

West Seattle High School PTSA General Meeting
November 8, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
West Seattle High School Library

Attendees:

Julie Howell
Vikas Luthra
Gina Allen
Miki Fly
Sarah Legget
Laurie Rasmussen
Amy Doll
Grace Bennett
Anne Sheeran
Cause Haun
Janette Eby
Colleen McMahon-Grace

Meeting Agenda:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by president Julie Howell.

Principal Report

Principal Brian Vance made announcements:

- Community Meeting at WSHS 11/9/17 regarding district wide boundary changes
- Highly Capable Pathway - there is a proposal for WSHS to become a Highly Capable Pathway designated school for the Southwest Region
- State of the District address will be 11/14/17
- South Seattle College is offering a 13th Year Promise Scholarship to increase access to higher education for our community's students. The scholarship is open to all graduates from participating high schools, regardless of GPA, income or other factors. All participating students are guaranteed to have one year of in-state tuition covered.
- Advisory Class has been implemented as a means for students to connect and share ideas with their class representatives. Students earn an additional .5 credit for their advisory class for the full year. Advisory empowers students to connect with their student senate.
- 24-Credit Graduation Requirement Task Force is still devising a plan to meet the state's new requirement. The new requirement take effect with the class of 2021, our current ninth grade students of 2017. Students will earn 2 credits in 4 years with the Advisory class (.5 credits per year). Resources are in place to assure students meet the 24 credit requirement.
 - Parents at the meeting voiced a request for more alerts be in place to identify students with grades D and lower; the impact of the 24 credit requirement is severe when students are struggling to maintain a passing grade.

- Talking Circles: For Restorative Justice - implemented in advisory; a core component of the restorative justice process; students have a conversation to build relationships and address conflict within their community.
- Everyone is encouraged to support Westside Drama by attending the production of “The Star Wars Verily, A New Hope”. Performances remaining are November 9th and 10th.

PTSA Membership Report Sarah Legget

- 88 members at this time, compared to 187 the previous year

Treasurer’s Report Miki Fly

- Direct Drive goal is \$10,000 (100 families pledge \$100)
- Plans to research alternate banking options

Building Leadership Team (BLT) Laurie Rasmussen

- By-laws were updated
- Professional development funding requests are being considered
- Next BLT meeting will be December 4 (the 1st Monday of the month)
- Need to do 3rd year review for WSHS

Discussion regarding security personnel and how the school manages students that may attend class under the influence at WSHS - WSHS staff may conduct a search on grounds of suspicion. WSHS does have an active Safety Committee. Parents want to be included. The ultimate goal for awareness of students under the influence is to be able to provide help and support for the student.

Legislative Report Grace Bennet

- Discussed focus of the lobbyists
- Request to update the WSHS website with current resolutions

Discussion regarding Truancy: schools are required to take steps if a student has too many unexcused absences. Students are flagged, given an attendance agreement, and an attendance letter is sent to the guardians. The school will schedule a conference with the student/guardian to analyze the cause and determine supports.

Special Education Report Anne Sheeran

- 12% of WSHS students have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan)
- Need to increase communication between parents and special education staff
- Perhaps School Messenger can be used to communicate with identified families
- Continuum of services may or may not be available to incoming high school students; currently under discussion
- Special Olympics: Unified Sports - \$1500 is available to fund this special sport program however there is currently no coach so it is not an active program at WSHS; last year WSHS had a special soccer team

Announcements

- State of the District Address is November 14
- 5K Co-Chair is needed - staffing needs to be planned for sponsorships, procurement, city permit, restroom facilities, barricades, police officers - determined by the city, and 12 adults to assist
- Cause Haun shared information about “Moms Demand Actions - For Gun Sense in America” - can we offer a public education program regarding gun security?
- November 30th - Incoming Freshman Family Night
 - PTSA will have a table in the commons, along with many other groups; student panel and marketing

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.