

W.T. Woodson PTSO Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018, 7:00pm - WT Woodson Library

Attendees: Ann Birkelbach, Mary Muller, Priscilla Lee, Yelena Jones, Laura Allen, Meera Pillai, Joan Fischer, Kim Waxman, Bruce Waxman, Katherine Gilbert, **Joey Dobrydney, Anthony Tran, Natalie Moran, Jack Fisher, Jack Leech, Mary Cyckowski, Owen Williams,* Betsy Miles, Amanda Burke, Lynn Barnsback, Karen Hyde Jackson, Jennifer Pryor-Abraham, Shawn Guth, Valerie Smith, Paula Weiss, Liza Cooley, Dr. Floyd, PTSO Officers: Melissa French, Kristin Driscoll, Michelle Byman, Michelle Lucas, Sara Mastro (32 total). **students are in italics.*

1. **Call to order:** President Melissa French called the meeting to order at 7pm.

2. **Officer's Reports**

a. **President:** **Melissa French** introduced the PTSO board. We've had a great start to the school year with the Cav Kickoff and Back to School Night. We received really good feedback on our new format for new families at the Cav Kickoff. Huge thanks to the Leadership students (so many of them!) who helped give tours to new students and parents. Big thanks to Hospitality (Teresa LeMair/Meri Farling) for hosting the back-to-school breakfast for the WTW teachers. They didn't get as many donations this year so they had to shop for more food. They did a great job letting our teachers know how much we appreciate them.

b. **1st VP-Membership/Acting 2nd VP-Fundraising:** **Kristin Driscoll** reported that she is doing double duty and could use a volunteer for fundraising. All \$ collected stays here at WTW. Happy to see new parents at the meeting (5). We have had many teachers, parents and students join the PTSO already this year. Membership forms have volunteer opportunities, all will hear from Kristin as events/needs arise. Melissa French added that folks should not feel obligated to help all the time. We appreciate any time you are able to give. Kristin went on to note that many regular attendees were at the meeting, including those who will be their final year at WTW. She also noted the PTSO includes students (S), which is how it differs from elementary/middle schools. Student votes count equally, they can be on the agenda, they can attend any and all meetings. Kristin "changed hats" to fundraising and welcomed the new engraved brick committee of Shane & Katherine Gilbert (Shane not in attendance), who are also the new Student Driver Magnet reps as well. Yelena Jones continues doing a great job as the Mock ACT/SAT rep. All of these things (and more) bring \$ directly back to the PTSO and are also a great way to get involved in the school if you are a new family. Student directories will not be the same as prior years due to privacy; they will only include name/grade/parents/emails (no addresses/phone numbers). Thus we will focus on having more sponsorships on our website and our new twitter feed. We are looking for a few volunteers to take on this role of finding sponsorships.

c. **Treasurer:** **Michelle Byman** distributed the budget and stated that the budget is similar to last year, except the projected amount for the directory has changed since the directory sales money was rolled into the membership cost per the new governing documents. Total income is \$8k less than expenses proposed because the PTSO has a healthy bank account (over \$30k) which will be put back into the school, which

