

# W+H PARENTS ASSOCIATION

## Meeting Minutes

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*Date | time* March 3, 2022 7:00pm | *Meeting called to order by* Kerry O'Neill

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### In Attendance

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Approximately 40 participants between family and W+H staff

Meeting minutes from previous meeting were approved – 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by Shakti Jha and 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Kevin Kornecki.

### Updates from W+H Administration Team

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**Jennifer Rose** (Middle School Division Head) Trimester 2 is always the toughest of the year but everyone managed to make it through. This week 16 children are partaking in the STEM engineering workshop designing and building toothpick bridges. Sports will begin on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure to get all of your paperwork completed prior to that if your child is playing a Spring Sport. Report Cards will be available in PCR starting March 10<sup>th</sup>. The final update was regarding the upcoming Signature Middle School trips coming up in April. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be going Frost Valley, 7<sup>th</sup> grade to Philadelphia and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Washington D.C. There will be Zoom information sessions held next week for all of the trips – Monday for 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday for 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday for 8<sup>th</sup>. Information packets for each trip have been sent home with required paperwork that will need to be returned promptly. While the trips unavoidably had to take place during some holidays, accommodations have been made for observance including Kosher style meals for Passover and prayers for Ramadan. The next Middle School Coffee and Conversation will be April 13<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be EAB testing. Ms. Rose hoped the final Coffee & Conversation in May will be able to be in person.

**Bob Bowman** (Upper School Division Head) highlighted all of the celebrations taking place across the Upper School. The Upper School Musical (Grease) will be held this weekend on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All shows are almost sold out. On March 8<sup>th</sup> in honor of International Women's Day, all US students will be given a Be Bold stickers and several presentations celebrating women will be done throughout the day. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Upper School will have a dance for grades 9-12 from 6-9pm. The dance will be semi-formal and is for W+H students only. There will be a DJ, Photo Booth, Pizza and Cotton Candy machine. March 11<sup>th</sup> will be Senior/Teacher Swap Day. Seniors will be responsible for teaching a lesson while also dressing and acting like their teachers. That afternoon the Desi Club will all host a Holi Festival of Colors celebration. The kids will come dressed in white shirts and will get colored powder on them during the celebration. Finally, Mr. Bowman congratulated the boys' basketball team on their big win this week. They will be advancing to play the #2 seeded team.

**JohnEric Advento** (Lower School Division Head) was not present but sent an update. He thanked all of the LS family members who volunteered to be guest readers. It will start after the break and continue every Thursday until the end of the year.

**Andy Webster** (Head of School) provided an update on the mask policy. He stated that the survey resulted in 40% of parents wanting to keep the mask policy in place for the remainder of the year and 60% either to go mask optional now or after the break. A formal communication will be sent out to the school tomorrow regarding the decision. He shared with the WHPA that the plan is to go mask optional after Spring Break. This would allow the school to continue to monitor the results of the schools going mask optional while on break and see what the results are and if there is a surge that needs to be accounted for. The school will be doing testing the week of April 4<sup>th</sup> following the break. The quarantine period will also be adjusted down to 5 days. He shared that for colleges that have gone mask optional already there has been a surge but nothing that wasn't able to be managed.

The school facilities are getting back to normal after the damage caused by the flood in September. The Plumeri gym is fully renovated and back in use. The Oakwood room is also back in use by the WHPA following its stint as an art room. Additional renovations will continue during the Spring Break. Mr. Webster also provided an update for Corinna Crafton regarding the DEIB committee reminding everyone that the AIM survey will go out to parents, students and alumni next week. They ask that everyone participate in the survey so they can have a broad range of responses and experience from which to work through.

**Bill Jenkins** (Assistant Head for Institutional Advancement) spoke to an event taking place this weekend to honor Max Stevens, alumnus from the Class of 2004 who passed away in 2020. The event is raising money for a scholarship award in Max's name.

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### Treasury Report

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Monalatha Sampathkumar shared that the WHPA received their audited financials and were signed off on by auditor Bob Oliwa with no recommendations for improvement. Bank balance currently sits at \$82k which will be used to fund many of the year-end activities. Congratulations to the 50/50 winners. Checks will be mailed next week.

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### Division WHPA Update

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LS – Thank you to all of the families who participated in the Black History Month Read and Share event. The Scholastic Book Fair will be taking place April 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will be shopping with the kids during school hours and parents will be able to attend in the evening on April 8<sup>th</sup> during International Family Fun Night.

Ram Shop will be open receiving donations next Wednesday and Thursday between 7:45-8:30am and 2:30-3:30pm. The shop will be open for sales on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting March 28<sup>th</sup>.

MS – Tray Valle is working with Ms. Valentine and Ms. Rose to see what may be needed for the remainder of the year in the MS.

US – Thank you to all of the families who contributed items to feed the children during tech week for the US Musical Grease.

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## Calendar of Events

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Shakti Jha provided an update on International Family Fun Night (IFFN). The event will be held on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a flyer in the WHEN this week soliciting participation. IFFN is a family event celebrating the many diverse talents and cultures of the school. Students and families are encouraged to participate and either perform on stage or host a craft. Food is also collected from families representing their culture. Food will be checked in with Chef Anibal the morning of the event and he will then make sure it is properly labeled. All donations must come with a list of ingredients and absolutely no nuts will be allowed. The event will have an option for Indoor and Outdoor seating and performances will be livestreamed for those choosing to eat outside. Everyone wishing to attend will need to sign up and register ahead of time as there will be capacity restrictions as a result of COVID.

The Spring Gala will take place on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to everyone who chose to participate in the survey. We received 160 responses. 80% of people who responded wanted an on-campus event with an outdoor option. While the environment is hanging rapidly, we want to make sure to honor the wishes of those who responded. The school will be transformed into an upscale formal event space with indoor and outdoor options for everyone and will include food, dancing, drinks and a silent auction. The theme will be The Roaring Twenties and people can dress in theme or just dress up for a fun evening. Child Care will be available on premises run by the Encore Program Manager. Invitations will be going out shortly. Tickets will cost \$85 per person or \$150 per couple. Faculty and staff are invited to attend for free. It will be a wonderful fun evening and a good way for parents to get together after a long time apart and a great way for new families to meet other people in the community. We encourage everyone to come out for a good time.

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## Next Meeting

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March 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm with first motion made by Shakti Jha and seconded by Anita Nair.