

MINUTES

West Aurora High School Parent-Teacher-Student Organization - PTSO

Sept. 7, 2021 / 6:37 pm | *Zoom Meeting called to order by* Pamela Childress

Attendance

Present: Penny Bantz, Pamela Childress, Erica Kegarise, Margaret Patterson, Susie Shire, Susie Runge

Guests: Meghan Hill

Absent: Tolulope Dada, Jen Hannon, Jessica Garza, Liz Nunez, Angela Salazar, Dalila Sanchez, Tamara Scott

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve Aug. 2, 2021, minutes was made by Pamela Childress and seconded by Susie Shire. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Student Activities Report

Erica Kegarise thanked PTSO members Pamela Childress and Margaret Patterson for working the PTSO table at the Back-to-School Bash Aug. 17. "Surpassed my expectation, and the fireworks were a nice touch." PTSO attracted 13 new members at the event, seven single memberships and six family memberships.

Powderpuff registration closed today (Aug. 7): we have 147 participants! There are a ton of cheerleaders.

Volunteer opportunity for PTSO: concession stand volunteers for powderpuff game on Sept. 23

Volunteer opportunity for PTSO: Homecoming dance, WAHS, Sept. 25

Coat/shoe check and water donation

As we get closer, we can see how numbers are going to see how much water we need

Main gym will be open in addition to the Red Field House and Veterans Field House

Everyone is excited to be back at school:

Proud to be a Blackhawk Spirit Week – Aug. 30 – Sept. 3 culminating in Friday night FB game

Going for the Gold – month of September

October: PTSO consider Shout Outs fundraiser at Senior Night, which this year is Friday, Oct. 22

President Report

Pamela Childress reported that we had a lot of parents stop by the PTSO table at the Back to School Bash, wanting to get involved. She has reached out to these new members and most responded back to her: let me know what I can do, when do we meet, when can I work. She says the organization needs to keep these folks informed about how they can get involved, particularly with upcoming volunteer needs.

Meghan Hill, PE teacher at WAHS, spoke about the Young Hearts For Life event on **Thursday, March 3, 2022** at WAHS, which is held every two years. She's overseen the West event for more than a decade. The event offers a free screening EKG to every student who wants one.

The reason Meghan got involved was she had a cousin who passed away in high school from a condition called Long QT syndrome (LQTS), a heart rhythm condition that could have been detected by an EKG.

Meghan asked PTSO to consider donating water bottles to the event as well as helping solicit volunteers. The event needs 240 people from the community: they will attend a training event the night before and then help screen kids next day at the event. Three years ago (the last screening event at West), more kids were screened in a day than the organization had ever done in one day.

The program costs about \$15,000, much of it from fundraising: Hill feeds volunteers who stay the day, every volunteer receives a t-shirt with names of sponsors on the back. "The payoff is amazing, the kids are amazing, and this organization (Young Hearts For Life) does such a great job working with kids."

She's looking for at least 240 bottles of water. Registration signups will be done online by families and students. Hill will send us an email with suggested verbiage and a link which can be copied/pasted and sent to all members beginning in early 2022. PTSO agreed to help support volunteer solicitation.

Pamela Childress made a motion for PTSO to support the Young Hearts For Life event on March 3, 2022 with a donation of water (approximately 240 bottles; specific number to come) for the event. Erica Kegarise seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer Report

Tamara Scott and Liz Nunez unable to attend. No Treasurer Report

Audit. Tamara sent the audit report. Three people were on-hand for the Aug. 28 audit: Kara Gaffino and Liz Nunez were auditors while Margaret Patterson supported. Everything was clear with the books.

Bank Accounts and Signatories. Tamara requested that we get new signatories for the bank accounts (PTSO and SCRIP). She also suggested we update the names of our bank accounts to avoid confusion.

Signatories on both accounts currently are Margaret Patterson and Tamara Scott. Tamara suggested that she remain as a signatory on the SCRIP account, and that we seek to get 2-3 new signatories for the accounts.

Margaret Patterson made a motion that we change the name of our main bank account ending in -4643 to West Aurora High School PTSO c/o PTSO Treasurer, commencing immediately. Pamela Childress seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Margaret Patterson made a motion that we change the name of our SCRIP bank account ending in -3254 to West Aurora High School PTSO c/o SCRIP Treasurer, commencing immediately. Penny Bantz seconded. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Solicited signatory volunteers. Pamela Childress volunteered.

SCAC Report

Penny Bantz reported no meetings scheduled but calendar is coming soon.

Committee Reports

- **Homecoming Parade** (Susie Shire)– all is on schedule.
Sent Grand Marshall Mary Jo Youngmark, the high school nurse in her 26th and last year, parade details on where to meet and what time.
All dignitaries have been invited: principal, superintendent, teacher union reps, board of education president. They're all coming.
Aurora Police Department and Fire Department are all onboard.
Planning to give \$50 to the most spirited large and small group.
Erica suggested we solicit volunteers to work with Susie on the parade, as her son is a senior this year.
Susie said she could use support on lining up groups on Downer before the parade.
Parade to run 3 pm – 3:45 pm on Sept. 23.
Re: Parade banners. People who have done banners have never charged but once Susie is no longer in the chair position, she can't say that will continue to be the case. Erica Kegarise said she would cover those costs.
- **Volunteer Requirements** (Margaret Patterson) – will use Signup Genius
Powderpuff Concessions: 5:30 – 8:30 pm (5:30-7 pm, 7-8:30/end) five volunteers per time period
Homecoming Dance: 6:45-10 pm – three to four volunteers for coat check, water oversight
Parade 2 pm – 4 pm: two to three volunteers for staging, cleanup
- **Shout Outs** – Oct. 23, 2021 at Senior Night football game. Discuss next meeting.
- **Fall Conferences** (Erica Kegarise) – Thursday, Oct. 7, 5 pm – 8:20 pm; zoom format – if Erica needs anything she will reach out to PTSO
- **Sales Tax Renewal** (Margaret Patterson) – ours has lapsed; Tamara started, Margaret will finish.
- **Membership** (Margaret Patterson) - total parent membership 68; total staff 6 (staff members who are also parents are only counted in the parents numbers). Received \$690 in memberships and donations through September.
- **Six Flags Grad Night** (Erica Kegarise) – Six Flags is planning Grad Nights again, May 14 and May 21. (West prom is Saturday, May 7.) So while grad night won't work as a prom after-party, Erica suggested we jointly sponsor the May 14 grad night as a Senior event: "That could be a really cool event for our Seniors." Busses could depart high school 7:30-8 pm for Six Flags; the park is open until 4 a.m. Busses would return them to West. Could offer just to seniors at least initially; then consider opening to other classes. Erica would enlist senior class leaders for their input and support. This event could also be a fundraiser for PTSO. Will work on this in the new year.

Next Meeting

Oct. 12, 2021 / 6:30 p.m. West Aurora High School (*specific location to be decided*)

Meeting was concluded at 7:22 pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Patterson