

W+H PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

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

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 Kevin Kornecki.

Updates from W+H Administration Team

Dr. Corinna Crafton (Associate Head of School for Curriculum and Instruction) shared that the DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) committee held their 2nd full group meeting and four sub-committees have been working. Writing is working on a mission statement; survey is planning methods to solicit feedback from parents, alumni, students and faculty; peer group is connecting with other schools; student led is forming a student committee. On March 6th there will be a 3-hour working session. The output of that session should be a list of recommendations to be brought forward to Andy and the Board of Trustees.

The Lower School Social Studies audit is coming to a conclusion with a thematic framework. Focus is in empowering global citizens and make sure it mirrors student experiences and aligns with missions and values. Expected to have a proposal in late spring. Efforts will continue on Faculty Development and the online research hub after the sustainability audit.

JohnEric Advento (Lower School Division Head) shared that the LS has been engaged with the great curriculum work Dr. Crafton is leading. February kicked off with Lunar New Year and the Lower School students participated in presentations with the Upper School. Black History month is also underway and the discussion will be celebrating authors. The Upper school Black Alliance shared a presentation on MLK Jr. with regards to kindness and respect. An expansion of that will be the February 14th celebration of Love and Happiness. Each class will receive treats from the WHPA (no outside food can be brought in) and there will be a virtual dance party in each room. Times for each class will be shared along with a link so that parents can drop in and see the party unfold in their child's class. If anyone wishes to bring in cards or goodie bags (non-food related) in for their classmates, they must do so by February 11th. February 14th will also be a Dress Down Day where kids can wear red, pink, white or something with a positive message. Additional items he shared included the LS Cabaret to be held Feb. 18th during assembly and upcoming in March there will be Read Across America events.

Bob Bowman (Upper School Division Head) highlighted the Lunar New Year celebrations held across the Upper School. He also shares two inspiring stories of typical experiences at W+H. Marc Spivak (W+H head of technology and also a rabbi) was contacted by a refugee boy from Uganda asking for assistance in helping him attend school. At the Innovation School for every \$6 donated a boy can attend school for 3 months. Marc shared this discussion with Nicole Nolan and the Upper School students are now running with an initiative to develop a short- and long-term partnership with the Innovation School.

The second story he shared was that the Black Student Alliance wanted to go to the African American Museum in Philadelphia so they raised all the money for the train ride for 25 students and 2 chaperones. They will have a specially curated trip with the museum because the museum was so impressed with their efforts and initiative.

Gerard Gonnella (Director of Admission) wished everyone a Happy New Year of the Tiger. He reminded parents that everyone is an admission ambassador for the school. He asked everyone to please let him know if they know anyone interested in applying to W+H. He also asked people to share, like ad repost items from the W+H social media feeds. Finally, enrollment contracts will be going the end of the week of Feb. 7th.

Bill Jenkins (Assistant Head for Institutional Advancement) shared that Stephani Foti has only been a member of the W+H community a few months and has commented that she already sees the worth of the community.

Andy Webster (Head of School) let the families know that the Global Online Academy pilot classes have begun in the Upper School and will be starting in the Middle School in the 8th grade. Contributions made to the W+H annual fund provide the school the agility to participate in this pilot opportunity that was not previously in the budget. The Lower School has hired a new 2nd Grade teacher Iko who is from Japanese origin and is slated to start on February 14th. The last 8 of 14 new hires have been people of color. W+H has started posting position in a broader range of groups which has increase the competitive pipeline of candidates.

Flood recovery continues to be underway. The Oakwood Room has been reclaimed for the WHPA as the Art room is back in the Art studio. Plumeri gym is currently being painted and varnished and should be ready to go shortly. The PAC lobby floor has had a delayed reaction to the flood and tiles have started popping up. The school is working on a short- and long-term solution.

Andy was happy to report that last week there were 0 cases at the school. A big component of the W+H experience is global interconnection. With that in mind, he hopes to start international experiences back up in the near future. Middle School domestic travel slated for the spring are in the works with trips to Frost Valley, Philadelphia and Washington D.C.

Monalatha Sampathkumar provide an update with current bank balances oof \$71k slated to pay for spring graduations & class receptions, International Family Fun Night, Valentine's Day, Spring Musicals and Mini Grants. Kevin Kornecki shared that the Mini Grant program is funded by the WHPA and is an opportunity for teachers to request funds to provide and extra program or do something extra in the classroom that is not in the current operating budget.

Division WHPA Update

LS – Ashley shared that the parents will be able to view their class Valentine's Day dance party so be on the lookout for the link. The LS is looking for readers for the month of February. Please sign up and read via Zoom. There will be a sign up for volunteers for the book fair sent out in March. In addition, the WHPA is looking to host some parent engagement events such as Paint & Sip and an in-person cooking experience with SAGE. More to come once details have been worked out. For the in-person event, the team is working with Dawn Cancryn to arrange child care.

Ram Shop is currently being setup and will be open soon. Donations can be left at the front desk.

MS – MS students will be performing in Shrek Jr. the Musical scheduled for February 12th so look out for ways to buy tickets. There will also be a special STUDENT ONLY performance on February 11th. Next week the MS will be studying climate change across all classes. MS winter sports will end on Feb. 18th. Please refer to Karl Miran's email to see f your child is registered for the correct spring sprot and update all oof your forms in Rank One.

US – The US Musical Grease will be taking place on March 4th, 5th and 6th and parent hep will be needed. Looks for ways to volunteer. Athletic registration for the Spring semester is currently under way. Please make sure to update all forms in Rank One.

Calendar of Events

Kevin Kornecki provided the calendar update. The 50/50 will be held on February 24th at 8pm. Please make sure to return your tickets. The Scholastic Book Fair will be held April 5th – 8th. International Family Fun Night will be April 8th. The Spring Gala is currently schedule for April 23rd. A short survey was sent to parents to gauge what type of event they would be interested in.

Next Meeting

March 3rd @ 7pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm with first motion made by Shakti Jha and seconded by Kerry O'Neill.