



Westlake High School
General PTO Meeting

September 23, 2016 Minutes - Draft pending October 2016 approval

- I. **Call Meeting to Order**— Karra Guess called meeting to order at 12:07

- II. **Approval of May 17, 2016 Minutes**— Liza Richardson made a motion to approve minutes, Karen Meyer 2nd. Minutes approved as posted on the WHS PTO website, now final.

- III. **Speakers – WHS Administrators**
 - A. Bryan Shippey: Bryan introduced himself; he has been in Eanes for 6 years, came to WHS as Assistant Principal this year from being Principal at Barton Creek Elementary. He covers Math and World Language departments. He thanked PTO for the generous Language Lab purchase, which is now installed. Training is done, and a teacher class schedule being created.

 - B. Paul Cooley: Paul introduced himself; he has been in Eanes for 10 years at Forest Trail, then West Ridge and now WHS. He covers students with last name P-W, CTE, Health, and PE.

 - C. Steve Ramsey: Steve introduced himself; he has been in Eanes since 2002 having worked in Kingwood (Houston) and Austin ISD (Austin High). Steve went on to share a few key items:
 - He is now holding ‘brown bag’ conversations from 11-12 before each PTO meeting to discuss any topics on interest. The session immediately prior to this PTO meeting focused on the school threat incident.

 - On GPA recommendations, the official presentation is on the WHS website and can be found here <http://whs.eanesisd.net/announcements/gpaproposalpresentation>. A link to give feedback is also available. A sub-committee was formed last spring, roughly 40 people, and 6 recommendations went to the Board as a committee report. All 6 recommendations are still being worked on with consideration of the views from both “in support” and “not in support” (both sides heard at Board meeting). In Eanes, whatever course guide you start with, as a freshman is the one you follow for graduation, so this years 8th graders would be the first to whom this new policy applies if approved this fall. While all are still under discussion and being considered individually, the two proposals currently getting the most opposing input relate to how many advanced level classes are figured into a weighted GPA and what the multiplier should be.

 - As part of the SEL (Social, Emotional Learning) agenda, a sub team of teachers and parents are part of the Challenge Success work and will be at Stanford University next week exploring WHS current state and avenues to improve. More on Challenge Success can be found here <http://healthyhubs.weebly.com/challenge-success.html>

- IV. **Counseling Department – Heidi Sauer** – Heidi (or delegate) will attend all PTO meetings to answer questions and share key events. Key items shared were:
 - Her department did a short survey of recent WHS graduates asking what support they would have liked to have had. Two key items: Essay writing and

researching financial aid. For seniors on September 27th they are offering “college essay tips” during lunch <http://westlakecounseling.weebly.com>. They are working on how to support the financial aid topic.

- Also considering a way to provide support for college application help (such as a counselor being available one day until 6pm).
- Discussion about how many students each counselor is managing (~400 students per counselor so ~80-100 seniors) and whether there is consideration to add more counselors. There is no simple solution considering budget constraints and need for teachers. WHS also has two full time social workers that support the counseling agenda allowing the counselors work to go further. This year, Linda Rawlings (former WHS Principal) is now working part-time with the Counseling department to bring together a more united effort in SEL and other counseling activities to ensure maximum benefit.
- A question was raised about the weighted GPAs and what colleges use/get. Heidi explained that since the weighting isn't standardized in Texas or the nation, most colleges ask for non-weighted GPA and then have their own calculation to determine a GPA view for their criteria consideration (they would be able to see which classes were on level, or advanced).

V. **Student Council Report**— Berkeley Barnett and Jimmie Fields shared key updated from Student Council.

- Their website has key events that students can participate in <http://westlakestuco.com>. They were asked to utilize other communication avenues like PTO Facebook and weekly WHS newsletter so parents can know of items where they can support.
- Homecoming is October 21 and Student Council puts on the dance and Spirit Week. Chaperones are needed for the dance and online signup is available on above link.
- Other key events they do are Spring Spirit Week, live music lunches and service work opportunities like the current school supply drive for Louisiana flood victims (drop items off in room 330).
- They are discussing with Dr. Leonard ways to bridge the gap between administration and students (e.g. student shadowing by admin, students at admin meeting, etc).

VI. **Treasurer's Report** – Gayle Yenawine: The report was reviewed, see attached. All checks from last year net concession proceeds have been distributed, a total of \$89,000 split between PTO and all clubs/groups who worked concessions.

VII. **PTO Presidents report** – Kristin Paull and Karra Guess.

- Karra shared that the four parking spots auction closed with a total of \$13,125 raised. Appreciation expressed for those who participated in auction helping raise money benefiting WHS teachers and students.
- Back to school night went well. The PTO funded Language Lab was ready for touring. PTO is working on having signage posted on items funded by PTO to

help demonstrate where the PTO is benefiting a broad range of classes and activities.

VIII. Committee Reports

- Pavers: encouraging Junior parents to buy pavers so their senior can see it live vs. having to come back after graduation!
- Staff Appreciation: Dinner provided for BTS night. Next event is breakfast on October 6th. Each month something is done for the staff. Volunteer to help with baking or donating is always needed, see PTO website. http://whspto.net/Staff-Appreciation_ep_49.html
- Mums: in full motion creating Mums for this year, don't forget to purchase them, they can be ordered online. Mum volunteering is always a need. See PTO website: http://whspto.net/HOMECOMING-MUMS_c_11.html
- No Hassle: Still need additional donations to reach the \$25,000 goal. Seeking to hit a stretch goal so PTO will have enough funds to do allocations (PTO funding of staff requested supplies for classes or activities) this year in addition to the Language Lab. Any donations can be marked specifically to fund the Language Lab (starting at \$300 and up) or can be donated to the general No Hassle Fund. See PTO website: http://whspto.net/NO-HASSLE-FUNDRAISER_c_13.html

Next PTO meeting: October 14th in the PAC Lecture Hall, Dr. Leonard speaking on State of the District.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.