

**Westlake High School
General PTO Meeting
November 20, 2015
Minutes**

- A. **Call Meeting to Order**—Reesa Thorne called meeting to order at 12:02 pm.
- B. **Approval of October 2015 Minutes**— Karen Meyer made a motion to approve minutes. Liza Richardson 2nd the motion. Minutes approved as posted on the WHS PTO website for October 2015 meeting.
- C. **Student Council Report**- Keith McBrayer- S.C. Vice President
Many events happening in Student Council please check the website for more details:
- Wrapped up Veteran’s Day celebration. Sent letters of gratitude and encouragement to the Wounded Warrior Project.
 - Many “Drives” are happening right now. Please drop any donations to Room 154: Elementary School Book Drive, Angel Tree Project, and Mobile Loaves and Fishes.
 - There is a new StuCo website. Please check it out.
- D. **Department Chair Reports** – World Languages and Math Department
- I. Mr. Scott Gardner: World Languages Department Chair
- Mr. Gardner thanked the PTO for all that they do for his department
 - Trips are happening in the summer for the following languages: Spanish, Latin, Chinese, and German. Students stay 3 weeks with host families in their country.
 - ASL class is working closely with the School for the Deaf
- II. Nadine Herbst: Math Department Chair
- New textbooks for all classes this year. Online textbooks will mean lighter backpacks!
 - End of January, the Math department will have a symposium on the late start day. Subjects to cover: Standard Base Grading, Pre-Cal classes- questioning in the classroom, Collaboration in the classroom, and Questioning with intent.
 - They will be introducing 2 mulit-variable classes that are 30 students each. Possible dual credit with college.
 - Best way to decide the level of math your student should be in is to have a conversation with their teacher.
 - Students do not get their tests back as a department policy. They are trying to keep test copies out of the hands of the tutor network. If they have question on something they missed, they can look at it in the classroom with their teacher.
- E. **WHS Principal’s Report**—Dr. John Carter

- New board approved courses are happening next year: Business incubator course (entrepreneurship business course), beginning guitar (fine arts), history of rock and roll-and AP Computer Science Principles,. Other courses being reviewed are higher level math classes, AP Research, Personal Financial Literacy
- Discussion is underway in the Campus Leadership Team and District Leadership team about weighting of grades and stress on students to take classes that are AP credit, 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.
- Parking situation will get better with the opening of the WACC. Goal is it will open in December. With 675 Juniors and 675 Sophomores this year, parking will still be a concern for next year. There are about 800 spots total available for students. There is a parking committee involving faculty and parents working to make recommendations for parking next year.

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

- Please check out the Bond website to see how the money is being spent in the district.
- EEF Gala is February 27. Please be on the look out to buy tickets. In other EEF news, Director, Wally Moore, will be leaving at the end of the school year, a replacement selection process is underway.
- PTO is a designated charity (501c) on Amazon Smile. When using Amazon Smile, please select Westlake PTO as your recipient. They will donate .05% back to the PTO organization from Amazon (no cost to purchaser).

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

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

H. Communications Report- Debbie Preston

- There is one more Chap Connection before Christmas. Deadline for information is December 1. There is not a planned publication in January.

L. Club Reports:

- **Choir:** Cinderella has been announced as the musical this year. It will run the 1st week in February.
- **Debate:** will be in Chicago this weekend. 2 freshman students have won novice this Fall.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.