then shows a proposed net loss. Membership receipts this year are projected at \$7,250, and we currently have nearly \$6k and it is only September. Online memberships continue to come in. Karen Jackson, art booster rep, noted the art boosters were not on the budget. Michelle added that their sub-account would be in next month's report. Jennifer Pryor-Abraham asked what "Girls State Leadership" was and why wasn't there a spot for Boys' State. Kristin shared that the PTSO was asked to sponsor this group while the boys are sponsored by another entity. Melissa made a motion to add a line item to the budget to help pay for snacks for the math center. In previous years, this cost has been covered via a grant. The motion was seconded, thus the motion passed.. Kristin added that the PTSO also sponsors the Pyramid Art Show. Sara Mastro asked if we needed \$1000 for the directory, given the changes with directory privacy. Michelle stated that the amount is less than last year for just that reason...we don't know what the directory will require at this point thus we still need to budget for it. Shawn Guth asked for clarification on the math pullout and it was decided to cap it at \$800. Kristin added that the teacher's luncheon has been rolled into Hospitality. The PTSO has also added a teacher supply closet for those teachers who join the PTSO to utilize. Kim Waxman asked about whether we sponsored the closet for students in need. Kristin explained that we do not sponsor that, but we provided space for them in the PTSO closet, which is what they asked us to provide. Laura Allen questioned if Fan Quest was in our budget. Melissa and Shawn both mentioned that we have done that via the grant process and that covers the t-shirts because Special Olympics funds a great part of Fan Quest. Laura will connect with Amanda Burke to learn more FanQuest at WTW and about this process. For new folks, Shawn Guth explained the grant process, which has a fall and spring cycle, and groups can apply to receive \$. The amounts will be reviewed offline by committee and with Dr. Floyd to determine if the need is there and if the school should fund the item or the PTSO, or both. Typically, PTSO gives between \$7-10k in grants each year. Lynn Barnsback presented the Cav Cruise budget and stated that the estimated expenses are \$56,550, and estimated ticket sales are \$34K. Thus \$22k needs to be raised, and she has no reason to believe they won't reach their goal. Cav Cruise will be at Senior Night (9/12). Each donation of \$50 gives you one chance to win a party bus for 20 people on prom night. Each donation of \$100 allows you one chance to win a beachfront condo in Cozumel. She mentioned that Paypal fees are very high (\$1,500 right now), but unfortunately it is a cost of doing business. She did encourage folks to bring their checkbooks instead for donations. Grad signs and Cav Cash are ways they raise money as well. Melissa asked if donations came only from senior student families. Lynn will accept money from any family, not just seniors. Lynn added for the new folks that the Cav Cruise is the "All Night Grad Party" held at Oakmarr Rec Center from 11pm-5am on graduation day, June 4th. Since Fairfax County started this program in 1987, there have been ZERO deaths on grad night. Lynn moved that the PTSO Budget, which includes Cav Cruise, be approved. The motion was seconded and carried

d. **Secretary: Michelle Lucas** reviewed the minutes from the June 5th meeting and then asked for a motion to approve them. It received a 1st and 2nd and all approved, so the motion carries.

e. **Communications Director: Sara Mastro** shared that the new website will be going live soon. She thanked student Matthew Ferrari (not present) for all the website development help he provided, and that he was incredibly knowledgeable and wonderful to work with. She is working to make the site more user friendly, have more photos (she asked for folks to send her pics), and to have on it what users want to see.

She requested feedback from everyone and will send an email to all in attendance to request their feedback on all aspects of the site. Sara added that we now have a PTSO twitter feed with 50 followers.

3. Principal's Report: Dr. Floyd thanked the PTSO for the breakfast and said the teachers truly enjoyed it. The kids LOVE the four bottle fillers provided by the PTSO, and the Activities folks added one more to make five. WTW has 2,383 students, which is down from the prior year by 70. The transfer process has changed since we are over capacity, leaving some students unable to make the transfer to WTW. Hurricane Florence has made lots of changes to our sporting events, changing the football game/feeder night to Thursday instead of Friday. Please note that 9/19 is a 3hr early release for staff development, 10/10 is 2hr early release due to PSAT day. Seniors are expected to focus on college-related activities on this day, since they do not have to report to school. Dr. Floyd introduced Amanda Burke, her administrator for special education and graduation, and liaison to Eagle Bank. She also wants to bring back a community group for Cav Culture and are hoping to have them meet in the library at 6pm prior to the next PTSO meeting, with the hope that they will stay for the meeting. WTW is working a lot on cultural diversity and awareness and will also create a survey to get feedback on this topic. All of this will be tied to #onewoodson. Betsy Miles asked what the student cell phone use policy is at WTW. Dr. Floyd essentially said it is up to individual teachers. Some have "shoe bags" that students place their phones in (but if they are stolen, WTW is responsible). She added that a school in MD/DC has bags for all phone that have a magnetic opener, and can't be opened without the teacher. Liz Cooley (WTW teacher) mentioned that those wearing earbuds are what bother her the most. Another attendee asked about the dress code. Dr. Floyd added that it is very hard to police this and everyone has a different definition of what "excessive skin" means. Most students comply when asked to cover up, but some will remove the cover once they get into the classroom. Her hope is that parents/students realize this is not the beach, it is a school, and students should dress appropriately.

