



**Westlake High School
General PTO Meeting
April 15, 2016
Draft Minutes (pending May Approval)**

- A. **Call Meeting to Order** – Reesa Thorne called meeting to order at 12:02 pm.
- B. **Approval of Minutes**- Reesa Thorne asked for a motion to approve the February 2016 minutes. A motion to approve minutes was made by Liza Richardson with a 2nd by Debbie Preston. Minutes were approved.
- C. **Student Council** – Simita Gaglani gave the Student Council report. She noted that the Executive Board was finalized and completed a planning retreat. An art project for Brookdale Living, Spring Pep rally, and the Casa Marianella projects were all complete. A town lake clean up day is being planned. Student council is still collecting crayons to be used for younger special needs students. Lastly Student Council has formed a Relay for Life team.
- D. **WHS Principal's Office Report** – Assistant Principal Casey Ryan reported that next year junior parking registration will begin soon. Juniors will be given the option to choose 2 of three 12 week parking periods. Members of the meeting asked that administration work on ensuring students do not park in visitor parking slots. He noted that once the district IT group moves, more visitor spots will be added outside the cafeteria where it is easier to monitor. It was stated that PSAT results for sophomores will be made available in April. Only some of the parents attending have received the notice. Parents were reminded to add their email to their child's Naviance account to ensure they get this type communication. He also reported that beginning guitar, incubator edu, and history of rock and roll all had enough students sign up so that they classes will be offered next year.
- E. **Social Studies** – Ms. Janet Espinosa (Social Studies Dept Head) reported that most students are busy preparing for AP exams. She was happy to report that the new AP human geography class has been very successful and restated the History of Rock and Roll being offered next year.
- F. **Presidents Report** – Reesa Thorne reported that the PTO executive board slate for next year is full with the exception of president (s) elect. Ms. Thorne encouraged anyone interested in being President to sign up. Ms. Thorne reported that the PTO has organized a Relay for Life team. Fundraising is off to a great start and the team is open to any WHS parents./students. Ms. Thorne stated that she has been participating on a district wide Social/Emotional learning committee along with several others in the room. Ms. Liza Richardson noted she is participating on the GPA grade weighting committee. This committee will have final recommendations at the end of May.
- G. **Treasurer Report** – Karen Meyer presented the April Treasurers Report. She noted that we have done well with revenue. A motion to approve the report was made by Debbie Preston and seconded by Gwen Bame. The report was approved.
- H. **Allocations** – Reesa Thorne shared a brief summary of recently approved allocations to the school. She noted that this year PTO has been able to give



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around ~\$90,000. Areas funded include the library and Challenge Success Program. Full list of Spring allocations is posted with these minutes.

- I. **Club Reports** – The Westbank Library will be having teen volunteer day on Sunday April 24th from 1pm to 4pm. Erin Hummel reported that 2 varsity and one junior varsity robotics teams are going to St. Louis. It is a busy time for the program.
- J. **Social/Emotional Learning (SEL)**– Ms. Melissa Dupre gave a brief presentation about the Challenge Success Program (PTO paid roughly 50% of the cost, other half paid by Dr Carter) designed to address social and emotional learning. Ms. Dupre reported that the first part of the work was completion of a survey funded by the PTO. Findings of the survey showed that WHS does need to work on addressing this SEL area. Members of the committee read a book titled “Overloaded and Underprepared.” WHS has been accepted into the Challenge Success Program from Stanford University. The program will provide staff development and student/parent education. There will be a small group traveling to Stanford in the Fall for further education on the topic. A brief discussion on the importance of sleep for teenagers followed. Ms. Dupre noted that they survey results will not be shared publically but some of the questions asked may be made available.
- K. **Travis County Deputy Peals** - Deputy Peals, SRO (WHS School Resource Officer), answered questions about law and law enforcement. He explained the basics of provisional driving license restrictions. He also answered questions about parent responsibility when students drink alcohol with and without parent permission in the home and when in public. Deputy Peals discussed illegal drug issues on campus. He noted that Lake Travis High School has a full time law enforcement dog on campus, under consideration for Eanes. Deputy Peals stated that when students/parents sign the code of conduct they acknowledge that law enforcement does have the right to search people, possessions and cars with probable cause. Through the open discussion, the following two references were shared by parents in attendance for further information: <http://www.tabc.texas.gov/publications/brochures/parent-liability.pdf> and [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/20/fashion/teenagers-driving-parents.html?
 r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/20/fashion/teenagers-driving-parents.html?_r=0)

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.