

MINUTES

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

May 3, 2022 / 6:37 pm | WAHS Principal's Conference Room | Margaret Patterson

Attendance

Present: Erica Kegarise, Margaret Patterson, Susie Runge, Tamara Scott, Susie Shire

Absent: Penny Bantz, Jessica Garza, LizBeth Nunez

Approval of Minutes – Margaret Patterson

Motion to approve March 14, 2022, minutes was made by Tamara Scott and seconded by Susie Shire. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Student Activities – Erica Kegarise

Prom is this weekend (May 7): just over 550 students attending. Location is Two Brothers Round House in Aurora. No sit-down dinner: instead, we have the run of the place (two upstairs ballrooms, one downstairs ballroom, a tavern area) to include two DJs, appetizers downstairs, and pasta and salad stations upstairs. The kids loved last year's prom format with more entertainment and socializing. I am excited for this prom to be close by: it's just a 10-minute drive. Time is 6 pm – 10 pm Saturday evening.

Six Flags Grad Night is May 14: tickets sold out in eight days, with a total of 450 tickets. Yes, there is a waiting list. But I am not adding more busses: we already have 10 busses going. I let Seniors know right after Spring Break what the costs would be for prom and grad night. What I have learned, then, is to have tickets available for sale for one week: one week for prom, one week for Six Flags. Having ticket sales go for three weeks was not efficient.

Tonight is the Seal of Biliteracy awards night. All sorts of honor events are happening the last couple of weeks.

Senior's last day is Thursday, May 19. Senior Recognition Night is Wednesday evening, May 18, where the West Aurora Parent Organization scholarships will be presented. On Friday morning, May 20, we have senior breakfast and commencement practice in the blue fieldhouse. We have the hypnotist coming back, the senior BBQ, and the kids will have a chance to go to their elementary or middle schools and walk the halls. The Seniors wanted to keep the Farewell Fireworks on Friday evening, and this time we are opening it up to everyone: Seniors, families, and community members. There could be a little hiccup because we are in the midst of a stadium renovation, and they will have begun tearing up the field that week. Also, the night could be impacted by bad weather. The band is expected to play prior to fireworks: they may be playing in the visitor's stands and not on the field, depending on the field and the weather.

Commencement is Sunday, May 22 at Northern Illinois University. Start time is earlier than in the past: 10 am. Doors open at 9 am for graduates and families. It's first come first serve, open seating. Handicap-accessible seating is available all the way around the bowl. Pictures should be taken before the ceremony because gowns need to be turned back in at the end of the ceremony.

Next school year West High will have a brand-new stadium with a new field and a new track. They have already begun talking about what stadium dedication will look like in September.

Erica has had two parents express interest in working with the Homecoming Parade – hopefully, we’ll get more. Thank you, Susie Shire, for staying on one more year to help transition Homecoming Parade planning, and to help train these new parents on the parade. Erica said she would get the parade permit this summer. Homecoming is the last week of September 2022, with the Homecoming Parade on Thursday, Sept. 29, and the homecoming dance Saturday, Oct. 1. The Homecoming theme has not yet been developed, but Erica indicated she has a parade grand marshal in mind: Lynn Head, administration director of transportation. Head is retiring in November 2022.

Erica indicated she will be more purposeful this year in reaching out to parents. For example, Erica has considered having a parent committee with three or four people for the Homecoming parade.

Treasurer / SCRIP – Tamara Scott

The main PTSO Treasurer’s account has a balance of \$3,756.30. Tamara indicated there would be more money coming in through month-end (memberships, scholarship donations). Erica suggested that the Activities Department pay the \$400 donation to Educator’s Rising for Teacher Appreciation Week as well as the senior breakfast using the grad yard sign money that has been collected in the Activities Department. This means that the PTSO could decide this evening about how to allocate funds for scholarships.

Regarding SCRIP money, Tamara said the organization has \$2,873.75 in the SCRIP account. That does not include all the profits that will be coming in through May.

Consensus was to leave \$500 between the two accounts when PTSO is dissolved to allow for any bounced checks (SCRIP) or other unforeseen bills. After that, per the by-laws, any remaining fund should be disbursed to the West Aurora High School Activities Department for use on student activities.