4. Committee Reports

a. Family Enrichment: no report

b. Special Education: Laura Allen introduced herself as the new special education co-chair who will be working with Liz Brocato (not present). They will keep WTW informed of all things special ed. Then she shared a lot of her background with the group, which consisted of a lot of great experience. She was at Camelot where they had a Buddy program. She is interested in the Cav Culture program and how it relates to special ed kids. She is working with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors who she knows have an interest in hiring more students from this group. Laura & Liz want WTW to be a role model for other schools to follow in regard to special education programs (Laura will be at WTW for 8 yrs). Kristin mentioned that perhaps there could be an entrance at Cav Kickoff for kids to use who are not comfortable with the band, cheerleaders, crowds, etc. Dr. Floyd mentioned that some of these students did come in other doors, as their parents asked ahead of time for the arrangement.

c. Hospitality: (Teresa LeMair/Meri Farling, both not present) - Michelle Lucas read a statement from the committee that said the teacher breakfast was really great and had a really nice spread, though they had to go out and purchase additional food since the parent donations were down (perhaps because it was on a Monday?), which hasn't happened before. However

incidentally there was leftover food that went to the staff lounge that eventually disappeared, which made everyone happy! They are also working on the school year calendar, planning various days for the teachers to let them know how much they are appreciated.

5. **Other Reports**

- a. **Student Reps: Jack Leech, Mary Cyckowski, Jack Fisher, Owen Williams, Anthony Tran, Natalie Mann and Joey Dobrydney** were in attendance from the SGA. They each shared what their role in the leadership group was, and mentioned the things they do such as teaching leadership classes, working with kids on how to compromise when views differ, community service drives, mulch sale, helping people in need, running the Cavalry, FB page/twitter accounts to name a few. Anthony Tran proposed combining Hey Day with Cav Culture, and Dr. Floyd asked him to send her his request. Hey Day is during returns on 10/15 when clubs “show what they do.” They would also like to request some Int’l dancers for Cav Culture. They also organize various spirit days, including white outs, etc and are always looking for ideas and would like to do more of them. Kristin added that the PTSO still has \$ slated for the DJ at the \$1 dance (which has been postponed due to Hurricane Florence).
- b. **Teacher Representative: Liza Cooley** thanked the PTSO for the breakfast, it was much appreciated. She sent an email to the staff to encourage them to join the PTSO, but teachers could not pay online. Kristin added that they will be able to do it on the new website.
- c. **WeMail: Priscilla Lee** is a new parent at WTW and has taken over the WeMail from Kim Waxman. The process has changed to google docs and seems to be working well since committees can enter their own information. Priscilla added that she will archive the current WeMail as soon as it is sent out, to be sure no one edits the current issue. She welcomed any and all feedback. Dr. Floyd thanked Kim for being so organized and for handling the WeMail as long as she did.
- d. **CAV Cruise: Lynn Barnsback** report was made during budget discussion earlier.
- e. **Fundraising SAT/ACT: Yelena Jones** shared that October 20th, 8-11:30am will be the Mock ACT/SAT at Woodson. MindWorks will run the program as usual. They are easy to work with and do a great review after the test at a later date. 50-80 kids usually take the test, which is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.
- f. **Milk and Cookies: Meera Pillai** is another new parent taking over the milk and cookies program from Shannon Murphy. (Note: Meera’s husband went to WTW!). She has trained with Shannon last year to learn the process. The dates for cookies this school year are Fri, Nov 2nd, Thurs, Feb 14th, and Fri, May 3rd. Shawn Guth asked who was funding the milk this year. PTSO will talk offline with Dr. Floyd to answer this question.

6. **Old Business:** none to report

7. **New Business:** none to report

8. **Adjournment:** 8:20pm