

MINUTES

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

Oct. 12, 2021 / 6:33 pm | *Zoom Meeting called to order by Margaret Patterson*

Attendance

Present: Penny Bantz, Pamela Childress, Erica Kegarise, Liz Nunez, Margaret Patterson, Susie Runge, Tamara Scott

Guest Members: Janet Godek, April Kelly

Absent: Tolulope Dada, Jen Hannon, Jessica Garza, Angela Salazar, Dalila Sanchez, Susie Shire

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve Sept. 7 minutes was made by Penny Bantz and seconded by Erica Kegarise. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Student Activities Report – Erika Kegarise

Thank you to PTSO for your support for Homecoming! We had our highest attendance yet at the dance: 1,750 students (vs. 1,603 in 2019, the previous high).

Attendance at all Homecoming events was really good and exceeded all expectations.

Veterans Day Assembly, Nov. 11, 2021. ROTC is moving ahead with their competition drill team performances, which are showcased at the assembly. May do an end-of-the-day pep assembly – optional for kids – like what was done with homecoming, and have multiple spaces open for kids to watch. The main gym would be the live, in-person experience, but kids could also view the Veterans Assembly from the auditorium, or from one of the other field houses. Currently working out logistics.

Parent-teacher conferences utilized an online format; there were mixed reviews among parents at the meeting, mostly involving technical issues. Janet Godek said she preferred the format to in-person conferences because “it went faster. I have two boys at West – one a freshman, one a junior – and it was really easy to see all their teachers: two hours and I was done!”

Turkey Trot 5K. A+ Foundation is teaming with the East Aurora Education Foundation to sponsor an in-person Turkey Trot 5K walk/run on Saturday, Nov. 20. They have different tiers for sponsors. If the PTSO is interested, the lowest sponsorship would be \$100. That would get the organization’s name printed on the t-shirt back. A+ Foundation has supported PTSO in the past with the hot chocolate grant, so this would be a way to support them. Currently, 125 runners are signed up for the event. The run will finish over the new pedestrian bridge near downtown.

Donation Motion. Tamara Scott made a motion to approve a \$100 donation from PTSO for the Turkey Trot 5K sponsorship. Pamela Childress seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Student Activities. Lots going on: football games, choir concert last week, band concert next week, and Band-a-Rama coming up. Some events are live-streamed, so if people don't feel comfortable coming to the high school, they can still enjoy the performance.

Student Activity Advisory Council. Over the summer Erica assembled a Student Activity Advisory Council, composed of students from all grade levels, with 48 kids in total. Meeting next week to start talking about what a winter dance might look like. Thinking about "Snow-Coming," a play off Homecoming, during the week of Dec. 6-10. Snow-Coming would culminate on Friday, Dec. 10 when the boys and girls varsity basketball teams have back-to-back games. Snow-Coming idea will be presented to the advisory council, and hopefully will come up with fun activities for the week. May ask PTSO for help once the week is figured out.

Treasurer / SCRIP Report – Tamara Scott / Liz Nunez

Tamara distributed copies of the SCRIP and treasurer reports.

SCRIP Report: not much activity. No September sale, but there was one for October. Planning a push for November and December for the holidays to increase sales. Since no one has stepped up to do SCRIP this year, Tamara will continue to oversee.

Treasurer Report: no budget yet, need to complete and approve. Will work with the executive committee to get one worked out, so the budget can be reviewed and approved, possibly at the next PTSO meeting.

Signatories for SCRIP account: Pamela Childress, Liz Nunez, Tamara Scott. We need one more person for signatory on the main PTSO account (Pamela Childress, Liz Nunez and one other person).

Motions: Erica Kegarise made a motion to make Pamela Childress, Jessica Garza, and Liz Nunez signatories on the main PTSO account. Penny Bantz seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Erica Kegarise made a motion to make Pamela Childress, Liz Nunez, and Tamara Scott signatories on the SCRIP account. Margaret Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Concessions Deposit. Tamara asked about deposits from Powder Puff football concessions; haven't received the check yet from the Sports Boosters. Tamara also inquired about money from the tip bucket, which is usually \$40 to \$70. Erica said she would follow up with the Sports Boosters.

SCAC (Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee) – Penny Bantz

Here is a meeting summary of the Sept. 27 SCAC Meeting.

- Anna Gonzalez and Dr. Craig spent a good portion of the meeting as a "get to know you" since half of our committee is new this year.
- Dr. Craig shared the latest District Profile before it was released to the public ([LINK HERE](#))
- We also discussed how we could all help get the word about open positions in the district such as the need for all types of substitutes.
- What types of programs, departments or events would we like to know more about? We can all funnel ideas, thoughts, questions, and concerns through the SCAC committee since it is a great value to our district. Another route to communicate within our district. Please contact West Aurora PTSO or Penny Bantz, WAHS SCAC Representative - penbantz@att.net
- Next SCAC meeting is Nov. 29, 2021

Committee Reports

- **Homecoming Overview**

Parade:

- Most spirited small group – Step Club
- Most spirited large group – West Aurora Marching Band
- Each group will receive a \$50 check from PTSO

Parade Volunteers. Penny Bantz and Marisol Stinson supported the parade with Chair Susie Shire
Parade support needed for next year. We need people to help organize the parade next year; current chair Susie Shire’s youngest child graduates from high school in May 2022. Susie is willing to stay on for one year to help train interested volunteer(s). Erica gets the parade permit and gets the clubs and athletic clubs signed up. The parade chair’s work is focused on the day of the parade and helping get the clubs lined up..

Powder Puff Concessions Volunteers: Penny Bantz, Jess Garza, Amy Hett, Natalie Hoskins, Tiffany Salache, Marisol Stinson, and Cate McCabe. PTSO netted \$275.78 from the Sports Boosters.

Homecoming Dance Volunteers: Jess Garza, Margaret Patterson, Angela Pickett, and Julie Popplewell. We checked 223 items this year and were busy the whole evening.

- **Fundraising:**

Grad Signs – we should get an inventory of current stock so we know where we are; will have inventory numbers for the next meeting.

Erica challenged everyone to come to the next meeting with a fundraising idea.

Here are a few possibilities:

- T-shirts
- Shout-Outs – at a basketball / indoor event (e.g., for a girls / boys basketball game)
- We’ve got to find more ways to bring in money.

- **Hospitality.** Looking for someone to oversee this committee.

- Staff appreciation
- Senior Breakfast oversight

- **Membership.** (Margaret Patterson) We have \$715 total membership (includes donations): parents/guardians/students 70; staff 7 (staff who are also parents only counted in the parent numbers). Board members are required to be paid members according to bylaws.

- **Meeting Reminder Sent to Membership.** All members received an invite to this meeting. Had one person respond who couldn’t attend and asked how they could get help, as well as two members who joined the zoom meeting tonight.

- **Scholarships.** Need to get moving on scholarships, including solicitations to parent groups to contribute the fund. Also need to get the scholarship application out to seniors by end of December.

Next Meeting

Nov. 16, 2021 / 6:30 p.m. (*Specific format – zoom or in-person – TBD. Will try for in-person*)

Meeting was concluded at 7:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Patterson