

W+H PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Date | time Apr. 13, 2023 7:00am | *Meeting called to order by* Kerry O'Neill

In Attendance

Approximately 40 participants between family and W+H staff in person and online

Minutes were approved from the Mar. Meeting. 1st by Shakti Jha and 2nd by Kevin Kornecki.

Updates from W+H Administration Team

Corinna Crafton (Acting Head of School) encouraged everyone to spend some time outside this spring watching our W+H teams compete after school. She shared that May 10th is the 140th Day of school and since this is our 140th year as a school, W+H will be hosting some celebrations that afternoon for the students and parents so please mark the date! It has been an exciting time since coming back from spring break with the US Symposium on mental health, 8th Grade Capstone presentations, accolades in the MS for tournament wins and an upcoming author visit in the LS.

Bob Bowman (Upper School Head of School) shared some insight into the unique Upper School experiences that take place at W+H. During the first week of spring break, a group of students participated in the Civil Rights Experience led by US Art teacher Andrew Sullivan.

On April 1st, several US students volunteered their personal time at the Admission Open House to share insight into their experiences at WH. One speaker amongst them was a 9th grader who came to W+H during the pandemic and whose parents planned for them to go back to public school for high school and she begged her parents to let her stay at W+H.

The US symposium that was just held dedicated a full day to the health and wellness of students. This week the LatinX Affinity group took a trip to NYC to have an authentic experience at an event. He also shared that today there was a 6-minute moment of silence for school shooting.

Dr. Bowman just wanted to share some insight into the many different opportunities and experiences our students are having at W+H. He also distributed an impressive list of college acceptances for W+H students in the last 2 years.

Jennifer Rose (Middle School Head of School) sent in an update. Excitement is building in the Middle School with the recent Odyssey of the Mind state title win sending that team to

Nationals. The NAQT team finished in 3rd place and is waiting to hear if they will go to nationals.

JohnEric Advento (Lower School Head of School) spoke about the upcoming author visit by Daniel Jude Miller for all grades in the LS scheduled for April 14th. The 5th grade is currently working on their Greek plays and many children will be performing in the upcoming Spring Recital on April 16th in the PAC.

Mike Romeo (Athletic Director) let parents know that he wants to hear from them directly. He knows things are not perfect and he is committed to improving the overall experience from parents and students and the more insight he gets the better. He shared that the Booster club would be hosting a Spring Games event on May 8th so to be on the lookout for more information regarding that. He also shared that Rams Recognition night will be May 31st for US Sports. They will have dinner in the AP room and then move to the PAC for the ceremony.

Bill Jenkins (Development Office) advised everyone to be on the lookout for information regarding the Golf Outing to be held on May 16th.

Division WHPA Update

Ashley Brazoban, LS VP for the WHPA shared that Ms. Heiss was starting a garden club for kids in Grades 2-5. Class parents are also working on year end parties, students in grades 3-5 are working on speeches and all students will be performing in the upcoming spring concerts.

Samar Noor, MS VP for the WHPA discussed the upcoming events for MS. 8th Grade capstone presentations this week, trips the last week of April (8th grade to DC; 7th grade to Philly and 6th grade to Duke farms). The Black student alliance will be hosting an autism awareness event. There will also be a spring cleanup service project. The MS kicked off a Desi affinity group. Finally, moving up events for the 8th grade are underway.

Shakti Jha, US VP for the WHPA shared that graduation planning activities have begun. First things being worked on are Senior's portraits will be hung in the AP room as well as ordering senior lawn signs.

Upcoming Events

Spring Gala – Adult only evening taking place at the Metuchen Country Club on April 29th. Tickets must be purchased by April 15th. There is a 200-guest maximum so be sure to secure your tickets early. If you are not able to attend, you can still participate in the silent auction. Additional information will be shared shortly.

Calendar of Events

WHPA Main Events Calendar

Apr. 29th – Spring Gala @ Metuchen Country Club

May 8th – 12th – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 4th – Family Meal Pickup

June 1st – 4th – Scholastic Book Fair

June 1st – WHPA Thank You Luncheon

Future of WHPA Presentation

Kerry O'Neill reviewed a presentation on the future of the WHPA including events to be held, how funds will be raised and available positions. She shared that there are several people stepping down from the WHPA providing an opportunity for the next generation of leaders.

If you are interested in a role on the WHPA, please complete this google form.

<https://forms.gle/qaNY8ir4EQqP1NkK6>

Next Meeting

May 4th @ 7pm

Meeting was adjourned (Kevin 1st and Shakti 2nd) at 8:15pm.