



## Westlake High School

### General PTO Meeting

December 11, 2015

#### Minutes

- A. **Call Meeting to Order**—Reesa Thorne called meeting to order at 12:04 pm.
- B. **Approval of October 2015 Minutes**— Debbie Preston made a motion to approve minutes. Liza Richardson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes approved as posted on the WHS PTO website for November 2015 meeting.
- C. **Student Council Report**- Gloria Su  
Many events happening in Student Council please check the website for more details:
- Wrapped up Angel Tree drive with Salvation Army: 100 bags made this year.
  - Drives that have also wrapped up in December: Mobile Loaves and Fishes: Collection of toiletries for the homeless in tennis ball cans. Were able to donate 3 boxes of cans.
  - Book Drive is still happening. Tons of books collected so far.
  - Working on the Spring Pep Rally which highlights other UIL sports besides football and other student clubs.
  - The Student Council faculty contact is Erica Skovill.
- D. **Department Chair Reports** – Fine Arts
- I. Mr. Kerry Taylor: Fine Arts Department Chair
- Very busy right now with football playoffs, performances, and the Nutcracker
  - Choir just had their concerts. Madrigals are performing all over Austin.
  - Tech Theatre is serving the Nutcracker, Spotlight, and Drama.
  - Band is busy with the football playoffs. They are having a concert Monday evening. Auditions are underway for All State Musicians. The top 2% of high school musicians are honored with All State title.
  - Visual Arts appears slow, but they are busy working on their individual portfolios of 3-5 projects to submit in January/February competitions.
  - Dance just had their showcase. Hyline is still supporting the football team and will begin their spring competition in January.
  - EVE, Elite Visual Ensemble (formally the Winter Guard) are connected with the Band. They are practicing their gym performances for competition with their props (ribbons, flags, and sabers)
  - New class Beginning Guitar will launch next Fall. Will need 25 students (who will provide own guitar) to make a class. Hoping to reach students who are interested in music, but not inclined to participate with traditional band, choir and orchestra.

#### E. **WHS Principal's Report**—Dr. John Carter

- Discussion is underway in the Campus Leadership Team and District Leadership team (PTO rep will be on team) about weighting of grades and stress on students to take classes that are AP level, but maybe not something that peaks their individual interests. Weighting grades is not something that all colleges look at. Many have their own weighting system. At the end of the Spring semester, these leadership teams will have a recommendation for the Board and the Superintendent.
- District Leadership Team (DLT) is working with Stanford on their “Challenge Success” program (PTO rep will be on the team). This program looks at high stress in high achieving schools. This is in conjunction with a book titled “Overburdened and Underprepared.”
- Course selections will be in January. Starting with 8th grade nights and followed by current students. Counselors will be visiting with the grades to go over online registration.
- Sophomore conferences will not include PSAT10 scores this year. PSAT10 test will be Tuesday, February 23, 2016. More information will come from Heidi Sauer when it is available.
- New parking plan for the next school year will be communicated in February. The parking committee, which includes PTO President, Liza Richardson, hears any appeals by students and is coming up with a plan to streamline parking placement before the end of the school year.

#### F. **PTO President's Report**- Reesa Thorne/ Liza Richardson:

- PTO is a designated charity on Amazon Smile. When using Amazon Smile, please select Westlake PTO as your recipient. They will receive .05% back to the organization.

#### G. **Treasurer's Report** – Karen Meyer: see attached.

- Dulce Stenglein made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. 2nd by Liza Richardson. Motion passed.

H. **Concessions report:** Cammi Crawford : currently shopping for a pizza warmer that easily fits a pizza box. Concessions is almost ready for cooking at baseball games. There is lots of overflow product from football games, that will be pushed through concessions for all spring sports provided safe food expiration dates. Concession will not have as many expenses as the beginning of the year.

I. **No Hassle Fundraiser:** Liz McWhirter- \$36,600 to date. May have a push in the spring for a potential special project coming up for the school.

J. **Allocations:** Karen Meyer for Lucinda Valenti: still waiting on receipts to come in for approved allocations. Spring allocation request are due in February.

- K. **Volunteering:** Reesa Thorne: Waiting on Dr. Carter to launch copy volunteers in the front office. First library fundraiser at Barnes & Noble is completed. Waiting to hear from them about donation to PTO.
- L. **Teacher Appreciation:** Christine Machon- Wednesday of this week, the teachers participated in a cookie buffet. Volunteers baked fresh cookies and teachers could pick and choose the dozen they took home. Still accepting \$25 gift cards for teachers for holiday gifts. The TA budget will cover purchasing the remainder, so all 315 staff will receive one. They will be delivered on Monday morning.
- M. **Project Graduation:** Dulce Stenglein- 1,348 raffle tickets sold so far. Drawing will be Thursday at noon at Anna Gray. Please purchase your Holiday cards from Shutterfly. Our mattress fundraiser will be January 30. Hoping to have extra long twin mattress covers for outgoing seniors.
- N. **Community Partners:** Erin Hummel: PTO will no longer be offering lunch at PTO meetings after today. They will be using the community partner relationship for teacher appreciation. Please bring a brown bag lunch to the next meeting.
- O. **Communications Report-** Debbie Preston
- Schedule for Spring Chap Connection: February 1, March 1 and April 1. Send all information to Debbie for inclusion in newsletter.

L. **Club Reports:**

- **Speech and Debate Club:** They have organized a booster club for the speech and debate club. Their first fundraiser was a team photo. The new teacher is great. Both middle schools have debate clubs now. A 9th grader, Amanda, is a novice debater and she recently won her entire event.

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.**