

WSHS PTSA General Meeting Minutes
Sept 19, 2023
6:00-8:00 pm

AGENDA

Called to order at 6:05

6-6:30pm PTSA Business

- Welcome
- PTSA slide deck
 - What we do and how to participate: Holly Rikhof and Melissa Rysemus
 - Treasurer's Report: Gina Allen
- Vote to approve [May 18th Minutes](#)
 - Motion made by Victoria Chaagun, seconded by Gina, verbal vote, unanimously approved.
- Vote in Sarah Palunco as Treasurer
 - Motion made by Janel, seconded by Victoria, verbal vote, unanimously approved.
- Vote in Victoria Chhagan as Secretary (interim)
 - Motion made by Gina, seconded by Melissa, verbal vote, unanimously approved.

6:30-7:45pm Panelist Q&A ([Pre-asked Questions](#))

Panelists:

Principal - Brian Vance - CTE, Counseling, Social Studies, PTSA

AP students A-Gh - Ron Knight - Special Education, World Language, Math

AP students Gi-N - Megan Claus - Athletics, Science, ELA, PE

AP students O-Z - Nancy Carroll - Special Education, Art, Woodshop, Career Connect, PTSA

Counselor - Mallory Neuman

Counselor - Erika Nguyen

Social Worker - Crissa Parsely - Hosting First Thursdays for Parents

Attendance Specialist - Erin Dolan

School Nurse - Aimee Osland

Teen Health Center - Jada Wittow

Activities Director - Angela Ferda

Westside HEY Coordinator - Donna Kelly

RET Lead, Care Coordination, Latin Student Union staff sponsor - Stacey Fernandez

RET Meetings 3rd Thursday, 4pm

Testing Coordinator and Saturday School - Amy Doll

Mykenna Ikehara - SpEd department head - not present

Corey Sorenson - Athletic Director - Unable to attend - Goes to all Booster Meetings.

Next Meeting October 3rd in the school library

How do we know whether to talk to an Assistant Principal or a Principal about our student? Go to the person, teacher first. Then counselor or AP for your student.

What's the vibe this year? Overall theme this year is inclusion. Three pillars: Universal Design for Learning, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Restorative Practices. Feels like the best year yet post-pandemic.

What are our biggest challenges?

- Care Coordination needs pantry items, always!
- RET needs funds to support speakers.
- Large classes: we have more students than we were expecting.
- Healing post covid, focus on community

Can you talk about lunch?

Clubs will meet during lunch. Designated time for teachers to be available for academic support. Open gym. Lots of activities. Counselors are providing lunch support for seniors around college and post-secondary topics, and will then move towards other skills for lower grades.

How do students access the NeighborCare Health Clinic? Parents fill out forms each calendar year. Students can get all kinds of services, including confidential services (reproductive and mental health). Insurance can be billed, but no extra costs are ever charged. Appointments can be made by going to the Health Center, there is a text number, but going in person is the best.

What does Curriculum Night look like? October 12. Come and get a shortened experience of moving through your student schedule. Meet the teachers as they give 10 minute presentations. Resources will be available, lots of information and a window into the world of your student!

What about homework? How are we challenging our students and teaching innovation? Homework is not the root cause of innovation and creativity. Getting the opportunity to engage in outside activities, friends and family might be a better way. We are also examining how we grade and assess students. There is a bit of a shift in what it means to be successful in school. In addition, WSHS offers a wide variety of

courses and programs that can challenge kids in different ways (AP courses, Running Start, Skill Center, clubs, sports)

Who do we talk to about Running Start? Counselors

How do we check grades and track progress? PowerSchool app, The Source on the SPS website. Log in and check often! Naviance is a tool used to complete the High School and Beyond plan.

Can we talk about School Safety? 2 security on campus plus four admin. Roaming and checking bathrooms. Bathroom issues are mostly around students vaping. Overall building security protocols have been enhanced. Buzzer system to get into the building, all doors will remain locked and folks will have to buzz in.

What structures are put in place to identify students who are falling through the cracks socially? We have a group of students who are really struggling academically, behaviorally. We have Link Crew, every 9th grader is part of that program. Seeking out students who are sitting by themselves, creating lunch groups. WSHS knows that new students often need extra support, so we are assigning upper class mentors to new students in grades 10-12.

Can parents volunteer in clubs? Yes! Many clubs have outside organizations. Complete the parent volunteer paperwork. Westside Hey is looking for volunteers to chaperone activities! Reach out to Donna Kelly for more information.

7:45-8pm Opportunity for one on one questions and socializing

Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm