



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
(PENDING APPROVAL)
February 21, 2020**

Call to Order: 12:02 p.m.

President Kristin Paull welcomed those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the January 24, 2020 General Meeting were presented for approval, copies having been provided. Cindy Blaydon moved to approve the minutes. Diane Dealy seconded the motion, which was approved.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT: The Westlake Student Council did not send a representative to report at the meeting. Diane Dealy reported that the student council helped organize the recent Chaps in Service volunteer fair in which twelve philanthropic organizations took part. Student Council will be holding its annual retreat during the week following spring break. Members are also assisting with prom plans, with prom scheduled for May 16, 2020.

COUNSELOR'S REPORT: Counselor Heidi Sauer announced that the course selection process for the 2020-2021 school year took place last week. This week and next week, the counselors will be assisting 8th grade students at Hill Country Middle School and West Ridge Middle School with high school course selection. This information will be utilized in determining course offerings and number of course sections available for the 2020-2021 academic year. Allocations Chair Tiffany Hildreth recommended holding a parent Q&A forum in which parents of incoming freshmen could learn from a panel composed of parents of students who have completed, or are close to completing, high school.

Juniors – On March 24th, members of the junior class will have the opportunity to take a free ACT exam. This is an official exam, and scores from this exam may be submitted to colleges. No writing section is being offered. Students can choose to opt out of the exam.

Sophomores – On March 11th and 12th, sophomore meetings will take place. Parents and students will receive further details via Skyward. The college consideration process will be initiated at these meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Kori Phenegar was unable to attend the meeting, so President Paull presented the Treasurer's Report provided for those in attendance. As of January 31, 2020, the bank balance was \$152,100.45. Income stands at \$171,460.52, exceeding the budgeted expectation of \$118,000 by \$53,460.52.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Paull announced that some offices on the 2020-2021 PTO Executive Board slate remain open, with 2019-2020 Co-President Kit Spelce returning for her

second year in the co-president position. Anyone interested in serving should contact President Paull. It is likely that the March General Meeting will be cancelled. The April General Meeting will feature an Eanes Board of Trustees candidate forum with the five candidates contending for the three available positions. The proposed Executive Board slate will be presented at the May General Meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Eanes Bond Oversight Committee

Represented by Chief Operations Officer Jeremy Trimble and Chief Financial Officer Chris Scott:

Mr. Trimble explained that, following the approval of the \$80,000,000 bond package in May 2019, the Bond Oversight Committee is currently planning for several projects slated to take place at Westlake High School over the summer. In order to facilitate this work, the high school will be closed for the summer, with the exception of office staff and some athletic camps. The Chap Court food service area kitchen will be remodeled so that options will be comparable to those offered at the Ninth Grade Center cafeteria. A new secured vestibule will be constructed around the Chap Court building entrance, and Mr. Trimble announced that a rendering of the structure will be made available at the next Board of Trustees meeting. Additionally, new facility projects will be undertaken for robotics, wrestling, and aquatics, with the new aquatics facility to be located on the hill by the Westlake Athletic Center. The goal is to receive construction approval from the Board of Trustees in March, allowing facilities construction to begin in June. The new facilities should be completed for the 2021-2022 school year. There will be also be roofing and HVAC work taking place in the Ninth Grade Center. In total, between \$8 and \$10 million will be spent on Westlake High School-specific projects over the coming summer. Responding to a question from President Paull regarding other building upgrades, Mr. Trimble stated that new flooring is planned for the Ninth Grade Center, with installation being coordinated with the HVAC work. In the fall, the district-wide LED lighting retrofit project will take place, the work being done after school hours to avoid class disruption. Overall, the bond-supported projects will take between four and five years to complete.

Ms. Hildreth asked if any technology upgrades are planned. Mr. Trimble and Mr. Scott responded that the bond funds will cover some staff-related technology upgrades, largely replacing old computers and audio/visual equipment. The district's Technology Advisory Committee, an entity independent from the Bond Oversight Committee, is currently evaluating individual devices for secondary students.

President Paull asked whether the planned projects at the high school will disrupt the work of the Mum Committee. Ms. Sauer offered space in the counseling area, which will remain open during the summer, for the Mum Committee to utilize.

Finally, Mr. Trimble and Mr. Scott informed those present that the next bimonthly meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee will take place on March 17th at the Eanes Administration Building. Minutes from the meeting will be made available. President Paull thanked Mr. Trimble and Mr. Scott for providing this information to the Westlake PTO.

Tiffany Hildreth, PTO Allocations Chair: Ms. Hildreth explained the role of the PTO and the allocations process in funding items requested by WHS staff. She and President Paull explained that the annual goal is to spend the balance down to \$20,000 so that donations to PTO fundraisers quickly translate into real improvements/benefits for students and teachers. To accomplish this, allocations are solicited, considered, and approved semi-annually. Ms. Hildreth referred those present to the handout provided which enumerated the departments benefitted by the allocations process and the types of items funded. She highlighted the new culinary equipment, centrifuges, the microwave for the Ninth Grade Center cafeteria, health supplies requested by the nurse, and the laser cutter requested by Robotics but which will be available for use across several departments. She also provided information about furniture upgrades for the student support counseling area, landscaping around the new outdoor classroom, and Spanish library books for an innovative reading program already piloted (and proving extremely successful) by the Spanish teachers. As a result of this year's highly successful fundraising efforts, \$61,653 in needs were met by the Spring 2020 allocations process. In response to questions regarding how areas of need are identified and assessed, President Paull described the process through which the PTO Executive Board works closely with the administration to address those areas most likely to benefit both staff members and the largest number of students across various areas of interest. President Paull then thanked Ms. Hildreth for her many years of service to the PTO Executive Board, not only as chair of allocations, but as board president, concessions volunteer, and numerous other areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.