



Minutes of PTO meeting – 10/28/19

- 1) Call to Order at 6:30pm
- 2) Approval of September minutes, Motion by: Laura Bryant Seconded by: Laura Wand, motion carried.
- 3) President's Report – Kathy Evans – not much to say, busy season for Halloween and veterans' days and then into Winter Carnival.
- 4) Vice-President's Report – Jennifer Dosch – absent – Had some new memberships but will bench it until November and update at that time. Still may have staff to join.
- 5) Secretary's Report – Brian LoCicero – Website transfer has been delayed due to both Ken's and my schedules.
- 6) Treasurer's Report – Laura Wand –FFN#1 expenses have cleared as well as spirit wear and balances are up to date. Only outstanding thing is any new purchases for Halloween bash, (Holding until we get all receipts together). Plus \$250 was taken out for seed money for Halloween Bash ticket purchases. Instead of doing treasurers and itemized report together, we are now including an "all transactions report", which is more detailed with tons of notes. We will look for a way to include these reports as part of the minutes moving forward. Good news in that for this year's budget we were looking for at least \$250 profit from spirit wear, and we've already surpassed that. We do need to look at the budget and re-evaluate Spring Carnival budget line after Halloween bash and next FFN. Checking account balance is \$12,453.59

Committee Updates

a) Fundraisers

- i. Halloween Bash – this Friday, we're in a good place for set-up. Biggest issues are donations and volunteers. Volunteers are looking really good, we need more people at 3:00pm if at all possible. The more people we have, the quicker set-up will get done. Donations are looking really good. Same DJ as in past, photo booth is good, haunted house.
 - 1) Two tables, one for judge, one for sign-up
 - 2) 7 prizes and 1 trophy (1 overall, most humorous 6/7/8, most creative 6/7/8) Who are the three teachers/judges (Dilday and 2 newer teachers)
 - 3) 2 volunteers for the sign-up table.
 - 4) All volunteers will be assigned on the night of – unless you're wanting to be in charge of an area.
 - 5) Saturday set up went wonderfully. We need to buy new blood. We need a transfusion. 😊
 - 6) Ton of high schoolers and adults are signed up for the haunters.
 - 7) We do not need more people for make-up. Jessi Watkins is coming and a girl from West High. Amanda Balcitas?
 - 8) Laura Bryant is the volunteer coordinator. Laura Wand at the front door.
 - 9) 2 people looking for help with, 1 is worst job – handles the front of the line to the haunted house (they are anxious and obnoxious) Jason Owens might accept the challenge (not letting in more than 4 at a time) the other one is picking up the pizzas (need to do at two different times???) pick up around 6:30 and one at 7:15pm



- ii. Spirit Wear – talking about Holiday push for gifts. Need a date for when this can happen. Laura Bryant has volunteered to take this over.
- iii. Friday Fun Night – next one is 11/8, none in December, none in January. Mr. Smith will do all of them. Only concerns are volunteers. Karaoke machine. Ordered a new RF modulator today - \$12.95. Flyers went to all Secretaries at the schools on the weekend. If there is anyone who can take over the crafts station, we're still looking.
- iv. Concessions / West High Booster - talk about this next month – don't have any open opportunities right now.

b) Funded Activities

- i. Hospitality – Parent-Teacher Conferences – went well. Cala and team did a wonderful job. Teachers really loved it.
- ii. Hospitality – Veteran's Day Assembly Breakfast – November 12th. ROTC only the armed team is coming (not unarmed). Honoring veteran family members. We only had cold items, didn't have hot. Will need a sign-up list. It's scheduled to start at 9:00, breakfast at 8:00ish.
- iii. Winter Carnival – by the time we have our next meeting, we should have a winter carnival planning meeting prior to next PTO meeting. Let's figure out when. Need to keep it short but looking at it. But maybe doing it in December since there's more availability. Looking for bakers (need to make the cake-off decorating contest bigger and better). Back basic 9" round cakes. Is there a more sustainable way using Styrofoam or something else? 24 cakes is a lot. Cake Wars -

7) Principal's Report – Mr. Smith

- a) 8th graders took PSAT on 10/11.
- b) First choir concert on 10/24 at WAHS. Mr. Lambert got good recordings.
- c) Quarter 1 report cards were sent home on 10/25 along with an email blast from me asking folks to engage with their children on setting goals for Quarter 2.
- d) Thank you to all the feedback on the curriculum night surveys.
- e) Thanks for the awesome dinner for P-T conferences. Thanks you notes from many teachers were sent around the room. Wonderful to see.
- f) Book fair update: LMC grateful for volunteers. Fair was able to support every student who wanted to shop due to the generous donation of time. Fall Fair had \$3662.65 in gross sales and pull about \$1700 in books for the LMC. We were able to keep about \$450 in profit to spend on other needs and we were able to offer about \$160 worth of books and posters as raffle prizes for students and parents who visited the Fair. Spring Fair will be April 20-30th, 2020.
- g) 7th grade Volleyball won their second tournament – City of Lights and went undefeated for the season.
- h) Fall athletes were awarded their "Got Involved!" pins during lunch
- i) Winter sports have started (Basketball, Wrestling and Cheer)
- j) Peer Buddies (PB&J) and Drama Club in full swing now.
- k) Large number of students for student council. – new committee created for the Jaguar Jr. Rowdies!! (coming soon)
- l) 7th graders will be going to WAHS for Stand 4 the Silent on 10/29. awareness of bullying.



