

Walt Whitman High School

PTSA Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2011

Welcome

PTSA Co-President Jay Kaufman welcomed everyone.

Approval of November Minutes

February Minutes were approved.

Student Government Report

SGA Advisor Sheryl Freedman gave the SGA Report.

- SGA raised \$22,000 during February to benefit Leukemia and Lymphoma.
- Every 15 Minutes, an alcohol and driving awareness program, was held on March 15 and will continue with an assembly on March 16. The 21 “living dead” are removed from class every 15 minutes by a police officer with an announcement being made that another student has died in an alcohol related car crash. Bethesda Chevy Chase and Glen Echo Emergency squads administered aid in a simulated crash with five Whitman students. Seniors witnessed the crash scene with it being live streamed to the rest of the Whitman students.
- Blood Drive will be held on April 15 in the small Gym.
- Children’s book drive being conducted to benefit two elementary schools, Oakland Terrace and New Hampshire Estates.

President’s Report

Co-PTSA President Robin Rosenblum gave the President’s Report.

- International Night was a success with approximately 1,000 students in attendance.

Post Prom

Sue Kanter, Post Prom Chair, reiterated that Post Prom is an event designed to keep students safe following the prom and will be on May 28 from 1 to 5 AM in the gymnasium.

- Capitol Steps fundraiser was held on Sunday, March 13, 2011, at 7 pm in the auditorium with 700 in attendance.
- Volunteer parents from all classes are needed for the event.

Principal’s Report

Every 15 Minutes. Dr. Goodwin thanked Ms. Freedman for her work on Every 15 Minutes noting that it is impossible to reach all the students but if only one person is influenced by the event than it is worth it. He explained that Every 15 Minutes has the most impact if held every four years. It is more emotionally draining the first day. The school is sensitive to those who do not want to participate as they may have been adversely affected by a recent death. Counselors are available for students.

Budget.

- Montgomery County Public Schools determined not to target high schools as hard as it did last year.
- There will be an involuntary transfer of two to eight teachers.
- Teacher retirements are forthcoming although Dr. Goodwin is not able to publicly announce them at this time.
- The community needs to be attentive to the possibility of more cuts that may result in larger classes, less teachers, and morale issues. Teachers do not want pensions cut along with no salary increases.
- Dr Goodwin emphasized that parents are very important to Whitman and their opinions are vital to the process.
- Staffing cuts will depend on 2011-2012 enrollment that is currently projected at 1,929 students. This is a decrease of 50 from the 2010-2011 enrollment of 1,979. Dr. Goodwin believes that enrollment will be higher than the projection, therefore, classes will be large.
- Clubs are currently meeting to determine how to raise money to benefit the victims of the Japan earthquake and tsunami.
- Regarding Dr. Jerry Weast's retirement, Dr. Goodwin is not aware of any in-house candidate and the slate is not public.
- No building service cuts will be announced until May.
- There will be no loss of security or secretaries. Police presence no longer at Whitman.

Treasurer's Report

Mario Finelli, Treasurer, reported that the largest expense remaining is Staff Appreciation. The plan to leave \$5,000 remaining in the Operating Fund is on track for the next school year.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee announced the 2011-2012 PTSA Executive Board Slate as follows:

President:	Robin Rosenblum
Executive Vice President:	Cindy Campbell
VPs for Membership:	Jodie Rasch and Sheryl Steinberg
VPs for Volunteers:	Wendy Kuhn and Lynn Wegman

Treasurer: Mario Finelli

Corresponding Secretary: Jodi McGill

Recording Secretary: Susie Zimmerman

MCCPTA Representative/Cluster Coordinators: Deb Lange and Jean Schlesinger

There was no new business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine A. McMullen, Recording Secretary