

Executive Board Meeting Tuesday May 11, 2011

Present: Amanda Drainville, JoAnna French, Ronisha Gordon, Alana Marino, Karen McCaskill, Mary Mulkeen, Maya Plotkin, Mike Redmon, Pam Schnatterly, Dawnmarie Shu, Stacey Theofilou, Rebecca Wasynczuk, Kelly Welch, HongMei Xu,

Pam extended her thanks to all the Beyond the Board members for a great year! Welcome to the new Secretary for fall 2021 JoAnna French, and welcome to the incoming treasurer Amanda Drainville. The outgoing officers (Alana Marino, Rebecca Wasynczuk) are available to share information and help their transitions.

Committee updates:

Community Enrichment: Karen updated the group on the virtual WHS Student-led Middle School Clubs. There are currently four clubs: Bookclub (8 students), Environmental club (6 students), Cooking Club (15 Students), and Robotics/Coding club (31 students). Westwood High school students are leading these clubs virtually and are doing an excellent job.

Teacher Appreciation Week – Mary and Jackie led a very successful teacher appreciation week. The PTO provided a week of breakfasts and/or treats for Thurston staff. Jackie created 5 gift baskets that were raffled off to teachers. The annex was decorated with tablecloths, balloons and signs. Custom cupcakes, and Starbucks coffee were donated. The extra request for monetary donations for this event helped, and in the future, the PTO might consider special fundraising specifically for this event. Special thanks to Jen Gleavy for daily help setting up. The teacher snack cart has been up and running for weeks now, and is a big hit among staff. Parent volunteer Tammy McGowen fills up two snack carts replenished as needed throughout the school year.

8th grade Events – Due to Covid restrictions there will be no 8th grade semi formal this year. There will be a special day events for 8th graders on the three last days of school. On Friday 6/11 there will be music and outdoor games (corn hole, spike ball, can jam etc) from 12:30-1:45. On Monday 6/14, the 8th graders will have an ice cream truck (12:05 to 1:40) and a spirit day in the afternoon, and on Tuesday 6/15, they will have their promotion day rehearsal and a special lunch. There may be a request for parent volunteers for crowd control for these events.

METCO Welcome Club update – Stacey provided an update on the welcome club activities. On 5/12 there will be an all school assembly with a facilitated discussion afterwards. On 5/17 the film “Code Switching”, a film describing the dynamic where individuals adapt their personalities to the situation they are in, will be shown. There will be a discussion following the film. On a Saturday in late May or early June, the welcome club will have a Juneteenth event combined with Hale Reservation. For next school year, the METCO committee has created goals for the school year, created a robust, in-person schedule of events, and they have submitted grants to help them in funding their program ideas. Currently, they have been awarded \$5000 from Boston Bridges to help fund a September welcoming event designed to encourage community relationships. The METCO group is encouraged to find that Hale Reservation as well as many local businesses share the goals of diversity and inclusion and they look forward to working together.

WHS Speech Club outreach program. HongMei updated the group regarding the Westwood High school Speech Club outreach to Thurston Middle Schoolers. The group meets weekly with registered Thurston students to provide speech club training. On Thursday, 5/13 at 2:30pm, a guest professor from CMU will present on how to make ideas go VIRAL.

SEPAC update – Kelly announced the following events planned by SEPAC. On Wednesday 5/19, SPEAC will host an event called “Language Based Learning differences” to educate parents on auditory processing disorders. On 6/6 from 2:00-4:00 SEPAC hosts an end of the year popsicle party at Sheehan to be held outdoors. Kelly also shared that there is an ongoing effort to start the Westwood Young Athletes program which is put on by the Special Olympics.

Mike Redmon’s Update: Mike thanked the current board for their work this year and in particular noted Teacher Appreciation Week, the addition of the snack cart, the progress of METCO, and the work on the 8th grade celebration. He expressed excitement about the upcoming all school assembly, the changes for next year’s school schedule, and revisions to the advisory program for next year.

Westwood Day will be on 9/25/2021, 10am - 3pm. The PTO will be present with our own tent. HongMei updated the group on our plans for on-site PTO membership enrollment, and a potential apparel sale including TShirts and TMS decals.

Treasurer’s Update. Alana announced that we are ending the year in a good place financially. She also announced the dates for the end of the year treat for students, the Ice Cream Truck, For 7th grade, Thursday, June 3, 12:05 to 1:40

For 6th grade, Friday, June 4, 12:05 to 1:40

For 8th grade, Monday, June 14th, 12:05 to 1:40

2021-22 school year . The PTO is now putting together its extended board group for next year with many remaining in their current roles. Anyone seeking to be involved in next year’s board should reach out to Pam and Hongmei at thurstonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com.