- m) Picture retakes are on 10/31
 - n) Halloween bash on 11/1, kids can wear their costumes to school (some restrictions)
 - o) Halloween bash clean up on 11/2
 - p) Veterans Day Assembly on 12/2 which is also a half-day, 12:00pm dismissal.
 - q) Fall Fund raiser – has some last-minute orders that came in after due dates. Helps support the 8th grade dance and for spring carnival. We'll get an update on final numbers / awards by next PTO meeting.
- 8) SCAC Report
- a) Meeting held at the *new* Weisner Family Center for Career Development - more than 18,000 sq ft facility
 - 1. guided tour of the center with Brian Veit -Technology Education Pathway Program Coordinator
 - 2. amazing opportunity for our 129 students to get hands- on learning in manufacturing and engineering
 - 3. classes available for juniors and seniors of West
 - 4. in discussion - allowing other districts, colleges or businesses rent out the center
 - b) Introduction of District Directors - see attached
 - c) Review of summer projects in our district
 - 1. specific to Jewel - roof renovation and coating, sheet metal siding repainting, concrete sidewalk replacement, asphalt pavement repairs
 - 2. see attached for complete list
 - d) Valedictorian/Salutatorian and the Latin Honors System: A Comparison
 - 1. Latin Honor System to replace class rank
 - 2. Presented by Whitney Martino - Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning
 - 3. district reviewing all angles of this potential switch
 - 4. Background & history
 - i. class rank is a mathematical summary of a student's academic record compared to other students in their graduating class
 - ii. According to a 2014 report by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC): Importance for admission decisions- 42% 1993 to 15% in 2003
 - iii. Somewhere Between 1926-1933 class rank was placed on transcripts
 - iv. 1978/79- Course guide included honor weighted grades, pass/fail and rank
 - v. 1988- Senior Honors night began to honor Valedictorian and Salutatorian
 - vi. Up until 1999- one boy and one girl gave class speeches
 - vii. In 1999 Valedictorian also gave commencement speech
 - viii. In 2014 West High included Latin honor designations on diplomas
 - ix. Beginning in 2014 the top 5% of the senior class is honored at Excellence in Education Banquet
 - 5. Reasons
 - i. Increased Post-Secondary Opportunities for Students
 - ii. College admissions decisions have evolved to take a more holistic approach
 - iii. High school students with the same class rank could have considerably different GPAs
 - iv. Latin system recognizes students on a Criterion Reference Scale as opposed to Norm Referenced Scale - SAT, Course placement, honor roll, excellence and education banquet, Latin Honor System
 - v. Can give negative stress and Anxiety on students • “The pressure of the situation can grow to a truly unhealthy extent...this can lead to heightened anxiety regarding each and every grade and point received.” • Sophia Partida, Letter to the Board May, 2018
 - vi. Students choose honor weighted classes over courses of interest or career preparation
 - vii. Honors weight exist in most departments
 - viii. Not just AP courses
 - ix. Growing and changing course catalog
 - x. Small margins at top



- xi. Schools who have moved in this direction; 203, 204, Wheaton North/Wheaton-Warrenville South, Geneva, Batavia, Minooka, Main East South and West, Glenbard North and South, York, Rosary, Deerfield, Libertyville, East Lyden, Lemont, Oswego, Stevenson, Downers Grove North and South, Hinsdale Central and South
6. Latin System of Honors -- see attached for data surrounding the below rankings
 - i. Cum Laude: "with honor" • 3.75-3.99
 - ii. Magna Cum Laude "with great honor" • 4.0-4.249
 - iii. Summa Cum Laude: "with highest honor" • 4.25+
7. Next steps
 - i. create a proposal for Board review
 - ii. decide what should be included - pass/fail, honors weighted course, Cohort to target, student recognition
 - iii. strongly noted, not an easy task and district reviewing all angles

e) **Important dates:**

- i. Homecoming week - Sept 30 to Oct 5th
- ii. Parent Leadership Series:
- iii. Oct 2 FAFSA Completion
- iv. Oct 17 Give Something Back Foundation
- v. Oct 23 Empowering Student Learning with Technology
- vi. Oct 30 Recruiting Realities
- vii. Next SCAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct 28

- f) I was also asked to get information regarding Schoology and connection solutions: Anna Gonzales confirmed the person to contact is; Sharon Thierfelder ---smccarney@sd129.org

9) **Old Business / Open Discussion**

- a) December meeting date change - Currently December 16th which is the Band Concert. WinterFest -> make this JUST a WinterFest meeting - Move meeting to the 9th, General PTO meeting with heavy emphasis on WinterFest.

10) **New Business**

Should we readjust what we give for the Spring Carnival? \$3500 to Carnival, \$3500 to DC trip? There might be some legalities here with what goes on across the district for the grouping. Endow 1 or 2 kids in a scholarship versus splitting it across those who can go. Can do something like IMSA Fusion (essay), similar to NAMC for their scholarships. If it's need-based you might not get through the school. What are the rules. Maybe just reallocate some of this money to an 8th grade type of event? What is the impact on our Title 1 status.

- 11) Adjourn Meeting 7:39pm – motion by M. Trotter, seconded by J. Owens, motion carries.