

W+H PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Date | time January 12, 2022 8:30am | *Meeting called to order by* Kevin Kornecki

In Attendance

Approximately 40 participants between family and W+H staff

Meeting minutes from previous meeting were approved – 1st motion made by Shakti Jha and 2nd motion made by Kerry O'Neill.

Updates from W+H Administration Team

JohnEric Advento (Lower School Division Head) welcomed everyone back for the new year. Given the recent surges some things will be postponed for the short term such as assemblies and potentially the LS Cabaret for the 5th grade. It is starting to get bitter cold outside so in addition to making sure the children have properly fitted masks that they also bundle up and have layers of clothes as they will continue to go outside for recess as much as possible. John Eric also extended a sincere Thank You to families for a wonderful first trimester and for being nimble last week and in the upcoming week as things need to be adjusted given the current environment.

Bill Jenkins (Assistant Head for Institutional Advancement) introduced Stephanie Foti as a replacement for Tamica Lloyd in the Development Office. Over the winter break, there was a lot of work done on A deck (ground floor) for flood remediation. Office and art room are now complete and should be moved in shortly. Plumeri gym also making good progress.

Karl Miran (Athletics Director) Winter athletics are up and running for sports and we will continue to play games at the MS level which is an improvement from last year. There is potential for the winter season to get extended so be on the lookout for an update there. For the next 2 weeks, W+H family only spectators will be allowed to watch games and will need to provide the proper vaccine documentation to do so. In addition, many of the schools we compete against are not allowing outside spectators at this time. Plumeri gym progress is moving rapidly. Once the floor is complete, the heights of the back boards will need to be adjusted as the floor is higher due to the additional padding underneath.

Andy Webster (Head of School) shared that there is still a lot going on in the pandemic space and new guidance just came out from the Dept. of Health on Monday. The school is evaluating the guidance to see what W+H will do. Andy also shared that W+H is engaging in a pilot with

the Global Online Academy (globalonlineacademy.org) in the Winter and Spring within the US and MS. W+H is one of three independent schools in NJ to engage in this type of partnership. The program will allow W+H to expand the breadth of their curriculum beyond what we offer when there are unique individual interests that would not warrant having dedicated faculty or courses or where experts in the field are not full-time teachers. Example could be cyber security. US students will have the opportunity to participate on semester long programs and MS in week long programs. This is another way for a small school such as W+H to be able to continue to offer innovative experiences for the students personalized to their individual interests. The 8th grade will be piloting the intensive research to supplement their work with Cap Stone projects this year. At this time US students are only allowed to take one course as it will be in addition to the rigorous workload of full courses they already have and don't want to overtax students. It is in pilot mode. There could be potential for kids to take more in the future.

Dr. Corinna Crafton (Associate Head of School for Curriculum and Instruction) shared that the DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) committee kicked off in December. The committee is made up of students, faculty, parents, board members and administrators. There are currently 3 sub committees working on projects. The sub committees will be reaching out to the community to get feedback on involvement as well as fact finding for lived experiences. These reach outs to the community will most likely happen in the Feb/March timeframe. The next DEIB full committee meeting is Jan. 26th.

Treasury Report

Kerry O'Neill delivered the update from Monalatha Sampathkumar. The fundraising efforts have been strong and so the bank funds continue to be healthy even in these challenging times of virtual events as we head into the spring. The fund raised to date will fund graduations for all divisions as well as yearend events, faculty development opportunities and much more. A PayPal account was setup for the WHPA. Zelle and Venmo cannot be set up at this time because they can't be linked to a business account. Reminder to list W+H as your charity of choice in smile.amazon.com and do your shopping through that link.

Division WHPA Update

LS – Ashley thanks everyone who came out for the Holiday Boutique and hoped they enjoyed the event. Upcoming events include the Book Fair and Valentines dance. Given the current environment they may need to be modified so more information to come there.

MS – MS students will be performing in Shrek Jr. the Musical scheduled for February 12th so look out for ways to buy tickets.

US – Reminder to register for the College Counseling webinar scheduled for January 13th. Us will be performing in Grease the Musical in March. All encouraged to support the musical and tech week when it comes.

Calendar of Events

All upcoming events are being reevaluated to see what can be done when and if they can be held safely in person. The WHPA Executive Committee meets to discuss this week and are working with Andy and his team on guidance. This includes events such as International Family Fun Night, Book Fair, Valentines Dance and Spring Gala.

The 50/50 raffle is taking place virtually. You should receive tickets in the mail. Tickets can be bought personally or sold to family and friends. Good Luck!

Winter Basket Raffle

The Raffle event held in December was a huge success and a lot of fun. Thank you to all families who donated items and purchased tickets. There were a ton a great prizes given away. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Alumni Panel

The WHPA ended by 9:15am so people could move into the Alumni Panel discussion. This is an annual event where recent alumni come back and share their college experiences.

Next Meeting

February 3rd @ 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14am with first motion made by Shakti Jha and seconded by Kerry O'Neill.