

Westlake High School
General PTO Meeting
September 22, 2017

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** Debra Thomson called the meeting to order at 12:00
 - a. Meeting being streamed on Facebook.
- II. **Approval of May 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes** – Liza Savage Richardson made motion to approve the minutes. Laurel Sockwell 2nd. Minutes approved and will be posted on WHS PTO website
- III. **Speakers** Meet our new (and existing) administrators.
 - a. Mr. Shippey Math, World Languages
 - b. Mr. Ryan – Social Studies, Senior Activities (graduation), Master Schedule
 - c. Ms. Field – TLC & Student Health Index. She thanked the PTO for funding ½ of the new patio outside the TLC. The other half was funded by parent contributions and art festival. Working on a plaque to recognize donors – being done by ceramics class.
 - d. Mr. Chad Burnett (new) 504 coordinator, SST, Science department
 - e. Ms. Lacey Victor (new) Special Ed, Student Council
 - f. Mr. Cooley – Testing, Clubs, Final Exams, Website
 - g. Heidi Sauer K. – head counselor
 - h. Jessica Hastings (new) N-Sa. 3rd year at Westlake, previously in Special Ed Dept.
 - i. Kristen Williamson (new) G-J. Came from Vandergrift, previously at Bowie.
 - j. Teri Ochoa L-M. 4th year at Westlake. College Board, SAT testing
 - k. Caty Broderick C-F. 5 years at Westlake, AP Testing, Credit by Exam. NCAA
 - l. Lisa Arronge Sb–Wilk. 2nd year. Book Awards, Scholarships, Freshman – trying to reach out to them more.
- IV. **Counselor Report** – Heidi Sauer
 - a. College and Career Center redecorated. Reps brining in swag in addition to brochures. Working on writing rec letters and sending them out
 - b. Freshmen Parent night next Thursday 9/28. Visiting freshman classrooms early in October. Teen teachers presenting freshman skills.
 - c. Tuesday, Sept 26, Hills of Austin College Fair. Jrs. and Srs. attend. List of schools will be published over the weekend so students can map out their stops.
 - d. Class of 2017 update will be presented at Oct 3rd school board meeting.
- V. **Principal's Report**
 - a. Good start to the year. Eclipse viewing first day of school well received. Teachers would like a similar event on first day of school again. Threat of flooding. Potential to be shelter after the hurricanes. Multiple student groups stepped up to provide help.
 - b. Eanes 7 of 7 campuses received Distinction rating. EOC scores in Biology and US History were up and AP scores in Social Studies were up. Attendance rate for students and teachers is up.
 - c. Homecoming is today. Live music lunch, football game tonight and dance Saturday night. Ticket sales for Homecoming dance up over last year.

- d. Counseling office focused on customer service to process schedule changes
- e. Visitor parking has improved.

VI. Presidents' Report & Treasurer's Report

- a. Focusing projects on refreshing the campus and encouraging pride of the campus. Continuing PTO message of Awareness and Access.
 - b. Fund Raising projects
 - Pavers. Concessions. Mums. No Hassle.
 - c. 2 Rounds of allocations planned for the year. First request sent out to teachers and staff. Will review with Principal Ramsey in mid-October.
 - d. Openings on PTO Board for President-elect, Treasurer-elect (tax compliance experience requested) and Concessions Co-Chair elect.
 - e. Reviewed Treasurer report submitted by Gayle Yenawine and attached.
- VII. **Pavers** - placed in front of stadium. Purchase at PTO website. Suggest reaching out to alumni. Installation scheduled for this fall. Another one will be done in the spring.
- VIII. **Mums** – Successful – Lots of work to get done early this year! Thanks to Kathy and Kim!
- IX. **Concessions** – Kristen Paull. Big Game tonight. Volunteer groups staff the stands. Proceeds from concessions are split with the clubs that work. All proceeds for the season are divided across the clubs. Duties are divided between Front – Volunteers and Back - Food and Equipment needs. Elect for Back has been identified. Need Elect for Front.
- X. **No Hassle** – Christie Lowin & Liz McWhirter. Have reached 75% of the goal. Will wind down in 3 weeks and allow EEF to have fund raising focus.
- XI. **Community Partners** – Maureen Guillet. Banners completed for concession stands. Will feature a business each month on the web site.
- XII. **Communication** – Kalpana Alamela manages the website. All Mum sales processed through the website. Let Kalpana know if there are any info gaps on the website. Using more to communicate. Kalpana asked if there is any need to log into the store using Facebook. Attendants said NO. Chap Connections published monthly by Shalini Komarla. Posting on Facebook daily. Suggestion to start using Instagram.
- XIII. Debra introduced secretary, Debbie Preston.
- XIV. **Volunteers** – Marica Elm. Marcia coordinating volunteers for the front office and library and scheduling confidentiality training sessions.
- XV. **School Board Liaison** – Krysten Johnson. Westlake alumni represented by her mother, Donna Crane at the meeting.
- XVI. **Student Council** – Mateo Brunel, student council president. Student Council has been preparing for the Homecoming Dance Saturday night. His focus will be for student involvement and wellbeing for the student body. One event is providing free snacks during finals. Today is Live Music lunch with Westlake student band.
- XVII. **Website** – New school website is difficult to navigate. Lots of feedback from the room on issues using the website. The district implemented a consistent format across all the campuses that is not ideal for the high school. Loading pages is cumbersome. The district can post items on school site the preempts school items. If your item is bumped contact Mr. Cooley. Question where to find clubs on website. Mr. Cooley explained there is a

process from Sept 1 to Oct. 1 for clubs to reapply and apply for new clubs. Require 10 students, a sponsor and meeting location for approval and listing on website.

- XVIII. **EEF** – Laurel Sockwell Last year EEF funded \$2.5M resulting in 50 teachers. Tax ratification election does not negate need for EEF money. Is there a preferred way to donate? Check or credit? Either is acceptable. EEF pays fee for credit cards, but payments are easier to track.
- XIX. Parent asked about Lifetime membership in PTO that was paid for around 2009. Can those contributors be recognized?
- XX. **Tax Ratification Election** – Supported by parent organization We Are Eanes. They have signs available to post in your yard. Election is November 7. Early voting starts October 23. Register to vote by October 10. Ballot language is confusing. Support = YES vote. If it passes the result will be immediate. District will see money around February and will be reflected in next tax bill.
- XXI. **Meeting adjourned at 12:50.**