

MINUTES

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

March 14, 2022 / 6:40 pm | WAHS Principal's Conference Room | Margaret Patterson

Attendance

Present: Penny Bantz, Erica Kegarise, LizBeth Nuñez, Margaret Patterson, Susie Runge, Tamara Scott
Absent: Jessica Garza, Susie Shire

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve Nov. 16, 2021, minutes was made by Erica Kegarise and seconded by Susie Runge. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dissolution of PTSO

A couple weeks ago Erica Kegarise was at a Southwest Prairie Conference meeting (12 schools in the athletic conference); she asked the activity directors how many of their high schools had a parent organization (PTO, PTA)? Just three out of the 12 schools - Plainfield North, Oswego and West Aurora – have PTA/PTOs.

There are so many parent support organizations at West – Band Boosters, POPA (Patrons of the Performing Arts), Sports Boosters. When parents get to West, they gravitate to the parent organization associated with their children's passions; they don't gravitate to PTSO, with its more generic mission of giving back to the teachers, supporting the Homecoming parade, providing senior scholarships. Also, maybe parents are burned out by the time they get to high school. There are a lot of competing activities for parents and students. No matter the reasons, parents simply don't want to get involved with the PTSO organization as officers. They will volunteer for a specific activity – they will donate – they will pay dues – but they don't want the ongoing commitment. PTSO needs committed parents to continue. Erica can do everything (except engage parents) through the activities department.

Regarding dissolution, from the PTSO by-laws:

“A dissolution of the organization may occur after a proposal petition is signed by at least ten (10) members of the PTSO and has been submitted to the PTSO Board. Written notice of a special meeting must be given.

Approval of dissolution of the PTSO shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present of the meeting.

“Upon dissolution of the PTSO, after paying all debts and obligations, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. All remaining funds will be disbursed to an organization of similar purpose or to the West Aurora High School Principal to be disbursed as he/she sees fit.”

Margaret to provide list of staff PTSO members and a draft petition to Erica to pursue signatures at school.

With dissolution, Homecoming Parade will fall to Activities with support from a parade committee. Erica's office will absorb all the activities currently overseen by PTSO and will pursue parent support when needed.

There was discussion of what to do with PTSO files. Erica said to give them to her.

There was discussion about SCRIP and the fact that it has regular customers: Would some other organization be interested in taking it over? No consensus on what to do. Possibly reach out to Band Boosters or POPA..

As far as what happens if a group of parents in the future wants to regroup, Erica said she will establish whatever that looks like when those people come forward: "I would help facilitate that as long as there are driving parents who want to get that together."

Balance of year activities involving PTSO support:

(1) Commencement Practice Breakfast –Friday morning May 20 prior to practice, 1,000 people in blue gym. Panera Bread delivers, is tasty and efficient. Can use Erica's tax-exempt number when ordering the food.

(2) Teacher Appreciation Week - \$400 donation to student group, Educators Rising.

(3) Scholarships – based on applicants. Deadline for scholarship applications is April 11.

Margaret to send electronic notes to parent organizations asking for donations this week. Winners will be honored May 18 at Senior Recognition Night.

Treasurer Report

Tamara Scott reported that SCRIP February profits were \$131 for reloads.

For the year, \$750 SCRIP income was budgeted, and we're at \$1,316, with March, April and end of school year to go which includes teacher gift cards and graduation gifts.

PTSO account current balance: \$3,431. There hasn't been a lot of activity the past few months: a few memberships, Amazon Smiles donations.

SCAC Report

Penny Bantz reported on the Feb. 28 SCAC meeting. Dr. Valerie McCall, director of educational equity, summarized the equity survey findings. Dr. Brent Raby also spoke about the money that the district has gotten from the state: it's a wonderful gift but there are lots of requirements attached to it. Anna Gonzales shared a wonderful presentation about the project. With part of the money the district has received, they're expanding several of the playgrounds across the district. In addition, the Weisner Family Center for Career Development is adding carpentry/woodshop for high school students to learn to build a home as part of the curriculum.

Committee Reports

- **Grad Signs** – sales are on-going from the Activities Department.
- **Memberships & Volunteers** – we have \$855 in memberships and donations, with 53 parent and individual members, and 7 staff members.

Conclusion

next meeting date: tbd

Meeting was concluded at 7:23 pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Patterson