

PTO General Meeting January 19, 2018

I. Principal's Report

- a. Currently working through student schedule changes. Some level changes from AP to regular. Starting to select courses for next year.
- b. April & May calendar will feel different this year. STAAR testing 4/10 is 2 weeks later than normal. 2nd week of May will be AP exams and more STAAR testing. There is no week between APs and end of semester exams. WHS gives ~3000 STAAR tests and ~4000 AP exams. Also giving ASVAB – a vocational test during this time. Pederanales and Senior Service day are in April. Prom is later – May 19. Prom is Saturday, Baccalaureate is Sunday, May 20th and graduation is Friday May 25 at 7PM. There will be some time for the parents to greet their students and take pictures. Will not be as rushed getting out.
- c. Question regarding tardies vs. absences related to exam exemption policy. If student is nearing the 3 allowed tardies, they will skip class and incur an absence.

II. Peace Box – Kristi Waidhofer presented the Peace Box project.

15 staff going through the training. All Academic & Support Counselors and 5 teachers. Twice per week for 6 weeks. PTO Allocation being used for the training. Training being filmed so can be shared. Counselors will engage in their own mindfulness meditation practice.

- Work with individuals
- Hold groups
- Training staff members of subject departments – Mindfulness Meditation in the classrooms.
- Hopeful student group will be interested

Benefits

- Reduces absenteeism, promotes better overall behavior
- Reduces ADHS & ADD
- Reduces performance test anxiety
- Increases mental clarity, improves memory, decreases depression, increase overall mood. Heightens social awareness & empathy

Asked about dedicated area for mindfulness meditation. Looking at an outside space. Working with a group of students.

Is there a Peace Box app? no, but there are some others available

Could there be guided meditation at lunchtimes? Have not had success with lunchtime programs. Students would need to encourage it.

February early release – Teachers will receive feedback on the “Student for a Day” program.

III. Counseling Department – Heidi Sauer

Sophomore conferences 2/5-2/12 during the students' English classes. Parents received a letter of invitation. Can attend a different session if they have a schedule conflict.

Course selection meetings with freshman on 17th. Following wee will have a 2nd meeting one-on-one. Mon & Tuesday will have large group meetings with Jrs and Sophomores. Visiting Middle schools in February.

Question about summer programs – plans will be announced after spring break.

AP test registration is 2/1-3/1.

IV. Treasurer report

Ahead of budget revenue. Allocations done in the Fall and will do another round this semester.

PTO has been asked to fund renovations to the Staff Lounge.

Kirstin Paull working & Christine Machon met with Bryan from M&O. new floor already in the plans. Seating options – furniture, new countertop, new sink, consolidate vending/ice, elevate microwave and add one. Add coffee center. Paint.

Question about any alternative space in the building – this has been identified as the best option.

V. Concessions

Some issues with the freezing temps.

Baseball, Softball, basketball, wrestling concessions selling well.

Question about popcorn – basketball uses microwave vs. popcorn machine. Microwave taste preferred. Microwave is more expensive.

Question about offering healthier choices. – Have some issues, but may consider a food distributor.

VI. Staff Appreciation – would like to have more volunteers support donations for monthly events. Contact Christine Machon.

VII. Westbank Library – January 28th is Teen Drop in to earn community service.

a. February 12 – Active shooter training @ Laura’s Library.

VIII. Motion to approve minutes from November 17th 2017 made by Kristin Paull. 2nd by Krystin Johnson. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1PM