

School Governance Council Meeting 3/6/2024

Attendance:

Dr. Maria Stasaitis

Doug Cheatham

Jessica Gaddis

Daniel Cocchiola

Isa Alves

Doug Donato

Hanalei Cocchiola

Samantha Nicolasora

Peggy Terhune

Mary Case

Mr. Cheatham - Welcomed everyone and officially started our meeting.

Dr. Stasaitis – Has been the Building Principal now for an entire year!!! Has had the opportunity now to experience testing, events, etc. for an entire school year!!!

Lock down – a concerning statement occurred yesterday, March 5, 2024, the police were called, and the matter was handled. Student and building safety are the number 1 concern, and we will not hesitate to lockdown the school to take every precaution necessary to keep us all safe.

Up and coming events: Save the dates

Cinderella – Palace Theater - March 15th

Our Town – Apron Stage - March 14th, 15th, 16th (all shows - 7pm)

March 19 – Parent Night for College 6pm-7:30 pm

March 20 – Hartford College Fair Grade 11

March 21 – Jane Doe No More presentations - Grades 10, 11, 12 during the school day

March 22 – Black Out Dance HS - canceled

March 26 PSAT/SAT Day for all **Grades 9, 10, 11** – Students must be here on time in testing rooms and have a fully charged device –**Grade 6** field trip – Bowling -**Grade 7** field trip to Shakesperience -**Grade 8** Wellness Day

March 26 Book Club 5:30pm – 7pm hosted by Mrs. Betjemann

March 27 Exchange Club Dinner honoring Grace Henderson

March 27 End of MP 3

March 29 NO SCHOOL

April 2 STEM Night – hosted by Mrs. Farrell (reschedule – TBA)

April 3 Community Day 2pm – location TBA (reschedule – October 2024)

April 6 Escape Alive Survival Skills Self Defense Class – Atrium at WAMS 1-5pm Registration is limited
<https://www.janedoenomore.org/registration-wams-april-ea>

Newsies – Palace Theater

April 11th - 7pm

April 12th – 12 pm -2 pm (School show) & 7pm

April 13th – 1pm

June 2, 2024 – WAMS Birthday Party – more information to follow

Two new hires starting – Dawn Marie Conroy - Hall Monitor & Tamoy Barclay -Attendance Counselor

Searching for Magnet Specialist.

Jane Doe – held event Gala at the Waterview a few of our students, Dr.Stasaitis, and Mr. Ferreira attended.

Mr. Cocchiola – shared that the opportunities that Jane Doe No More offers should be included for the middle school.

Dr. Stasaitis –WAMS obtained a grant for **Jane Doe No More** for student wellness. So far, 50 families attended on February 25 and Jane Doe No More presented to each grade level. Two survivors spoke and shared their story. The presentations were “age appropriate.” Students and families were aware of the disclaimer – students can step out at any time. These conversations need to happen!!

Jane Doe No More – returning during the school day and another session hosted at WAMS on April 6 Escape Alive Survival Skills Self Defense.

Mr. Cocchiola

Trumbull - Regional Center for the ARTS would like to connect to collaborate just for the afternoon. Would like to visit. Trumbull entices student interest.

Trumbull student went to a NYC show and sat with students from England. This was a really great opportunity for students.

Mrs. Case - opportunity to go to Scotland!!!!

Dr. Stasaitis – would be open to trips and international travel. Many teachers have also expressed an interest.

Miss Cocchiola – getting ready for the Spring. There are rehearsals every day in the Southern Regional Concert - Meriden High Flight, De Colores, and more - intense rehearsals.

Miss Nicolasora – participated Sunday Jane Doe No More. The entire 4 hours of presentation, speaking, and self-defense class was engaging. It was terrifying but thankful, felt very comfortable. Glad WAMS had this opportunity for families.

This course is expensive to do on your own. We are fortunate to have it offered at WAMS.

Mrs. Case – Upon Mrs. Cases retirement – a music teacher will be taking her place.

Mr. Cheatham –All representatives of the Arts are present at our meeting.

Mrs. Terhune – Palace Theater – March 2024

WAMS/Palace

- We decided to postpone our “Behind the Scenes” program to this summer (most likely July), with permission from the WPS. Among the reasons were the *Our Town* and *Newsies* show conflicts for WAMS students, who were the primary group of students interested in the program. This gives us time to plan for the onstage portion, as well as the technical portion. It also gives us access to a larger number of potential teachers and mentors, who don’t have as many commitments in the summer.
- Production meetings for *Newsies* are ongoing with Dave Flowers and WAMS directors in preparation for the April show.

Free stage time TBA possibly the end of July - easier to find

Mr. Donato - Symphony – asking for Google Building Calendar – Waterbury Symphony Mentorship program going well

Conductor – looking to do Student Orchestral Concert involving WAMS choir and instrumental students. This will involve Dr. Ruffin, Mrs. Vagnini, Mr. Rivera, Mrs. Case and more staff looking for funding will continue to update.

Ms. Gaddis – Shakesperience

Romeo and Juliet has finished staging broad brush strokes in the Shakespeare class. We've started adding details to characterization and movement.

The script for Sadako and the 1,000 paper cranes is ready for auditions March 26 or 27

7th graders are visiting the Shakesperience studio March 26. The plan is to help them feel confident in the auditions happening that week.

The after-school monologue program will start as soon as we have interest from students not already in a show

Our Tuesday after-school program still has room for students

Our next Saturday term starts March 23

We will be splitting up Saturday classes into two groups younger and older.

Alves – Save the dates

April 2 – PTSO – Roller Magic @ 6:30pm - 8:30 pm

April 12 Career Fair 7:30am-12:30pm @ WAMS

April 22nd – April 26th Book Fair (All Day) @ WAMS

April 25 – Financial Literacy Night 5:30pm - 7:30pm WAMS cafeteria

April 30 – Book Club 5:30pm – 7:00pm @ WAMS

TBA – STEM Night

Summer Programs are as follows:

Encore – June 17- June 28 M-F (8 am-12 pm)

Transition program

Grade 6 – July 8 – August 1 M-Th (8 am-12 pm)

Grade 9 – July 8 – August 1 M-F (8am – 12 pm) Friday's are field trips!!!!

Mr. Cocchiola – Expressed that the role of Magnet Specialist is very important.

Dr. Stasaitis - branding WAMS! Commercials are great. One of the best ART schools in the state of CT. We are interviewing for the Magnet Specialist position - very special position indeed.

Joe Johnson – holding a meeting in May with our district partner ie: Watertown. We continue to explore our out of town partnerships.

This involvement can allow more opportunities for our out of town students to be involved in after school programs.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2024