

West Aurora PTSO Minutes May 12, 2021

1) Zoom Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm by Sandy Garcia.

Attendance: Penny Bantz, Tolulope Dada, Sandy Garcia, Jessica Garza, Jennifer Hannon, Erica Kegarise, Liz Nunez, Margaret Patterson, Susie Runge, Angela Salazar, Dalila Sanchez, Tamara Scott.

2) Approval of Minutes: April 5, 2021 meeting (Margaret Patterson)

- Motion to approve minutes by Sandy Garcia.
- Seconded by Penny Bantz.
- Approved unanimously by voice vote.

3) Student Activities Report (Erica Kegarise)

- “Enchanted Garden” Prom on May 8 was a huge success; feedback has been positive. Shoutout to PTSO / Margaret Patterson for helping organize prom volunteers. Thank you Penny Bantz for volunteering, as well as Kara Gaffino and Robin Arsenault: they did a great job with coat check and water distribution, as well as welcoming seniors coming to Fox Valley Mall. Thank you to PTSO for donating 19 cases of water; there are eight cases left. We can use the water next year.
- Kudos to Erica Kegarise and her team! Erica approached several alternative locations for prom. On social media she saw a DJ she’d worked with was doing line dancing at the Fox Valley Mall: that got her attention. If he was doing line dancing, what could the prom look like? She contacted mall management who were receptive to the idea. “The awesome thing was they didn’t charge us a rental fee! The mall even provided security. It was an unbelievable partnership.” Erica has put in a “save the date” for homecoming – because who knows what the fall will bring. Sandy Garcia noted that Erica got newspaper and airtime about the event.
- May 3-7 was Teacher Appreciation Week. Student group Educator’s Rising put on the Westies, an award presentation on Friday, May 7 and honored teachers. All staff received a goody bag with water, a bag of smart popcorn, mints, Skittles, and dollars-off coupons for local businesses. PTSO donated \$400 to Educator’s Rising for the Teacher Appreciation activities.
- Senior’s last day is Thursday, May 20. Senior Celebration is Friday, May 21 at the WAHS football stadium with the hypnotist program. From there Seniors go to the Parade of Graduates at district elementary and middle schools. That evening (weather permitting), seniors come back to the stadium for a senior slide show, enjoy a farewell performance of the Blackhawk marching band, and enjoy farewell fireworks at 8:30 pm.
- Commencement is on Sunday, May 23, at the NIU football stadium (weather permitting). Each graduate will receive 10 tickets for family.
- Homecoming 2021 is the week of Sept. 20, 2021. (Monday, Sept. 20 is a non-attendance day for students.) Work on the theme will begin this summer. Susie Shire will oversee the homecoming parade organization.

4) Hospitality Report (Sandy Garcia)

- Senior Celebration treat update: the Kenny Corn location on Galena is no longer open as he's moving to the Outlet Mall and is closed until the move is finalized. Harner's Bakery and Panera Bread submitted quotes for cookies: Harner's was the best price.
- Erica Kegarise made a motion that PTSO supply cookies for the Senior Celebration by allocating \$875 for 500 decorated cookies @ \$1.75 each. Tamara Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.
- Sandy will order the cookies on May 17 for delivery May 21.
(UPDATE: final number was 360 cookies, decorated with WAHS 2021, individually packaged, and delivered to door 16A on May 21. Final cost was \$740, or \$2.05 per cookie. Additional cost was incurred for packaging.)

5) West Aurora Parent Scholarship Report (Sandy Garcia)

- PTSO awarded five West Aurora Parent Organization scholarships based on our approved \$3,500 budget: two \$1,000 scholarships and three \$500 scholarships.
- Senior winners, and the elementary/middle schools they attended, were:
\$1,000 – Yasmine Garcia (Holy Angels)
\$1,000 – Gracyn Linstad (Fearn, Jewel)
\$ 500 – Joseph Garcia (Freeman, Washington)
\$ 500 – Roy Gorter (Goodwin, Jewel)
\$ 500 – Magdaliz Rivera (Fearn, Jewel)
- Thank you to judges Becky Burkhalter, Kathy Evans from Jewel PTO, Jennifer Hannon, Margaret Patterson, and Tamara Scott.
- The winners have been notified; they will be honored at the virtual senior celebration.
- Parent groups donating to the scholarship fund included:
Fearn Elementary PTO - \$100
Freeman Elementary PTO - \$100
Jewel Middle School PTO - \$250
Washington Middle School PTA - \$50
WAHS PTSO - \$3,000

6) President's Report (Sandy Garcia)

- PTSO needs to fill leadership positions for 2021-2022; Sandy Garcia led the discussion.
- Sandy Garcia's family is relocating to North Carolina in July, so the President position is open.
- Jennifer Hannon will continue as vice president / scholarship chair.
- Margaret Patterson remains as secretary, with Jessica Sanchez co-secretary. Jessica works at Hope Wall and has two children: an incoming freshman and an eighth grader.

