

W+H PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Date | time November 11, 2021 7pm | *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 Roshanna Bracy and 2nd motion made by Kerry O'Neill.

Updates from W+H Administration Team

Andy Webster (Head of School) discussed the importance of relationships between the teachers and students, parents and teachers and the community as a whole. He talked about what an exciting time of the year it is preparing for plays, concerts and having athletics back into full swing. Andy also shared information regarding the partnership that W+H has with Interfaith Rise, an organization located in Highland Park that works with refugee resettlement.

Mr. Webster has been making his way around the division sitting in on MS meeting where they cheered on the successes of the MS cross country team, attended the LS butterfly release, sitting in on senior speeches, seeing effort and engagement of teacher in service day and monitoring a 6th grade recess. He focused on the joy and gratitude expressed by so many in each of these events and enjoyed the return to some normalcy.

Dr. Corinna Crafton (Associate Head of School for Curriculum and Instruction) shared that the teachers had a curriculum sustainability deep dive during the teacher in service day. The work on sustainability and the Social Studies PK-5 audit is continuing to make good progress. The work on the faculty development and research databases has slowed down due to Dr. Crafton having to step in and teach English classes in the Middle School as a result of the sudden departure of Mr. Chavez. Once his replacement has been found, that work will move forward.

Dr. Crafton also reminded 5th grade and MS families whose kids are interested in the Geography Bee that they must register by November 12th.

Jennifer Rose (Middle School Division Head) started by thanking Dr. Crafton and Mrs. Rogers for taking on additional teaching duties for English and History as a result of Mr. Chavez leaving. She also shared that the MS student government collected money for UNICEF during Halloween and was able to raise \$261. There is also a Thanksgiving Food drive going on through Nov. 22nd. This week in the MS, Ms. Barnett with assistance of some US helpers lead four days of STEM enrichment programs focused on currents. Winter sports are scheduled to

begin Nov. 16th. MS Coffee and Conversation is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17th at 7pm via Zoom. The topic is Resilience and Mental Health. 8th grade will be visiting the Upper School in Dec and 5th grade visits for the Middle School will be scheduled soon. Student led conferences will take place on Dec. 10th. Lastly, student service initiatives will start to ramp up soon.

JohnEric Advento (Lower School Division Head) sent notes to be read at the meeting. Friendsgiving will not have outside visitors this year due to COVID protocols. The Winter Concert will take place on December 17th for the Lower School so please be on the lookout for additional details. Finally, please make sure to send your kids in with appropriate outer wear for PE and recess as it is getting colder and some kids have been coming in without coats, sweaters or jackets.

Bob Bowman (Upper School Division Head) advised that the US Play Shining Lives about the Radium Girls is taking place in person in the PAC Friday, November 12th @ 7:30pm and Saturday, November 13th @ 3pm. Tickets can be bought at the door. Winter Sports have already begun in the Upper School. Students have started back with service activities at the Hillside Community Food Bank this week. Dr. Bowman also shared that there will be 2-3 tour dates for 8th grade parents to visit the Upper School. Emily Brogan signed her letter of intent to be a D1 javelin thrower at Bryant University and Grace Lu signed her letter of intent to play D1 golf at William and Mary.

Bill Jenkins (Assistant Head for Institutional Advancement) shared how he was interviewed for the MS newspaper this week regarding Fall fair. He reflected on just how nice it was to have everyone together again.

Treasury Report

Mona Vijay shared the current standing of the financials including the recent receipt of family dues. Fall Fair raised approximately \$1,500. The WHPA supported the LS Halloween parade and the tech week meals for the US play. She is also in the process of setting up a Zelle and Venmo account to help with electronic payments. Raffle licenses are in process for the upcoming basket raffle and 50/50. Kerry O'Neill will be added to the WHPA bank account as a dual signer as a backup.

Communications Update

Upcoming events being planned for the year:

- ❖ **Monthly Family Dinners** one day every month – next one Dec. 2nd
- ❖ **Holiday Boutique/Craft Fair** – Dec. 3, 2021
- ❖ **Basket Raffle** – Dec. 15, 2021
- ❖ **Book Fair** – Feb. 2-4th 2022
- ❖ **International Family Fun Night (IFFN)** – February 4th 2022
- ❖ **LS Valentines Dance** – February 14, 2022
- ❖ **Spring Gala** – April 23rd 2022 – adult only. Held off campus. Theme is Roaring 20's.

Division WHPA Update

LS - Roshanna Bracy spoke for the LS and shared that the Halloween parade was a huge success. She wanted to thank all the families who jumped in on short notice to make it a great day.

MS – Nothing Additional to Report

US – Nothing Additional to Report

Ram Shop

The Ram Shop will now be open on Monday and Fridays from 8:30-9:30am and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30pm. A communication with details will be sent out next week. Roshanna also thanked Bill Jenkins for all of his help since school started. If you have gently used uniforms that you would like to donate, please drop them off with Lynn at the reception desk.

Holiday Boutique

The Holiday Boutique has historically been a LS shopping event that happens during the school day where kids come and pick out small gift items for their parents using money parents gave them to spend. Due to COVID protocols, this event needed to be reimaged. Instead, there will be an in-person shopping event at school in the evening of Dec. 3rd from 2:30-8pm where parents can bring their kids to do the shopping.

There will be a need for volunteers to help guide people. A sign-up genius for volunteers will be forth coming. All attendees must wear a mask.

Announcements

Basket Raffle: Each grade has been assigned a theme. Families are asked to donate a NEW item that matches that theme. The items will then be bundled into baskets to be raffled off. Detailed information on themes has been send via e-mail from the Parents Association. If you have questions, please reach out to your class parent.

Please drop off donations by Nov. 19th at the green tent outside LS each morning between 7:30-8:30am. Basket will be packaged and put up for viewing by Dec. 1st when tickets go on sale. Some items will also be at Holiday Boutique for viewing. The raffle will take place virtually on Dec. 15th. Good luck everyone!

Monthly Family Dinners are underway. The next one is Dec. 2nd and will feature items from Europe. All orders must be placed by Nov. 29th. www.WHPA2021.givesmart.com

Holiday Pies are currently being sold. Order must be placed by Nov. 19th for pick up Nov. 22nd. www.WHPA2021.givesmart.com

50/50 raffle will be held in January – more to come. Last year's winner walked away with almost \$10k.

Amazon – if you have not already done so, go to smile.amazon.com and choose Wardlaw Hartridge as your charity and a small % of your spending is donated to the school from amazon. The school never sees how much you spend or what you buy. The check comes as an anonymous rolled up sum of all participants each quarter. It takes one minute to sign up and makes a big difference. All prices are the same as on the regular Amazon site.

Next Meeting

December 2nd 6L30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm with first motion made by Roshanna Bracy and seconded by Shakti Jha.