

**Westlake High School  
General PTO Meeting  
January 15, 2016  
Minutes**

- **Call Meeting to Order**—Reesa Thorne called meeting to order at 12:05 pm.
- **Approval of December 2015 Minutes**— Liza Richardson made a motion to approve minutes. Karen Meyer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes approved as posted on the WHS PTO website for December 2015 meeting.
- **Student Council Report-** Keith McBrayer  
They have a goal of 200 student council members. Many events coming up:
  - Park Clean Up on Lady Bird Lake with Keep Austin Beautiful in mid-April
  - Quiddich Tournament at the WACC.
  - They will have a Relay for Life team this year. Event is May 7 at WHS Stadium.
  - Community First Village- field trip to do more work out there soon.
  - Revealing a “Westlake Wall” to reflect the good of the school instead of always focusing on the negative. 3 large, rolling White Boards will be set up in common areas with prompts like “I love Westlake because...” and “I am grateful for...” so students can go by and write positive messages for others to read and be inspired.
  - Lifeworks drive for the homeless youth. Collecting clothes and re-distributing them to homeless youth around Austin.
  - To become a member of the Student Council you must get signatures from your peers. Opens up at the beginning of each school year. Next year hoping to grow the organization.
- **Department Chair Reports**
  - Pat Betzner- CTE (Career and Technical Education)
  - Thank you to PTO for the new robotics competition pit and storage system.
  - They will be offering 2 new courses this year: AP Computer Science Principles and Business Incubator class.
  - AP Computer Science Principles will be available 10-12 grades. 6 weeks of coding. Students will need high critical thinking skills. This class is different than AP Computer Science.
  - The Business Incubator class will be available to 11 and 12 grades only. There is a local business and industry endorsement. Many mentors from the community will come in and donate their time to the students. Juniors will have first priority on the class, as if their project gets picked up, they will have the opportunity to take their idea and launch it their Senior year.
  - Interior design and architecture classes are working on 5 different rooms designs and will present them tomorrow.
  - Health science Regional competitions are next week.
  - Norman Morgan- Head of Robotics
  - Thanks to the PTO for supporting them. The 3D printer PTO purchased for them has made over 500 parts for the robotics teams. They are currently using the Pit Area/Convention Booth/Repair station at competitions. It is a 10X10 area and they have 1 1/2 hours to put up the display. Robotics runs on donations and sponsorships. Recognition for donors (including PTO) is on Robotics t-shirts and

their website.

- 1st weekend of Spring Break, There is a regional competition they will be attending in San Antonio. There will be 78 teams competing from 17 states as well as 3 teams from China and other teams from Turkey, Canada, and the Dominican Republic. Please come out and support them. More details are on their webpage.
- FRC teams compete with Junior and Seniors frequently.
- They will be in a new space next year- the bus barn. The robotics team are currently working after school M-Th in the afternoons until 8:30 or 9pm. They can also work for 8 hours on Saturday.
  
- **WHS Principal's Report**—Dr. McKelvey
- Counselors are currently working on course selections. Deadline to submit course requests is February 5. The course catalog will be closed at the end of school on February 5.
- If trying to get a hold of your student's counselor, the best method of communication is email. They are unable currently to get to voice mails due to the large work load this time of year.
- There will be a sophomore parent meeting on February 10 at 6:30pm in the PAC. They will be discussing Naviance as a tool and the PSAT10.
- Wednesday, January 20 is the senior parent meeting. They will be discussing keeping up the student's momentum, ordering caps & gowns, project graduation, and baccalaureate. PTO reps will be there for pavers and project graduation. In the last month of school, there will be another Senior student meeting and another Senior Parent meeting on May 11.
- New classes being offered- the Business Incubator Class will be weighted as a pre-AP class. All AP classes are in bold in the course selection booklet online. Also, on Page 9 is a list of weighted classes. Other new courses include personal financial literacy, history of rock n roll and beginner guitar. Course selections are given out randomly by the computer. There is no time stamp in the computer, so there is no first come, first served basis for selection
- Freshman meeting will be next Friday, January 22. The counselor's will go over with the students course selections for next year.
- There was discussion about multi-variable math going from an entire year to just a semester. The students are stressed out about it. They are adding literary algebra and creating a shift in thinking. Mr. McKelvey said not to worry about it.
- Parking information will be coming out in February.
  
- **Treasurer's Report** – Karen Meyer: see attached.
- **PTO President's Report**- Reesa Thorne/ Liza Richardson:
- PTO is a working on filling the executive board for next year. Please let them know if you are returning next year. Open positions for next year include: Community Partners, Treasurer Elect, Secretary, and President Elects. They are making calls. Please let them know if there is someone you have in mind that might be interested.
- **Club Reports:**
- **Baseball:** Westlake Wind Up is February 6. Coach Blaire, the new baseball coach, is really a go getter this year when it comes to fundraising and increasing community involvement. They are hoping to purchase a new Halo this year. There will be a carnival, a little league game in the morning, a long ball contest, and an alumni game. Wind Up is to be like ChapFest, but for baseball.
- **Relay for Life** is open for registration. The event will be on May 7. To register, please go online: [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=72615](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=72615) Relay for life is a fundraising event open to everyone in the community. All proceeds will go to

the American Cancer Society.

- **Debate** is hosting a UIL Round Robin next month. UIL State Competition is coming up in San Antonio. A small group has been chosen to go to Harvard for a national debate competition. They have a new teacher, Joe Uller. The high schoolers have been coaching the middle school debate teams, as well. EISD is #2 in the state in Niche.
- **Band** is looking to raise \$550,000 for a trip to the Rose Bowl. Please go to their website for more details.
- **Choir**- Cinderella, the musical will be performing February 4,5 and 6. They have added a Saturday matinee performance with all public sales of tickets. 4 students made All State Choir.
- **Theatre** has nominated and selected 30 students to attend the Edinburgh Fest in Scotland in August 2017

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.**