



## Westlake High School

### General PTO Meeting

February 24, 2017 Minutes – Approved April 2017 (no March meeting)

- I. **Call Meeting to Order**— Kristin Paull called the meeting to order at 12:10
- II. **Approval of January 20, 2017 Minutes**— Liza Richardson made a motion to approve minutes, Laurie Rhoads 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes approved as posted on the WHS PTO website, now final. Minutes from this meeting will be posted as draft on PTO website and noted as final once approved at the next meeting in April (note: March PTO General meeting is cancelled given Spring Break).
- III. **Speaker – Ki-Mi Fields on Project Graduation (PG)**. Ki-Mi shared that Project Graduation has been happening roughly 20 years across the country and the goal is to keep our kids off the street on what is considered one of the deadliest nights for seniors graduating. PG is an all night, drug and alcohol free, celebration that 85-90% of the WHS senior class attends. Half of the current senior class has registered already which is great progress given it is early in the year. PG begins immediately following graduation and ends at 5am. PG has something for everyone (active, passive, loud, quiet, etc). More details and committee chairs (should you want to get involved) can be found at <http://www.westlakepg.com>. If a student will not be 18 at graduation then they will need a parent consent form signed to participate. PG depends on parents to volunteer serving in a variety of volunteer roles. As this is a community event to keep our children safe all parents, not just senior parents, are invited to participate. The volunteer sign up timing is noted below:
  - **Feb 28<sup>th</sup>**: Committee members signup opens
  - **March 20<sup>th</sup>**: Senior parent who worked PG16 signup opens
  - **April 1<sup>st</sup>**: All other Senior and Junior parent signup opens
  - **May 1<sup>st</sup>**: Sophomore and Freshmen parent sign up opens
- IV. **Student Council, Jimmie Fields and Berkeley Barnett (Co-Presidents)**. The student council initiated a Spring Pep Rally to recognize the Spring sports and they will keep the tradition going this year with the Rally being on March 8<sup>th</sup>. This includes a “Spirit Week” which will run Wednesday to Wednesday this year and includes several activities like dress up days and live music lunches. The Junior Student Council is holding a raffle right now with proceeds targeted to a good cause of their choosing. The Student Council election finished last week and they are now looking at appointed officer positions.
- V. **Principal Report, Steve Ramsey**. Steve shared information on several key topics:
  - **Challenge Success**: On Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm in the PAC Margaret Dunlap of Challenge Success, a research-based group from Stanford University, will be speaking on the topic of the “Well Balanced Student”. WHS chose to work with Challenge Success last year in support of its Social Emotional Learning (SEL) agenda. WHS has already been active implementing many efforts identified by the WHS Challenge Success group, such as:

- The course selection process this year included a timesheet to help students understand the workload outside of class time. Courses in the course book listed estimated hours per week needed for that class so students could use this and other personal time management items (e.g. sleep, play) in the timesheet to understand their time commitment before selecting their next year courses.
- Modifying the Sophomore conference to be clearer about implication of choices being made when choosing to take heavy load of AP courses (or not) and reassure parents that not all students must carry heavy course loads to succeed.
- Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting also including more specific information about course rigor implications.
- “Fishbowl” session with returning kids discussing the choices they made along the way and what they have learned along the way.
- Small items on how SEL is handled each day.
- Currently looking at the submitted course requests and making plans for next year. There are only 58 school days left and with STAAR and AP testing there are really only ~40 school days left.

**VI. Counseling Department – Ms. Heidi Sauer** – Heidi (or counseling member) attends all PTO meetings to answer questions and share key events. Key items shared were:

- AP Registration: Registration closes March 1<sup>st</sup>. To date there are 1550 students registering for a total of 4086 exams.
- ACC Dual Credit: If interested in ACC dual credit, see the counseling office by Spring Break.
- A few key planning meetings in March:
  - 3/22: Meeting with Juniors in classrooms, includes refresher on Naviance
  - 3/23: Activity period sharing college admission info Juniors
  - 3/23: Junior parent night, will include a panel of WHS students on the college admission process.
- Exemptions: Page 30 of the Student Handbook lists the exemption policy. The number of exemptions from Fall to Spring are different. AP exemptions are in addition to the other allowed exemptions based on grades.
- AP Testing: May 1<sup>st</sup> is when AP testing will begin. For Texas Public Schools they are now required to give credit for any 3 or above on AP test. However, it is not mandated how much credit they must give.