- Tamara Scott completed her term as treasurer. Liz Nunez said she would accept the treasurer position; Tamara has offered her support. (Liz has one year remaining as treasurer for another parent organization.)
- Margaret Patterson remains as membership chair, with Dalila Sanchez co-membership chair. Dalila has three children: an incoming freshman, a third grader and a preschooler.
- Penny Bantz remains SCAC (Superintendent’s Advisory Council) representative.
- Susie Shire remains homecoming parade chair.
- Susie Runge remains graduation signs chair.
- Tolulope Dada and Angela Sanchez will serve as co-student representatives.
- Becky Burkhalter will assume the Scrip position from Tamara Scott.
(Update: Becky won’t be part of PTSO next year as her son is transferring to another school. The Scrip position is again open.)
- Hospitality chair position is open.
- President position is open.
(Update: Pamela Childress was nominated for and has accepted the president position – see attached eNomination.)
- Sandy Garcia nominated Liz Nunez for the treasurer position, replacing Tamara Scott, and Jessica Garza as co-secretary with Margaret Patterson for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. ***(NOTE: Margaret will only serve for the 2021-22 year.)*** Margaret Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

7) Treasurer / Scrip Reports (Tamara Scott)

- Treasurer Report: Current balance is \$5,300
- Incoming funds: Scrip profit at year-end, graduation sign money.
- Outgoing funds: Scholarships, water for prom, cookies for senior celebration.
- Scrip Report: profits are lower than past years.
- Through end of April, profits are \$692 compared to \$750 budget. May and June sales should help us meet the budget.

8) SCAC - Superintendent’s Advisory Council (Penny Bantz)

- SCAC Meeting Summary: April 26, 2021 (last meeting of the year):
- Covid-19 4th Quarter Update
 - Marti Neahring, Director of Student Services, attended to review how Covid decisions are made, and policies are followed
 - 3-foot distance during instructional time, with face coverings
 - 6-foot distance during lunch when face coverings are removed

- Positive Cases - isolation for 10 days from onset of symptoms or the day the test was taken --Contact tracing - 6ft distance for 15 or more minutes during the day ○ 14 days of quarantine from last exposure
- BinaxNOW Testing - parents to sign waiver
- Student Vaccines (ages 16+)
- VNA had vaccines for kids 16+, but those dates have passed so parents can sign up through Kanevax.org as well
- Current case count after spring break. There is also a link on District 129 website showing all the cases at each school
- Close Contact Quarantine Numbers* (April 7th - April 22nd) Total = 428 Fearn 18 Freeman 18 Goodwin 9 Greenman 4 Hall 5 Hill 7 McCleery 0 Nicholson 14 Schneider 3 Smith 2 Herget 21 Jefferson 39 Jewel 89 Washington 58 West High 140 Early Learning 1 Blackhawk Academy 0
- Student Rights & Responsibilities
 - May 18th – 4:30 – 6:00 PM – Via Zoom
 - Parents are invited to attend the event and complete the survey

9) THANK YOU to departing board members

- Sandy Garcia –for your leadership as president, vice president, hospitality, and scholarships
- Tamara Scott – for your leadership as treasurer, on Scrip, scholarship judging, dance raffle basket development, and the after-prom party.

10) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm by Sandy Garcia

Minutes submitted by Margaret Patterson – have a great summer!

West Aurora PTSO
Special eNomination & eMotion
WAHS PTSO President Position
May 20, 2021

MOTION: I make a motion to name Pamela Childress as WAHS PTSO president for the 2021-2022 school year. – Erica Kegarise

SECOND: Becky Burkhalter

The motion was approved by return email by the board.

Addendum to May 12, 2021
Meeting Minutes
Documented by Margaret Patterson