

West Aurora PTSO Minutes
Jan. 18, 2021

1) Zoom Meeting called to order at 6:44 pm by Sandy Garcia.

Attendance: Penny Bantz, Becky Burkholter, Alyssa Dalicandro, Sandy Garcia, Jennifer Hannon, Erica Kegarise, Margaret Patterson, Tamara Scott.

2) Approval of Minutes: Nov. 16, 2020 meeting (Margaret Patterson)

- Motion to approve minutes by Penny Bantz.
- Seconded by Tamara Scott.
- Approved unanimously by voice vote.

3) Activities Report (Erica Kegarise)

- First in-school day for Freshman – Enter with Pride – was Monday Jan. 11. Everything went smooth with the Freshman; the upperclassmen were so excited. We think we have the kinks worked out.
- Tomorrow (Jan. 19) first day in-person for all others. Will analyze how the numbers look so we can level up: get kids in here more than just once a week.
- To level up, need a two-week window for teacher planning, etc. I’m hopeful we will level up to more than one in-person day a week as soon as we can – but not likely before the first week of February.
- Semester grades being calculated this week and finalized on Friday, Jan. 22.
- Preliminary plans for prom and commencements. Hope to give our seniors some sort of experiences; have a couple leads on outdoor festivities. More info at next meeting.
- Football: Kane County needs to move up to Tier 2 to do anything regarding winter and spring sports. Other than initiating some contact days to bring kids in to do some weight training, lifting and conditioning, there’s been no discussion of games. When that spring fling happens, Erica hopes PTSO will support the event.

4) Scholarships (Sandy Garcia / Jennifer Hannon)

- Deadline for scholarship application is March 1.
- Freeman and Washington parent groups have indicated they will donate toward the scholarship fund; have not heard from any other district organization. Will send a follow-up solicitation to groups.

- Need volunteers for reading the scholarships and judging; last year was virtual and likely will be so again this year. Volunteers include: Becky Burkholter, Tamara Scott, Margaret Patterson and Jennifer Hannon.

5) Treasurer / SCRIP Report (Tamara Scott)

- Not much going out or coming in. Cut the check for the EXTRA gum for teachers in December.
- SCRIP: \$250 less brought in year-to-date compared to year ago – Christmas was much lower than past years. We should be able to meet the \$750 amount for this year's calendar budget.

6) SCAC (Penny Bantz)

- The first SCAC meeting was Monday, Nov. 23, 2020 and featured Dr. Valarie McCall > Director of Educational Equity
- Important new position for our district
- Equity has been a discussion in our district for quite some time and with the recent events across the country, the timing is perfect for Dr. McCall to join District 129
- Goals 2020-2021
 - Develop common language - equity, excellence and social justice.
 - Equity audit across district
 - Establish teams to help - DELT, SEAC and CEAC
 - District
 - Student
 - Community
- Dr. McCall's contact information to learn more about these teams:
 - valarie.mccall@sd129.org
 - 630-301-5074 (admin office)
- Next Speaker: Dr. Craig – Instruction and COVID-19
- Where have we been?
 - health professionals, agencies, committees, Board meetings, staff involved in decision.
 - not an easy decision - to go back or not to go back.
 - not a 'one size fits all' scenario.
- Where do we go from here? *same questions as above *
 - health professionals, agencies, committees, Board meetings, staff involved in decision.
 - not an easy decision - to go back or not to go back.
 - not a one size fits all scenario.
 - the goal is to get our kids back in school but safely.
- Adaptive pause
 - phase-in return January 2021
- Fielded individual questions and concerns from a few SCAC members

- reach out to your school, Principal, Social Worker, Teacher for guidance
- not every situation is the same.
- keep lines of communication open.
- we are all in this together.
- Next SCAC Meeting: Jan. 25, 2021
- According to Erica, Dr. McCall is going to begin meeting with various groups (district, student, community) next week (week of Jan. 25).

7) Student Representative (Allysa Dalicandro)

- Allysa graduated from WAHS in December; this was a decision made by her parents and her.
- She will be interning at an accounting firm through May; will be majoring in accounting at Aurora University this year.

8) Hospitality (Sandy Garcia)

- At our November meeting, PTSO had planned a teacher food event at school for early December; with the academic pause, we chose instead to order EXTRA gum packs (for all the EXTRA work teachers are giving) and put in teacher mailboxes.
- Later in the school year we can think about another item for teacher mailboxes, depending on budget. We can revisit this later this spring.
- Discussed various fundraising opportunities (selling items through an on-line store, for example).

9) Graduation Signs

- Erica Kegarise reports that Activities has sold about 10 signs so far. PTSO only has about 100 signs and stakes in storage at West.
- PTSO needs to place another order for signs. Tamara Scott will send ordering information to Susie Runge; she should order 250 signs and stakes from R&M Specialties – 630-231-6674.
- Grad sign orders should be directed to Erica Kegarise (ekegarise@sd129.org) or Susie Runge (srunge@sd129.org). Cost is \$10; cash or check (payable to WAHS PTSO). Students who go to the Activities Department to purchase can pay with a credit/debit card at the bookkeeper's office.

10) Miscellaneous / WAHS cloth bags (Margaret Patterson)

- We have 100 cloth WAHS bags leftover from a long-ago membership promotion.
- These are available for use; the box has never been opened.

- Margaret has them in her garage and would love to move them to the high school

11) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm by Sandy Garcia

Minutes submitted by Margaret Patterson

Next Meeting: **Monday, Feb. 22, 2021**