

West Seattle High School PTSA General Meeting
October 11, 2017 7:00-8:30pm
West Seattle High School Library

Attendees:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Brian Vance | Rebecca Anderson |
| Amy Doll | Sheree Fantz Gut |
| Gina Allen | Izzie Lewis |
| Julie Howell | Cause Haun |
| Grace Bennett | Gang Chen |
| Julie Gardiner | Yessika Yoncee |
| Brianna Smith | Kathy Lower |
| Ann Sheerer | Carla Rogers |
| Jean Williams | Jen Watt |
| Sherne Jensen | Jay Potratz |
| Katy Thompson | Janette Elsy |
| Vikas Luthra | |

Meeting Agenda:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by president Julie Howell. The meeting opened with introductions of the board and welcoming all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the May 17, 2017 WSHS PTSA General Meeting were approved with corrections: to add Ann Sheerer as an attendee and to add "Discussion on SBAC" .

Election of Officers:

A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate of officers of the WSHS PTSA Board for 2017-18. Motion carried.

President - Julie Howell

Vice President - Vikas Luthra

Co-Secretaries - Jen Watt and Gina Allen

Co-Treasurers - Miki Fly and Becky Anderson

Membership - Sarah Leggett

Building Leadership Team Representative (BLTR) - Laurie Rasmussen and Karna Leinbach

Legislation Chair - Grace Bennett

Volunteer Coordinator/Parent Liaison - Amy Doll

Westside Weekly Editor - Carla Rogers

Direct Drive Chair - Laurie Rasmussen

5K Run/Walk Race Director - Linda Rackner

Grad Night Chair - Catha Elder

PTSA Webmaster - Carla Rogers

Budget Approval:

- No fall fundraiser
- More focus on direct give/drive; goal is set at \$10,000
- Note decrease in Grad Night expenses; goal of \$12,500 for Grad Night income
- Added “Legislative” line item under “Other Expenses” as the PTSA now has a legislative liaison that may incur travel expenses, etc.
- Email treasurer if have input to increase/grow funds

Rebecca Anderson made a motion to approve the WSHS PTSA Budget for 2017-2018. Vikas Luthra seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Principal Report:

Principal Brian Vance shared his previous experiences leading up to his current post, addressed recent events, and shared his vision for WSHS.

- Seattle Public Schools has a process in place in dealing with threats made by students
- WSHS staff is aware of the process to be followed
- Information shared is according to the SPS privacy policy
- Investigation of the individual/family is completed at the district level by the “Threat Assessment” team, a staff with expertise in investigating such incidents
- The “Threat Assessment” team gathers information and recommends a safety plan. A report with recommendations is provided to the school which is pending.

Questions were answered:

- No, there is not a Seattle police officer assigned to WSHS
- Yes, there are 2 full-time security staff persons on campus at WSHS
- Can we consider a “walk through” of WSHS by SPD as a proactive measure? Perhaps.
- Yes, counselors are available to all students to help cope and for the student who made the threat.

Discussion about bullying:

- Principal Vance shared that his mission is to build a positive climate by identifying the problems/concerns, working with students, implement ‘no contact contracts’, and implement discipline as necessary.
- Regarding online bullying - a potential tool to help is through a firm that will investigate postings and remove such bullying postings
- Restorative Justice was discussed; when there is harm done, it needs to be recognized and repaired. Training sessions with those involved aid in repair rather than suspension or expulsion of a student.
- Parent Education - a request was made to offer an information session to parents regarding Restorative Justice and “Circle” training. Perhaps the info may be made available on the WSHS Westside Weekly website.
- Advisory staff is trained in implementing “Circles” which gives voice to students and helps train students in advisory as leaders amongst their peers. Feedback from students is a key element in “Circles”.

- Advisory is a good way for students to communicate with their peers about school issues, ideas, and concerns. The staff chose to implement Advisory daily. It is not intended to be a class where students catch up on homework.
- The School Climate Survey is available on-line; provides data on input from students, teachers, families regarding the social climate of every school in SPS. The data provided is assessed thoroughly to help guide improvements.
- It is important to reach out to special needs families to hear about their feelings, concerns, and experiences at WSHS.
- If bullying is suspected, the first line of communication for families/students is with the assistant principals.
- Absenteeism is not currently a problem at WSHS. There is a Community Truancy Board which is required in WA state as passed by the Legislature. It is a community board to help keep students in school and out of court.
- THE DANCE: Principal Vance addressed concerns about the school homecoming dance and the changes that will be implemented before the next dance.

-More staffing/chaperones are needed. Chaperones must complete the SPS Volunteer Application/Screening Disclosure Form. This form needs to be completed and approved annually. Amy Doll manages the parent volunteer applications and background checks, ID checks, etc. It can be a 24 hour approval process and confirmation by Amy.

-Improve the ticket sales procedure; School Pay was not effective at producing a master list of students who paid for the dance

-Too many students for the space available

-If a student shows up under the influence, the staff will assess the student to confirm such observation. Parents will be called immediately. A long-term suspension is implemented immediately HOWEVER it can change to a short term suspension immediately if counseling is sought immediately.

- Principal Vance reported on a program: FOREFRONT: INNOVATIONS IN SUICIDE PREVENTION

-addresses a student's emotional and social health; the program addresses suicide and mental health with compassion

-is a program through UW School of Social Work

-WSHS staff is currently going through training; a request is out to also train parent volunteers; students will also be trained.

-Ultimately this team will work with students and families to create a safety net and help those in crisis.

-Contact Principal Vance and WSHS nurse Kari Lombard for more information

- Principal Vance's VISION:

-Focus on importance of relationships

-Advisory will help connect students

-Restorative Justice as a key element to helping students

-Teachers to reach students on a personal level and connect with students

-WESTSIDE PRIDE!

-Students to feel connected to their peers and to their school; parent involvement

THANK YOU TO PAST VOLUNTEERS!!! Congratulations to **CARLA ROGERS**, our WSHS Webmaster and editor of Westside Weekly, for her awesome service to our school!!! Carla was presented with a plaque which will adorn the walls of the WSHS office!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.