Board Member, when she toured Woodson. The County needs to protect staffing and increase salaries. Woodson has already lost four World Language teachers to Arlington County due to its higher pay. Ms. Sheppard helped organize a very successful Black History Luncheon.

V. Treasurer's Report – Linda Vasquez

The SAT/ACT practice tests made just under \$1,000 with approximately 90 or 100 students participating, however, the proceeds are not yet included in the Financial Report. There were no expenses paid in February.

VI. Representative Reports

Leadership: Ally reported that the Peach Fuzz game has been rescheduled for this Friday, March 11th. The Leadership Mulch Sale will take place on April 2nd. Bags are \$4.50 with free delivery if 15 or more are purchased. The 5K will be a Color Run benefiting the Histiocytosis Association. For Social Worker Appreciation Week, Leadership provided breakfast and decorated their doors. Counselor and Security Appreciation Week also went well. For Teacher Appreciation Week, Leadership will have gift cards to raffle off to the teachers. Black Out Bullying will also take place this Friday, the 11th. Stress Less, Laugh More Week will potentially include therapy dogs and a pizza truck. Spirit Week will be held the week after Spring Break and April 1st is Autism Awareness Day. Finally, Ally noted Woodson's recent

successes, which include Chamber Orchestra placing Second at the National Orchestra Festival in Tampa, Florida; the Dance Team receiving First and Grand Champion at Nationals; and DECA students placing Second at the State Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach.

Teacher Representative Rebecca Watt: Ms. Watt reiterated teachers' concerns about the budget. (Salaries in Alexandria and Arlington are currently \$18,000.00 higher. Their retirement programs are not quite as generous, but that is not much of an incentive for younger teachers.)

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: Stacey noted that the luncheon will take place on Thursday, May 5th, and again feature items from Red Hot & Blue.

SCRIP: Linda indicated that sales have been slow this semester. The program may eventually be phased out. (Five or so years ago, SCRIP was producing \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 a month. The current total is closer to \$1,000.00.)

Welcome to Woodson: Karen reported that there was an evening meeting last Fall and a New Parent Meeting during the daytime a couple of weeks ago. Dan Joo, a Counselor, focused on transitions. Mrs. Ishii also spoke. The participants would like to meet once a month. Fifty students were new to Woodson last Fall and another 30 have arrived since then. Biology Teacher Jennifer Forney is sponsoring the Student to Student (S2S) program.

Community of Solutions (COS): Mary Beth stated that the budget crisis was discussed at the last meeting. COS is considering making magnets featuring its and other help numbers for Stress Less, Laugh More week.

VII. New Business – Grants

All of the grants were approved as they appeared on the WTW Spring Grants 2016 spreadsheet. The TBD figure for the PTSO Contribution for the Bench Request for the weight room is \$1,000.00.

Meeting Adjourned: Next Meeting April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.