



## Westlake High School

### General PTO Meeting

October 16, 2015

#### Minutes

- A. **Call Meeting to Order**—Reesa Thorne called meeting to order at 12:04 pm.
- B. **Approval of September 2015 Minutes**— Debbie Preston made a motion to approve minutes. Karen Meyer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes approved as posted on the WHS PTO website for September 2015 meeting.
- C. **Student Council Report**- Collin Michael- Senior Class Officer  
Many events happening in Student Council please check the website for more details:
- A few examples shared: Mobile Loaves and Fishes- Community first raised \$10,000 to build a home, SUMO- fundraiser , T-shirt Sales Wednesday and Thursday during lunch in Chap Room, Veteren’s Day, Wounded Warriors Project, used Book Drive, Fallen Angels/Salvation Army at the holidays.
  - Educational Excellence Committee- new committee formed to discuss curriculum from a student perspective with teachers. Two students are selected from 2nd period and invited to attend this meeting to discuss issues facing WHS students. Topic this month was cheating/homework at Westlake because of competition and stress. 100 students were in attendance.
- D. **Department Chair Reports** – Eanes Education Foundation: Mr. Wally Moore and Dr. Tom Leonard: State of the District
- I. Mr. Wally Moore: Eanes Education Foundation
- Teacher Fund Campaign happening now. Donation Day October 23
  - Carrie Wilkin- Westlake High School EEF Teacher Fund Representative stated that Westlake has the lowest participation rate in the district at 20%. Trying new things to reach out to parents at the high school: partnering with the following groups: PTO, Band, Choir, Chap Club, Cheer sending a joint message next week to parents and members about EEF.
  - EEF was founded in 1991 by district parents to bridge the gap in funding that recaptured by the state by the “Robin Hood” law. They support all 9 campuses by supplying funds for teacher salaries. Last year EEF donated \$1,600,000 to the district to fund 32 full time teacher positions. They also fund the Teacher’s Excellence Program which provides a 50% tuition scholarship to teachers wanting to obtain their Masters Degree in Education at Texas State University.
  - The goal for this year’s fundraising is \$2,000,000. The average gift to EEF is \$600 and 40% of the families in the district donate to the cause. There is plenty of room for growth. Please help get the word out.
- II. Dr. Tom Leonard: State of the District: presentation is on the district website

- Thank you to the School Board members who are present: Colleen Jones, Jen Salas, Julia Webber, and Christie Bybee
- 6 Main Objectives that are most important to Dr. Leonard and the school board: high quality staff (attract and retain), reasonable class size, program support and stability, create and maintain facilities, balanced budget, money in the bank.
- Highlights of the district: Dr. Leonard stated the highlights are from the high school, but it all starts in our elementary schools.
  1. Scores: SAT average: 1800 (state average is 1432, national average is 1497), ACT 26.4 average. State is 20.9 and the national average is 21. 4 students had a perfect ACT score and 1 student had a perfect SAT.
  2. Class of 2015: 99% were accepted into college: 84% into a 4 year college, 15% into a 2 year institution and 1% went into the armed forces/employment/other. A significant amount in scholarships were awarded to this class.
  3. The Bond passed! Dr. Leonard stated that it will take some time to spend that money as they ensure they have sound plans.
  4. Financials/ Budget: using a “3,2,1” approach to balance the budget (see district website for information, basically this represents how much the deficit in millions we have over the next three years. School board decisions regarding teacher pay: Keep first year teacher salaries on target with Lake Travis ISD, by year 5 in the middle of the pack, and 10/20 years in the top quarter
- Opportunities for the district focus: Achieve high academic standards, develop employees, and connection to the community
- The Goal for all students is the **WHEEL: Well Rounded Person, Healthy Individual, Effective Communication, Engaged citizen, and Life Long Learner**
- District Community Involvement: Digital Task Force, Bond Oversight Committee, Revenue Generating Task Force
- Current Texas litigation: anticipated decision in Spring 2016
- Many parents asked Dr. Leonard questions after the presentation regarding balancing the budget. Three key questions about teachers were answered: 1. EEF bridging the gap is key to no further teacher cuts. 2. Dr. Leonard shared that some class sizes got a little too large with teacher cuts (they are working on that.) 3. Teacher attrition at the high school level (many teachers retired last year, new athletic director created many changes, and the commute for teachers has gotten more difficult.) Also the athletic facility will open early 2016. WHS has it contracted for use during the day.

#### E. WHS Principal’s Report—Dr. John Carter

- Student Congress discussing academic dishonesty has become an issue in a high achieving school. The Educational Excellence committee is now meeting with Dr. Carter and Department chairs to discuss concerns from a student

perspective. Concerns for future discussions about stress, exhaustion and anxiety in our student body are planned for the future.

F. **PTO President's Report-** Reesa Thorne/ Liza Richardson: deferred to the Treasurer given time constraints.

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

- PTO fundraising is \$30,000 over planned budget. Key items which allowed this positive outcome: Strong Mum sales, No Hassle and the Parking Space Auction have surpassed their budgets and given the PTO more money for allocations. Cammi Crawford made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. 2nd from Kristin Paull. Motion passed.

H. **Allocation's Report-** Lucinda Valenti

- 23 items were approved by the Executive Committee for a total of \$41,312.99. Allocations given to a good cross section of teachers/school activities. There is still a nice cushion ((\$25-\$30K) for any Spring Allocations. Complete report is attached of Fall allocations.

I. **Teacher Appreciation Report-** Kristin Paull

- Teacher breakfast yesterday. The next is in November. Honey Ham is supplying the food. We will need pies for this event and are collecting gift cards for the holidays.

J. **Project Graduation:** Dulce Stenglein: Kendra Scott fundraiser November 3. Chipotle fundraiser went well, raised \$951.

K. **Concessions, No Hassle (it's not too late to donate), Volunteering, Community Partners and Pavers** are all still working hard and getting things done.

L. **Club Reports:** Kim Klubnik- Chap Club is auctioning off some of the old turf from the stadium next week. Go to [WestlakeNation.com](http://WestlakeNation.com) for more details.

M. **The Westbank Library** is new renovated and now open. We offer free library cards for any WHS staff that do not live in the district. Students can get volunteer hours at volunteer drop in dates: October 25, 1-4 pm. November 29, 1-4 pm.

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.**