**VII. Treasurer’s Report** – Gayle Yenawine: See separate document. As of this meeting ~\$99,000 of allocations made to teachers this year (includes the Language Lab). It is at the end of year that we give allocations to the clubs who volunteered in concessions. Last year we had ~\$90K to allocate to clubs (including PTO).

**VIII. PTO Presidents report** – Kristin Paull and Karra Guess.

- Allocations: We have a goal to spend down to a set minimum each year so we don't carry large balances. We did a Spring allocation and gave ~\$20K (out of \$31K requests) on several items crossing multiple interested as listed in Appendix A (and posted on website).
- April 21<sup>st</sup> General PTO Meeting: in this meeting people running for the school board will be present to answer questions.
- PTO Exec Board next year: If you are interested on holding an executive board position for next school year let Kristin and Karra know. Several positions are opening and they are in the process of collecting names for consideration.

**IX. Committee and Club Reports:** time was limited so only a few key updates:

- Mums: Homecoming is early this next year, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. So if you want to get involved in Mum making join early, contact Kathy Elswick about how to get involved.
- Relay for Life: This relay is a fundraiser for American Cancer Society and is held at WHS field on May 6<sup>th</sup> this year. PTO will have a team and would love to have many parents on the team. Watch for information on this on Facebook and Chap Connections.
- Band: March 9<sup>th</sup> there is a Band Concerto event (all soloists).
- Other: Westlake hosts the Destination Imagination tournament this year, Chap Relays are this weekend, Boys basketball is in the playoffs.

**Next PTO meeting: April 21st Noon** in Chaps Room is next meeting. Eanes School Board will be the topic. March meeting is cancelled.

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.**

## Appendix A: Spring Allocations. Items in column 1 were funded.

Westlake High School  
Spring 2017 Financial Support Requests from PTO

DEPT	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL	1	2	3	4
ATS/SPED	1 Microwave Ovens for students	\$ 79.99	\$79.99			
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Coun	Awards for PSA videos (1st - \$500, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$100)	\$ 800.00	\$500.00			\$300.00
Coun	12 \$25 Gift Cards to boost Swellness committee incentives	\$ 300.00				\$300.00
Coun	Challenge Success and SEL gift a book to each 9th Grade family	\$ 7,700.00	\$2,000.00			\$5,700.00
Coun	6 \$5.00 gift cards for door prizes for Student Workshops	\$ 30.00				\$30.00
Coun	150 Stress Balls for students	\$ 150.00	\$150.00			
Coun	150 packages of ear plugs for student's sleep in support of Challenge Success	\$ 150.00				\$150.00
CTE	Various Machine Tools and Saws					
	Bench Press, Tool holder, Closers, Spin Index, Bar Set	\$ 1,025.57	\$1,025.57			
	Band Saw, Way to make Band Saw more mobile	\$ 2,353.99	\$2,353.99			
ELA	Printing for Final Draft copies	\$ 2,750.00	\$1,500.00			\$1,250.00
ELA	Wacom Intuos Professional Pen & Touch Tablet	\$ 479.00	\$479.00			
Fine Arts	Percussion and Jazz Band Amp and Instruments	\$ 1,401.02	\$1,401.02			
Library	HP Sprout All-in-One Desk Top Computer W/ Pianotime and 3D Imaging	\$ 1,927.84				\$1,927.84
Math	30 pkg of Ti-84 Graphing Calculators for students	\$ 3,795.00	\$3,795.00			
Nurse	Kleenex tissues for students in clinic and classrooms	\$ 300.00	\$300.00			
SCI	Molecular Biology and Genetics lab activities (10 yr life span)	\$ 1,575.80	\$1,575.80			
SCI	Start Up Money for AP Environmental Science Class Projects	\$ 210.00				\$210.00
SCI	140 AM radio Kits, 65 AM/FM Radio Kits to teach electronics /soldering	\$ 3,319.50	\$3,319.50			
SPED Lfsk	9 monthly passes for SPED students to learn to ride the Metro bus system	\$ 371.25	\$371.25			
SS	Classroom set of 40 Virtual Reality headsets for Geography students	\$ 952.00	\$952.00			
SS	60 Student Planners for MAPS Class	\$ 659.40				\$659.40
SCI	Binoculars, Solar System Imager	\$ 658.95	\$658.95			
SPED	Model Rockets	\$ 48.57	\$48.57			
Yearobook	Photography supplies	\$ 350.00	\$350.00			
		<b>\$ 31,467.87</b>	<b>\$20,940.63</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,527.24</b>

PTO Start Amount

\$ 35,000.00