



**Westlake High School**

**General PTO Meeting**

**March 17, 2016 Minutes – Draft pending September 2016 approval**

- A. Call Meeting to Order**—Reesa Thorne called meeting to order at 12:02pm.
- B. Approval of January 2016 Minutes**— Karen Meyer made a motion to approve minutes. Debbie Preston 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes approved as posted on the WHS PTO website for April 2016 meeting.
- C. Department Head Report – Denise Demartino – Science**
- Mark Misage, physics teacher, won a lifetime achievement award from HEB and both he and WHS receive a cash award for this honor.
  - Engineering class was successful this year and will be returning next year
  - One teacher has resigned and their position is not yet filled, and a new AP Environmental Science teacher has been hired.
  - Level 1 chemistry will be using standard based grading next year similar to Algebra II. Physics may do something similar the following year
  - Chemistry is considering having chemistry paper handout packets available for students/parents to purchase at Fed/Ex Kinkos for \$5-\$10 next year as there is move to no paper for WHS.
  - The science teachers all wished to thank PTO for their gifts including PTO bucks, radio kits and other supplies. Next year they would love to add mobile sets of laptops.
  - Upon request from a parent, Ms. Demartino reviewed the whole process of hosting a prom including attendance, set up, and costs (as she has led this effort in prior years).
- D. Counseling Department – Heidi Sauer**
- Ms. Sauer clarified that unweighted grades are shown on transcripts but weighted grades are used for GPAs shared with colleges. Summer school grades not in GPA but are on transcript.
  - Information on graduation cords can be obtained from the organization giving the cord. They are not coordinated by the counseling office.
  - Ms. Sauer noted that there is a final senior review checklist being reviewed by counselors.
  - Parents were told that students should have received exemption forms in their student emails. Forms are due on Wednesday 4:30pm.
  - Ms. Sauer clarified that students are only allowed to take 2 courses via correspondence during their entire high school experience. Dual credit and credit by exams only (e.g. taking no class, just taking the test) is different with no limit. If a parent has a question they should contact their individual counselor to ensure alignment.
  - Ms. Sauer explained that there is no preference for ACT vs. SAT by universities. If a student takes both as practice tests then concordance tables are used to compare which was better (however PSAT is new so harder to compare right now). Asking your student which they felt better about taking when close comparison is helpful.
  - Ms. Sauer noted that on the common college application it asks about level of course rigor taken by the student. She said if a student takes 8 AP courses they meet the highest level the counselors give. They base categories on 8, 6, 4 and 2 AP level classes.

- Ms. Richardson noted that the GPA/Weighting committee has come up with final recommendations for changing the AP weighting system. These recommendations are going to Campus Leadership Team on Thursday and then would need further district and board approval. Changes to the process at Westlake would take several years (likely no sooner than sitting 7<sup>th</sup> graders now).

#### **E. Student Council Report—**

- Student Council has finished Relay for Life, are in the middle of a Crayon Drive, and will be providing snacks for kids during exams. Also toiletries were collected for donation during prom and will be given to Mobile Loaves and Fishes.

#### **F. 2016/2017 Report – Kristin Paull and Karra Guess**

- The slate of new Executive Council was presented. Ms. Paull noted that President Elects would hopefully be appointed soon. The slate was approved unanimously.
- The 2016/2017 Budget was presented by Karra Guess. Ms. Guess noted that the budget included a significant allocation for a language lab. A brief discussion about the benefits on the lab followed. This donation would mean no additional allocations in the fall semester unless during No Hassle and Mum fundraising we exceed budget goals. Potential to go to one single allocation period (vs. Fall/Spring), again this will be determined based on final Fall fundraising. Liza Richardson motioned to approve, Karen Meyer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the 2016/17 budget was approved unanimously.

#### **G. Treasurer’s Report – Karen Meyer:** The report was reviewed and approved, see attached. Ms. Meyer explained how the concession proceeds are divided between the PTO and the organizations that run the concessions. Concession checks are cut mid-August and either go to Chaps Club for athletics or to club sponsor for all others.

#### **H. Principals Report-** Dr. John Carter

- Senior service day, 8th grade trip, senior honors night, spring review, spring football game and junior awards are all this week. It was noted that robotics would have a college-signing day this week as well.
- Liza Richardson reported that parking sign up for junior class went well. Parents will be informed of the two twelve week parking periods their child was assigned in the month of June. It was noted that children with driver’s permits but no license can still sign up for a parking spot using permit number but can not receive a spot until they have a license.

#### **I. Club Reports**

- Gwen Bame reported that Ms. Flood has requested help with ipad turn in this Wednesday and Thursday. Morning and afternoon shifts available. It was noted that students that need to retain their ipad through finals could keep them if arrangements have been made with tech support.
- Teacher appreciation hosting their last even next week. It will be a lunch
- Project graduation taking place in 10 days and going well. Junior and Senior parent volunteers needed.

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.**