

# W+H PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Meeting Minutes

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*Date | time* Feb. 2, 2023 7:00pm | *Meeting called to order by* Kerry O'Neill

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### In Attendance

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Approximately 35 participants between family and W+H staff in person and online

Minutes were approved from the Jan. Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> by Shakti Jha and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Samar Noor.

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### Updates from W+H Administration Team

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**Dr. Corinna Crafton (Acting Head of School)** thanked the Dalal family for their donation of new lighting in the AP room and the Oakwood room and the WHPA for providing new blinds in the Oakwood room. The new lighting has enhanced the book fair experience for the kids as it looks brighter and more exciting. Dr. Crafton also shared that the WHPA is currently working with faculty and staff on identifying mini grant opportunities. This is a program sponsored and funded by the WHPA which allows for faculty and staff to try programs or enhance learning experiences for themselves or their students with additional funds that can't be covered by the operating budget. Some items funded in the past were garden equipment, musical instruments, enhancing libraries, traveling zoo, global scholars program, dramatic play center, chicken hatcheries, signage and many more.

As we look forward in February, there will be a faculty and staff development day on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> (no school for the students). This is an opportunity for colleagues to be able to partner across divisions to take the time for professional development and planning. Corinna also encouraged everyone to take a look at her blog on Chat GPT and discover what is all about.

**JohnEric Advento (Lower School Head of School)** shared the excitement amongst the children in the LS around the Book Fair and IFFN. He highlighted the activities that took place in the LS in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There is a request for family member read aloud in the LS either in person or via zoom. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to the LS office. The LS cabaret will be taking place during assembly on Friday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> and livestreamed to family. The cabaret showcases talent from the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The next LS Coffee & Conversation will be Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> followed by a dance in the LS in celebration of Kindness & Valentines to be held Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be a live event with a DJ and each grade will have a set time to come enjoy the fun and parents are invited to come watch. Black History Month celebrations will be held throughout the month.

**Jennifer Rose (Middle School Head of School)** could not attend in person but sent an update. The MS Coffee and Conversation will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> and will be featuring a screening of Race to be Human followed by an open discussion. Black History events will be happening throughout the Middle School all month. There will be a MS dance on February 24<sup>th</sup>. During that event, there will also be a parent social for people to attend.

**Dr. Bob Bowman (Upper School Head of School)** shared that 16 US students are attending the Academy of Model Union Nations 2 day event. It is an amazing public speaking opportunity for our school. This week 43 US students and 15 MS students went on a trip to the Lunar New Year Festival Plaza in Edison for lunch and shopping. It was a great opportunity for children to use their Mandarin in real life situations. The BSA (Black Student Alliance) is working with all divisions on events in celebration of Black History month. They are also planning an event for Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> to showcase black owned businesses and host a panel discussion. Looking forward to March, the US will be hosting a HOLI celebration and having teacher/student swap day.

Dr. Bowman also highlighted the 2 trips being held in the US this year. The first during spring break will be the Civil Rights Movement Experience. In June, there will be an immersion trip that will involve the Mayan Culture.

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### Upcoming Events

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**Spring Gala** – Adult only evening taking place at the Metuchen Country Club on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It is a night of dinner, dancing and fun. Invites and additional information will be shared shortly. Please save the date and plan on joining us for an evening of fun.

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### Upcoming Meeting Topics

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March WHPA meeting scheduled for Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> and the guest speaker will be Dina Congregane. She will be discussing student mental health.

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### Calendar of Events

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#### **WHPA Main Events Calendar**

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – LS Valentine's Day Dance

Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Family Meal Pickup

Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Pickup

Apr. 29<sup>th</sup> – Spring Gala @ Metuchen Country Club

May 8<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Pickup

May/June - Tentative Scholastic Book Fair

June 1<sup>st</sup> – WHPA Thank You Luncheon

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## Next Meeting

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Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7pm

Meeting was adjourned (Samar 1<sup>st</sup> and Shakti 2<sup>nd</sup>) at 7:30pm and handed over Erin Maciorowski for a presentation on W+H tech tools.