

WT Woodson PTSO Meeting
November 14, 2017, 7:00 PM in Library

In Attendance:

Dr. Floyd, Adam Entenberg, Raquel Bishop, Melissa French, Alan Anderson, Kristin Driscoll, Amy Sine, Kim Waxman, Valerie Smith, Elena Theobald, Jennifer Pryor-Abraham, Shannon Murphy, Betsy Miles, Stacey Brahmey, Karen Heyda-Jackson, Pam Hardin, Heather Villavicencio, Shawn Guth, Celeste Felsburg, Kristy Rumbaugh, Linda Vazquez, Joan Fisher, Reagan Smith, Jacob Yim

1. Call to order

a. Introduction of AP Adam Entenberg

b. Young Diplomats Presentation – Remka Nwana—The young Diplomats would like to recruit 2 diplomats from the sophomore and junior classes to be a part of a 10 day cultural exchange for Japanese and American students. Forty Japanese students fly to the United States and are split into 2 groups. The exchange is held at Princeton. Some of the themed days include a pep rally, date night, Independence Day, Japanese Day of Culture, and a tea ceremony. Diplomat talks are to improve communications between our two countries. Both American and Japanese students prepare presentations ahead of time for each other. There is a homestay program prior to the event to house the students. The following questions were asked:

- i. Linda Vasquez: How did you communicate? Remka replied that it was difficult at first, but they learned how to communicate in different ways even if there was a language barrier.
- ii. Kristin Driscoll: How do students get involved and can families not involved host students? There is an application process is open Sept-Jan. You can go to highschooldiplomats.com. You also have to submit 2 essays or a creative work and an essay. Yes, families can host even if their students are not involved.
- iii. Shawn Guth: What is the cost? There is no cost, it's free.
- iv. Kim Waxman: Is there a component for American students to go to Japan? Yes, 20 students can apply for the scholarship in the fall and will go the following year.
- v. Linda Vasquez: How many kids from Woodson get picked? Remka replied that all the kids that have applied have gotten in. There are also other students from Fairfax that have gotten in.
- vi. Shawn Guth: What was the most valuable part of the experience? Remka said the roommate experience was the most valuable part. Even though it was hard, it helped her to succeed and work through issues. Shawn Guth: What would be the best way to get a child involved? Remka communicated that going through the website to apply and look at the presentation.

Remka Nwana's Powerpoint presentation is available on the PTSO website at <http://www.woodsonptso.org/fundraisers/High%20School%20Diplomats%202018.pdf>

2. Officer's Report

a. Principal's Report – Dr. Carlyn Floyd's updates include:

- i. Several Latin students will be participating in a competition in Richmond, VA November 17-20.

- ii. The Virginia Music Educator Association will be presenting November 16-17 to our Select Men's Ensemble.
 - iii. Fall sports wrapped up with the following: Boys cross country finished in 4th place, with Jack Leach finishing 8th in the state. Field Hockey finished in the state semi finals with a new coach and had a fantastic season.
 - iv. Report cards will be sent out Friday, the 17th in 7th period. Grades are also online.
- b. AP Report – Adam Entenberg** stated that he has several responsibilities and is in his 10th year. He supports the Arts Department as well as his role in Special Education program including the clinical and academic services. This program is a sub school within our school. He explained that we have 3 full time clinicians that support 80 students facing any challenges. Students can see counselors any time during the day and there are elective classes including personal development and how to deal with everyday activities. Music and Art classes are also available. He stated that the music classes allow the students to feel safe and confident to play the instruments. All of this combines to create a strong sense of community with the 80 families.
- c. President -- Raquel Bishop** stated that we will be proposing changes to the By Laws and Standing Rules. Kristin Driscoll will be heading this up. Please let the board know if you would like to help.
- d. 1st VP -- Membership – Melissa French** gave an update on the Teacher Supply Store. It is being set up for the teachers who join the PTSO and need supplies. We will send out a targeted email to staff to see what they need. She explained that we will see if we will pull from the PTSO budget or ask for parent donations. Please contact Melissa French with any ideas.
- e. 2nd VP—Fundraising— Alan Anderson** expressed appreciation to the PTSO members, board members and Dr. Floyd for the hard work on the directories. He noted that the final draft is out and the pre-ordered phase has ended. If you have not joined, you can still do so for the next few days. Shawn Guth asked what if you don't remember if you signed up for a directory. Kristin Driscoll stated that she has a list and can check. Alan stated that everything is compiled and we will wait a couple of days before send the numbers in. He explained that the directories should be here in a few months and a pickup plan will be discussed. Kristin Driscoll stated that the directories will be handed out at lunches. Shawn Guth asked if we would be labeling the directories and Melissa French stated that there will be a checklist.
- f. Treasurer-- Kristin Driscoll** handed out a copy of the budget. This budget goes through October. She explained that we had more directory sales since the end of October. She also said that taxes have been filed with the IRS.
- g. Grants – Shawn Guth** passed out the grids for the grants. There are 13 grant submissions with 2 cycles. This is the fall cycle. Shawn explained the spreadsheet. She met with the committees and asked questions to submitters. She stated that the objective is to find a way to put money back into the school. We try to do so with consideration, thought and a set of rules. PTSO members are the last round of vetting before letting submitters know. Shawn explained that there is roughly a 50/50, 60/40 split between the fall and spring cycle. The grant information can be found on the website. Stacey Brahmey moved to approve the grant spreadsheet. There was a second. Motion carried.
- h. Secretary—Amy Sine** asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Kristin Driscoll motioned to approve the minutes and Shannon Murphy was the second. Minutes from October are approved.

