

# W+H PARENTS ASSOCIATION

## Meeting Minutes

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*Date | time* Sept. 8, 2022 8:00am | *Meeting called to order by* Kerry O'Neill

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### In Attendance

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Approximately 75 participants between family and W+H staff in person and online

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### Introduction to the WHPA Board

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Abby Price, Co-Lower School VP  
Ashley Brazoban, Co-Lower School VP  
Samar Noor, Middle School VP  
Shakti Jha, Upper School VP  
Vandana Puri, Co-VP of Events  
Youlin Tsai, Co-VP of Events  
Kevin Kornecki – VP of Communications  
Kerry O'Neill, Recording Secretary  
Mona Sampathkumar, Treasurer  
Christina St. Hillaire, Volunteer Coordinator  
Tiffany Bratts-Maiga, Volunteer Coordinator

Please reach out to us at [parents@WHschool.org](mailto:parents@WHschool.org) with questions, comments, and ideas. We love to hear from you!

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### Administration Introductions & Welcomes

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**Gerard Gonnella (Director of Admission & Alum '89)** welcomed everyone to the 140<sup>th</sup> year at Wardlaw+ Hartridge. We have 110 new students joining us on campus this year and a total enrollment of 460 students thus far with families from 5 different countries. He has parents to share their first day of school photos, share experiences with other parents and like our social media posts. Gerard asked parents to keep the following dates in mind:

- Tonight – Back to School BBQ at 5:30pm
- Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> – New Parent Reception
- Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Admission Information Session/Open House

**Chef Anibal Rodriguez (Sage – Head Chef at W+H)** encouraged parents to download the Sage app so they can see what is being served each day on campus. He advised to search using the

Allergen filter if your child has allergies. If you have any concerns or questions regarding what your child is eating or what is available, please reach out to [arodriguez@whschool.org](mailto:arodriguez@whschool.org).

**Rudy Brandl (Director of Communications & Publication/Alum '83)** advised parents that they should start receiving the WHEN (W+H electronic newsletter) today and is a weekly communication sharing the happenings around W+H, information and news. If you are not receiving the WHEN or any other communications from school, please let him know. Rudy can be reached at [rbrandl@whschool.org](mailto:rbrandl@whschool.org).

**Bob Bowman (Head of the Upper School)** welcomed everyone back to campus sharing that we had 50 new students in the Upper School and how it exciting it is to get started. He advised to reach out to himself or Alissa Folks if you have any Upper school questions or concerns.

**Andy Webster (Head of School)** introduced himself and welcomed everyone back. He shared he would be speaking at convocation starting at 9am. It is an opening event for all students, faculty and parents who wish to join. It is a beautiful day to start the school year and is looking forward to a great year.

**Dr. Corinna Crafton (Associate Head of School)** introduced herself and welcomed everyone back.

**Dr. Ayesha Sitlani (Board of Trustee President)** shared that the Board is in the middle of the search for the New Head of School with Andy Webster departing this year. She encourages everyone to come to the parent meetings for the final candidates which will be held over the next two weeks.

**Sandy Cortese from the Booster Club (Parent group for sports) introduced herself and said the Booster club would be sharing information soon. Their first meeting will be held on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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## WHPA Message

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- Join the Facebook & Instagram for the WHPA
- Sign up for Amazon Smile and identify W+H as your charity of choice
- Meetings will be held both in person (Oakwood Room) and viz Zoom all year long.
- Meetings will be held monthly and rotate between mornings and evenings to try and accommodate all schedules. Meeting dates were handed out at the meeting.
- There are 2 major events sponsored by the WHPA with several medium and small events sprinkled in throughout the year. A flier with details of all events were shared at the meeting.

- The first major event is Fall Fair being held on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. It is a great day for the entire W+H community to come together. The MS, US sports team will play games throughout the day. Some LS grades may play as well. There will be plenty of food, carnival games and activities happening for kids of all ages to take part in. Please come out and join us and consider volunteering some time to help make it a great event.
- The major spring event will be the Spring gala on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It is a formal parent only evening with food, dancing and an auction. More to come on that later in the year.
- Some of the other events to be held will be: International Family Fun Night, Holiday Craft Fair, Scholastic Book Fairs and the LS Valentine's Dance.

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### We Are Here to Help

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Kerry O'Neill shared that there is a lot coming for parents both new and returning as we start the school year. We are all one Ram family. Reach out to anyone if you have any questions or concerns.

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### Next Meeting

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Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45am and parents were invited to attend convocation with the students outside on the Turf Fields.