

Westlake High School
General PTO Meeting
November 17, 2017

- I. Call Meeting to Order – Debra Thomson called the meeting to order at 12:10.
- II. Approval of October 20, 2017 Meeting minutes. Motion made by Liza Savage Richardson, 2nd by Christine Machon. Minutes approved.
- III. Principal’s Report – Steve Ramsey
 - a. Campus Leadership team proposed new courses presented to the School Board.
 - b. Working on 3 areas
 - i. Outside – traffic issues
 - ii. Inside – beatification. Using blue paint on walls. Art department approached to do murals.
 - iii. Day-to-day – Quiet Week and Challenge Success
 - c. DLT, District Leadership team conducted survey about academic calendar. Most popular choice was start day on Wednesday, end after Memorial Day. Graduation would still be the Friday before Memorial Day. Questions about Early Release/Late Start days on ACL Friday and Halloween. Board approval not required for those days. Calendar proposal includes 4 days of 3 hours instead of 6 days for 2 hours. The 19-20 calendar will be proposed in the Spring, so there will be a 2-year horizon planned.
- IV. Treasurer’s report reviewed.
 - a. Continuing search for treasurer elect. Accounting background needed.
- V. Counseling Department – Heidi Sauer & Katie Bryant.

WHS counseling department gave a presentation about the school resources available for students who are dealing with social and emotional issues. Parents will know what they can do through the school if their child is having difficulties outside of curriculum/instructional concerns, such as depression/anxiety, bullying, gender orientation issues, etc.

 - a. Student Support Counseling. Katie Bryant, Kristi Waidhofer & interns
 - i. Individual counseling, referrals from nurse, academic counselor, teachers, other students.
 - ii. Crisis support
 - iii. Advocate
 - iv. Quiet place for students
 - v. Assist with transition back to school after absence
 - vi. Referral source for outside sources, treatment resources
 - vii. Coordinate groups – Loss
 - b. What we See the Most

Stigma? - depends on the student
Students can request appointment by sending an email and counselor will reach out with appointment time.

Involving parent? Won't call parent unless crisis. Encourage student to go to parent and can facilitate sharing. Sharing with teachers depends on situation and student.

- c. Who to go to When
 - i. Counselor – Academic
 - ii. Student Support – emotional
 - iii. Assistant Principal – attendance, discipline
- d. Other
 - i. Senior Service Day
 - ii. SEL/Challenge Success
 - 1. Sleep issues,
 - 2. Daily schedule, testing calendar
 - 3. Low perception of teacher to student care
 - 4. Teachers currently acting as “student for a day” to gain better understanding of student life. Have had 7 volunteers
 - 5. Time Management sheet
 - Commitment to Challenge Success is year-to-year.
 - iii. Community Coalitions
 - iv. Yoga & Mindfulness Group – starting up
 - v. Mindfulness Meditation – in the Spring
- VI. Concessions – still looking for 3rd person for each team.
- VII. Staff Appreciation
 - a. November luncheon with Texas Honey Ham and potato casserole.
 - b. December 14th – cookie buffet & gift cards. Encourage donations for gift cards. Should publish scope – 315 staff members.
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at 1PM