3. Other Reports

- a. **Teacher Representative—Lisa Cooley—** No new business
- b. **Student Representative – Jacob Yim and Reagan Smith –** Jacob said that the 1st quarter is over and students are looking forward to the 2nd quarter. He stated that the transition between the principals was a smooth one. Home coming was great and they said that the feeder night and the fall festival were successful. Upcoming events include the winter pep rally on December 1st, Staff Appreciation Week and the Winter Dance in February. Melissa French asked if the SGA covers the Staff Appreciation. The students replied yes and that there would be more later in the year.
- c. **Communications—Kim Waxman—**Amy Sine reported for Kim. The only update is to remind everyone to read the WeMail. Kristin Driscoll stated that the PTSO will be awarding coupons for free pizza to contest and raffle winners over the next several weeks.
- d. **Family/Student Enrichment—Elena Theobald** said she is still working with the new Student Director on programs. After Thanksgiving, they will start putting up posters around the school with positive messages. Dr. Floyd mentioned to Adam and Elena that it would be great if the Art students would want to work on some of the posters. Elena explained that there would be an empathy video to show students during the school day and also small doses of positive messaging. Melissa French asked the student representatives if along with the video, would the students like sun glasses which would help remind students of the video message. Reagan stated that sunglasses would be cool.
- e. **Milk and Cookies—Shannon Murphy** explained that there are varying levels of interest and support for the milk and cookies program from the administration. Dr. Floyd stated that some parents and teachers have suggested that the program is not beneficial. She also stated that the milk is costly and we can no longer use KIT for reminder messages because it is for emergencies only. Shannon said that we typically only get about 75 dozen out of the 300 that we need through the WeMail. We usually get the rest from the KIT so we need to come to a conclusion how we reach out moving forward. Some ideas would be to reach out to alumni groups for cookies and booster groups for email contacts for sign up genius. Stacey Brahme said that she is not sure the boosters will want to participate with that. Dr. Floyd said she could put it in her weekly email. Raquel asked if Dr. Floyd could share why people did not want to continue the program. Dr. Floyd stated that parents think it has run its course. We will be again sharing the story and background to help remind parents, students, and staff why we do milk and cookies. Shannon explained that kids she has asked have the wrong idea or no idea why. Mrs. Hobson could put something out to the students. Melissa French said that the message can be communicated when asking for volunteers. Karen Heyda Jackson asked if the milk was as important to the story. Shannon said that other criticisms is from teachers and they do not like to release them early. Shawn Guth asked if that is truly an issue and Dr. Floyd defers to Lisa Cooley. She states that she has heard that it leaves a mess in the hallways. Stacey Brahme vocalized that there is a lot of stress and it is a very special tradition that we should continue. Raquel asked when the next one is supposed to happen? Shannon said the next one is December 13 or 14 before the break. Raquel: Is that funded for the milk? Dr. Floyd: It will be tough to fund this one. Kristin asked if we really need to do one before the break. Raquel noted that we should have a discussion to see if anyone wants to fund the milk and make sure that everyone knows the intention. She said she would rather not drop it before the Holidays. Joan Fisher made a motion to fund the milk and cookies. There was a second. Shannon said the only issue with having one in January is that it takes 3 weeks to publicize. Raquel said to stick with

December 13/14 and adding the poem to remind everyone of the purpose of milk and cookies. We will also reach out to past volunteers. Kristin stated that we have the money for the milk, but we will need to have another motion. We can add it to student enrichment. Raquel asked for a motion to increase student enrichment by \$1200. Stacey Brahmey made the motion and Linda Vasquez made the second motion. No one opposes. Linda Vasquez said that since this is a high pressure time with all of the students test so we should keep this program during this stressful time.

- f. Cav Cruise—Anne Akers Smith—** Amy Sine read a paragraph that was emailed to her with an update to the Cav Cruise Shoe Drive. “ We are absolutely going to make our goal of 300 bags. It is so exciting. We are at 293 as I write this. We had a partial pick up last week and we sent 248 bags off. We will get paid for all the shoes we collect until the final truck comes sometime mid-December or early January even though we are officially done on the 20th of November. Romney reports that the teachers seem to be having fun with the staff challenge. We have 3 small prizes (25 amazon gift cards, movie passes, and a small Thanksgiving Centerpiece) which we will give out on the 21st. So, with the yard sign sales, grad seat raffle and community outreach we should be good financially for the Cav Cruise. We will be sending the community donation letters in early January.
- g. Old Business—Dr. Floyd** stated that after the new year, there will be meetings about enhancing school security.
- 3. New Business—**We discussed cancelling the December PTSO Meeting. Shawn Guth made the first motion to not have a December meeting. Joan Fisher made the second motion. Motion carried.
- 4. Announcements—**Next meeting is Tuesday, January 9th in the library at 7:00 pm.
- 5. Adjournment**