

**WT Woodson PTSO Meeting**  
**March 13, 2018, 7:00 PM in the Cafeteria**

**In Attendance:**

Dr. Floyd, Raquel Bishop, Kristin Driscoll, Melissa French, Amy Sine, Kim Waxman, Bruce Waxman, Stacey Brahmey, Shawn Guth, Rebecca Wright, Liza Cooley, Valerie Silver, Andy Austin, Pam Hardin, Lena McGinn, David Glasser, Karen Heyda Jackson, Valerie Smith, Joan Fisher, Linda Vasquez

**1. Call to order**

**2. Principal/AP Report**

- a. **Dr. Floyd** announced that Remka Nwana is in the National Championship for Poetry Out Loud and she will be representing Virginia. Spring sports start this week. Musical pre-assessments were this past weekend. She stated that Woodson's got talent will be on Friday and Monday. Senior class advisors are currently approving the scripts. She said that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter ends 3 weeks after Spring Break and there should be no homework over Spring Break. One parent asked if the administration is supportive of the walk out, why is it unexcused. Dr. Floyd stated that the time out there is not unexcused because it is during returns. She also stated that it would be unexcused if it wasn't during returns. The teachers and administrators are having the conversations with the students on why they are walking out and how passionate they are about the cause to warrant and unexcused absent. They are also telling the students to respect kids who are not walking out. Stacey Brahmey asked about guidelines for the chaperones on the field trip to Capitol Hill. Dr. Floyd said the chaperones have lead way on the trip on the activities that will be happening. Kim Waxman asked if the walkout on April 20<sup>th</sup> will have different guidelines. Dr. Floyd stated that it would be different because it is a full day. She is going to get with her colleagues to discuss and they are not there yet. The students will have 17 minutes, but more than that is unexcused. The walkout on April 20 cannot be on school grounds or have speakers. We want to get the kids to think about why and when they want to do walkouts because "school is for school". There is also a #walk up not out.

**3. Officer's Report**

- a. **President –Raquel Bishop** There are open positions on our board. We are looking for a treasurer and secretary. The treasurer position is more important. Any recommendations are appreciated.
- b. **1<sup>st</sup> VP -- Membership – Melissa French** – Last year a policy was adopted to vet speakers for appropriate content and reason. We had great speakers at baccalaureate. We developed a policy that we modeled after the Woodson policy (passed around to approve).
- c. **Treasurer-- Kristin Driscoll** Girls State Fees have gone up. We need to increase the fees. Shawn Guth moves to approve and there is a second. Motion carries. Expenses in February were grants, lunch for custodian appreciation week and the teacher supply closet. She stated that income was from Mock ACT/SAT and membership. Linda Vasquez mentioned that Cav Cruise sign up was very busy and it was good that we have so many this soon.
- d. **Secretary—Amy Sine** asked for a motion to approve the February minutes. Motion carried. She also reported that the final milk and cookies will be on April 25<sup>th</sup> as part of the stress less/laugh

more week. Amy also reported that Katherine and Shane Gilbert will be taking over the Student Driver Magnet Program. March 8<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> are the last two parent-Teen Driving courses hosted at Woodson this year. Magnets may be purchased on these dates and are always available for purchase through the PTSO website.

#### 4. Other Reports

- a. **Teacher Representative—Liza Cooley** asked if there will be another supply closet delivery or do the teachers need to start collecting from students. Melissa stated that we will be doing one more round and asked for feedback on what the teachers need.
- b. **Grants—Shawn Guth**— introduced presentations of those who recieved grant money in the fall.
- c. **Loyal Heart—Pam Hardin**—Pam thanked the PTO for their support of the play. Donations were great and having everything provided was a big help. Money was also raised from local businesses. Parents donated the food and water. Everything they received helped to pay the entire cost. Melissa mentioned that she saw the play Friday night and it was great to see so many Woodson students there supporting the play.
- d. **Math Center—Valerie Silver** said that we have had 1,275 tutoring sessions this year. Only 13% are required to attend. 473 students are going to the Math Center and the kids love the snacks. During school there are 2 classes called “Math Center”. Learning geometry after school is run by the Math Honor Society. Karen Heyda Jackson asked what class is sending the most students. Valerie stated that Algebra 2 has the most. Shawn Guth gave a special thanks to Valerie for spearheading the program.
- e. **Flexible Seating—Andy Austin**—With her own money, she purchased 2 balance balls, a stool and bean bag chairs. With that grant money she purchased an adjustable desk. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes aren’t as mobile as later in the day. By the end of the day, the students are sharing the different items. It has cut down on bathroom and water passes. Many of the quitter, non-movers are using more. A survey of all the students noted that they would like to have more bean bags, zynergy chairs and desks. She stated that test scores have improved. Kids have been working well with each other and sharing the items. The Zynergy chairs are \$118. The bean bags are \$27.
- f. **Tech Specialist—Joan Brown**—The PTSO supported Joan with 2 grants. She is the school based tech specialist. Both grants were for 2 different virtual reality sets. The first is used with a cell phone and have a sperate router and IPAD so the teachers can walk the students through it. Many classes have them and they are being used quite often. Every 9<sup>th</sup> grader gets a VR experience. We want to the kids to think about the future and VR is becoming big. This year we got one mixed reality headset. It has been in the Graphic Arts Department to integrate into the arts system. We have surveyed the kids to ask how this technology can be used in the future. They mentioned that it could be used to see a situation first hand and putting yourself in someone else’s shoes. Part of the VR includes a camera that they can stage their own video. We want to move these into the Chemistry labs and World History. She stated that they are continuing surveys to find out what else we can do with virtual reality. Linda Vasquez mentioned that we would want to have enough for everyone in the classrooms.
- g. **Grants—Shawn Guth**—Shawn passed out the grid and noted that there are 9 requests. There was a \$10,000 budget. We spent over half for the fall grants and have \$4800 for spring. Shawn

and the committee met and discussed each request and talked with Dr. Floyd. There was more conversation on getting more money to be able to acquire more flexible seating and virtual reality equipment. Shawn stated that PTSO would fund \$3300 to the grants and Woodson would fund \$300. Shawn requested approval. Stacey Brahmey is the 1<sup>st</sup>, second and the motion carries.

**h. Teachers/PTSO**—Within the grant conversation, Ms. Cooley asked if there were teachers asking for grants that are not a part of the PTSO. Shawn and Kristin check up on this. Raquel questioned what else we can do to get the teachers to join. Feedback was given that many of the teachers had to search for PTSO forms. We will make it easier for teachers to join and will work with the administration.

**5. Old Business**—Pick up directories.

**6. New Business**—Raquel stated that we need to revisit the speaker policy. Stacey Brahmey makes a motion to accept the policy, Linda Vasquez 2nds. Motion carries.

**7. Adjournment**—8:17. Next meeting is April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the library.