Tamara indicated she would be turning over \$100 in gift cards to Erica Kegarise left from 2020, that were originally intended to be put in the PTSO raffle basket for the dance marathon.

Scholarships – Margaret Patterson

We received 13 student applications. Four parents judged the applications: Kathy Evans, LizBeth Nunez, Margaret Patterson, and Tamara Scott.

After a review of the total points received for each of the applications, it was decided to allocate the following:

One award @ \$1,500

Two awards @ \$1,000 each

Four awards @ \$750 each

TOTAL \$6,500

Donations were received from the following:

WAHS PTSO - \$6,000

Jewel Middle School PTO - \$250

Fearn Elementary PTO - \$100

Washington Middle School PTA - \$50

Freeman Elementary PTA - \$100

It was agreed to mail the award checks no later than May 18 so the winners have time to get them cashed by PTSO’s June 30 year-end. Tamara suggested adding a note to the cover letter establishing a June 10 deadline. Margaret agreed to get letters and amounts to Tamara to meet those deadlines.

SCAC Report – Margaret Patterson for Penny Bantz

The last SCAC meeting was this past Monday, April 25.

Summary

- **Martin Renton Director of Consultancy and Evaluations, Challenging Learning** (company hired by our district to guide us to create a more problem-solving, interactive approach to learning in the classrooms) separated our group into smaller groups. Each group was to answer questions about our various schools and experiences. The exercise was to show how working together, bouncing ideas off each other, challenging each other and discussion can be beneficial.
- **Summer camps and programming information** is available on each school's website. Just go to the 'STUDENTS' tab and then 'SUMMER CAMPS/PROGRAMMING.' We have quite a few free athletic camps available this year. Summer school, however, is invite-only and is used as an avenue to support developing learners.
- **Elementary curriculum overview documents and videos** are [kept here](#) on the district website. We anticipate having an overview of secondary disciplines ready in the fall.
- Some asked about **the transition from 5th to 6th grade**. The table below lists events used to assist families as they transition to middle school. Please let Penny know if you need more information!

| Building | 5th Grade Visits (Students are brought over during the school day to visit) | 5th Grade Parent Nights | Any other incoming 6th Grade specific events? | Walk the Building Days |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Jewel | Goodwin 4/19 | 4/7/22 5th Grade Parent Night | | These are the same District Wide: August 9th (3 - 6PM - Including Sports Registration) August 10th (3 - 6PM - Including Sports Registration) August 11th (9AM - 3PM) |
| | Fearn 4/27 | 4/12/22 SCET Night | | |
| | Smith 4/28 | 4/21/22 5th Parent Night | | |
| Jefferson | McCleery 4/22 | 5/4/2022 - 5th Grade Parent Night | | |
| | Hall 4/21 | | | |
| | Greenman 4/26 | | | |
| Washington | Freeman, STEM 4/27 | 4/27/22 - 5th Grade Parent Night | First Star Generals | |
| | Nicholson, Greenman, Hall, Smith, Hill 4/28 | | | |
| Herget | Fearn, Hall, AU - 4/27 | 4/27/22 - 5th Grade Parent Night | | |
| | Hill, Smith - 4/28 | | | |
| | Schneider - 4/29 | | | |

Committee Reports

- **PTSO website** – includes information that the organization is being dissolved at year-end, and if people are interested in helping next year to contact Erica Kegarise.
- **Memberships & Volunteers** – we have \$935 in memberships and donations, with 59 parent and community members and seven staff members.
- **Amazon Smiles account** – Margaret to review online information for the WAHS PTSO account to see if the banking information can be updated.

- **Dissolution Petition Update** – (1) the member petition is complete with 10-member signatures requesting the dissolution per the bylaws. (2) Regarding the special meeting for approving the dissolution: we need three days’ notice of the meeting to our membership. We need to have three executive board members in attendance (LizBeth Nunez, Jessica Garza, and Margaret Patterson). And two-thirds of the members who attend need to approve the dissolution. We need to schedule that meeting by the end of May.
- **Dissolution Meeting** – Zoom meeting for the dissolution vote has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 25 at 7 pm via Zoom. More information to come from Margaret Patterson.

Conclusion

Meeting was concluded at 7:15 pm

Minutes submitted by Margaret Patterson