

**Agenda**  
**WWHS PTSA Meeting**  
**September 21, 2010**  
**7:30 pm, Media Center**

- 1) Welcome – Jay Kaufman
- 2) Approval of May Minutes
- 3) SGA Report – Zach Schloss
- 4) Principal’s Report -- Dr. Alan Goodwin
  - a) Introduction of New Administration
- 5) Presidents’ Report – Robin Rosenblum
  - a) Introduction of New Executive Board
  - b) Membership Report
  - c) Volunteer Report
  - d) MCCPTA Report
- 6) Treasurer’s Report – Mario Finelli
  - a) Presentation and Approval of 2010-2011 SY Budget
- 7) New Business
  - a) Elisa Glazer – Whitman Education Foundation
- 8) Adjournment

Upcoming dates:

September

- |    |                                                                                                            |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23 | Meet-the-Counselors Breakfast 9:00 am                                                                      |
| 23 | Making the most of the college application process with Whitman Graduate and Author Katie Malachuk 7:30 pm |
| 24 | Homecoming Game 6:30 pm                                                                                    |
| 25 | Homecoming Dance 8:30 pm                                                                                   |
| 28 | Whitman Clubs Night 7:00 pm                                                                                |
| 30 | Race to Nowhere screening 7:30 pm                                                                          |

October

- |     |                                                                            |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Early Release                                                              |
| 4-8 | HSA Exams                                                                  |
| 5   | Literary Evening (Book Club) Helen Simonson (Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand) |
| 11  | Open House for Parents – Columbus Day                                      |
| 13  | PSAT Grades 9, 10 & 11                                                     |
| 15  | No School – MSTA Convention                                                |
| 19  | PTSA Meeting 7:30 pm                                                       |



**Walt Whitman High School  
PTSA Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2010**

**Welcome**

PTSA Co-President Jay Kaufmann welcomed everyone. (Agenda Attached)

**Approval of May Minutes**

May 2010 Minutes were approved.

**Student Government Report**

Zach Schloss, SGA President, announced plans for Homecoming which is September 24 -25, 2010. September 22 is Battle of the Classes, September 24 is the pep rally and the football game versus Bethesda Chevy Chase High School and September 25 is the Homecoming Dance from 8:30-11:30 pm. Classes decorated the hallways. A different theme will be incorporated each day of the week leading up to Homecoming: PJ Day, Hippie Day, Battle of the Classes T-shirt Day, and Rodeo Day. The Guy Poms will perform at the Battle of the Classes and the Pep Rally.

Schloss encouraged students to attend Welcome to Whitman (Clubs) Night to be held on September 28 at 7:00 pm. transitioning as new students.

Schloss noted that SGA will be focusing on improving communication through the videos and Face Book events. He also encouraged the use of Walt Whitman's SGA web site.

**Principal's Report**

Dr. Alan Goodwin challenged the attendees at the PTSA to continue to attend the meetings and to become involved. Shirley Brandman, member of the Montgomery County Board of Education was introduced.

**Enrollment/Staffing.** The current student enrollment is 1,969. The registration of international students is ongoing due to a backlog at MCPS. Additional staffing includes three Special Education teachers, four Para Educators, three English teachers, one part time Biology teacher, one Math teacher and two new Assistant Principals.

**Introduction of Administrators.** Goodwin introduced Administrators Brandi Heckert and Jerome Easton. Each Administrator explained their duties and responsibilities. Heckert is the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and P to Z of 9<sup>th</sup> grade Administrator, math and computer sciences, web site, and maintaining and developing the master schedule. Easton's duties include 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Administrator and G to O for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and oversees Special Education and Social Studies.

**Homecoming.** Goodwin noted that Homecoming is an exciting event but students must be safe. There will be four security guards and four police officers present at the football game. It is important for parents to know where students are especially after the dance that will be held from 8:30 to 11:30. He also reminded the attendees that the boys frequently lose their sports jackets.

**PSATs.** PSATs will be held on October 13. 9<sup>th</sup> Graders will take a practice PSAT that will be self graded in order for them to become familiar with the test. 10<sup>th</sup> Graders' PSAT will be paid for by MCPS and parents will receive their score. The PSAT for 11<sup>th</sup> Graders is optional and costs \$13 to take. Results will be received approximately the first week of December. 11<sup>th</sup> Grade scores will determine scholarship eligibility including National Merit Semi-Finalists. Goodwin encouraged all students to take the PSAT as it will identify strengths and weaknesses. Goodwin discussed closing the achievement gap.

**Facility.** Physical improvements over the summer included the following:

- former Food Trends classroom has been converted into an English classroom with one third of the room being converted into a kitchen that is used for the Learning for Independence program that consists of 18 students.
- Speed bumps installed on the back entrance road.
- Web site improved where various people have access to update portions of the web site.
- Handicapped parking was redone in the parking lot due to a slight slope that proved dangerous for wheel chair accessibility. Resulted in a decrease of student parking slots.
- Sports Booster Club improved the weight room by replacing the rubberized mat and adding more fans.
- Due to humidity and lack of air conditioning in the gyms, the new floors shifted where the badminton and volleyball nets could not be installed in the predrilled holes. The contractor has redrilled the holes.

**Literacy News Project.** 75 students are involved in the project which helps students make a connection to the real world and improve global understanding. On October 17, Gwen Ifill will discuss *Politics and Race*.

**Stressbusters Committee.** Committee is a subcommittee of the Counseling Advisory Committee that works with administration and the Counseling Department to promote a calm environment and has been in existence for six years. The Stressbusters Committee is sponsoring *Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America's Achievement Culture* on September 30 at 7:30 in the Whitman Auditorium.

**Book Club.** Meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every month with a different speaker. The first meeting will be on October 5 with Helen Simonson leading a discussion on *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*.

## **Presidents' Report.**

Robin Rosenblum, Co-President, introduced the new Executive Board Members in attendance including Debbie Flack and Sharon Brossi, VPs Membership, Melinda Rubin, VP Volunteers, Mario Finelli, Treasurer, Deb Lang, MCCPTA Cluster Representative, and Catherine McMullen, Recording Secretary. Rosenblum also announced that Jodi McGill, is serving as the Corresponding Secretary and Whitnet Moderator, and Wendy Kuhn, as VP Volunteers.

**Membership Report.** Flack announced that to date \$21, 285 has been collected including \$6645 in contributions. Currently there are 533 members and 201 student members. Teacher solicitations for memberships begins this week. A competition is being considered among staff to encourage teacher membership.

**Volunteer Report.** Rubin noted that they need a Post Prom chair and two Co-Chairs for Club Night next year. Anyone interested in volunteering should see her or Wendy Kuhn.

**MCCPTA Cluster.** Lang explained that every local school sends a representative to participate in the county wide PTA. \$1 of PTSA membership dues go to the county level. She noted that the budget is even tighter than last year. The Board of Education has hired a search firm to look for Dr. Jerry Weast's replacement as he is retiring at the end of the school year.

**Treasurer's Report.** Finelli presented the 2010-2011 PTSA Budget reporting that it is similar to last year's budget. (Attached)

- \$2500 budgeted for Viking Voice but the goal is to have full participation for on line viewing. Opting in form to receive mailed copies is available and copies will be available in the front office.
- Speech and Debate line item is a pass through with no effect on the budget giving the club the ability to fun raise on-line.
- Post Prom is a pass through item with any funds raised going directly to Post Prom with PTSA only contributing a nominal amount.
- Technology expenses previously have included Promethean Boards, virtual skeleton for the Biology Department, and staff requests for technical items.
- Principal's Fund is Goodwin's wish list for items he needs for the school. Last year's items included security, Turn It In licensing fees, and painting of parking lines.
- Should the budget fall short of \$32,000 then items will be cut accordingly.
- Whitman Directory is a Senior Class project and will be available for pick up and for sale at the Open House and during 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> period lunch. A discussion was held regarding whether there was a less expensive way to provide directories. A report on the subject by a Whitman parent is to be forwarded to Goodwin and reviewed and discussed at the next Executive Board Meeting.
- Budget was approved.

**Whitman Education Foundation.** Elisa Glazer, President, explained that the Foundation was established in 2001 to raise support that goes directly back to Whitman. Support is also provided for a sister school. The funds raised have provided computers in the Media Center, restoration of the courtyard, upgraded sound system in the auditorium, and support for professional development. The Foundation meets on a quarterly basis and is open to any ideas for projects. Donation forms were available for parents and are also available on the Foundation's web site.

There was no new business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Catherine A. McMullen, Recording Secretary