

Minutes
WWHS PTSA Meeting
September 20, 2011
7:30 PM, Media Center

I. Call to Order, Introduction of PTSA Board Members

President Robin Rosenblum thanked the attendees for the terrific turnout. She reminded everyone that the schedule for all future meetings is available on the school website (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/whitmanhs).

Robin introduced all members of the PTSA Executive Board who were in attendance:

- Cindy Campbell, President-Elect
- Deb Lang, MCCPTA Representative/Cluster Coordinator
- Wendy Kuhn, VP Volunteers
- Jodi Rasch, VP Membership
- Mario Finelli, Treasurer
- Jodi McGill, Corresponding Secretary
- Susie Zimmermann, Recording Secretary

If you have not joined the PTSA, you may join online at pay4schoolstuffonline.com.

II. Submit Minutes from May 2011 Meeting

Minutes are submitted and posted on the school website in the PTSA section from each meeting. Minutes do not require membership approval for finalization.

III. President's Report – Robin Rosenblum

A. 9/11 Commemoration

A collaborative effort among the school administration, the PTSA, and the SGA, 9/11 commemoration activities included classroom activities, a canned food drive to benefit Manna Food Center, and videos that were also screened for parents immediately following the PTSA meeting.

In addition, the PTSA is coordinating an effort to raise money for a paver at the 9/11 Memorial in New York to remember the eleven citizens from Montgomery County that were killed on 9/11. Contributions to this effort can be made online at pay4schoolstuffonline.com.

B. New-to-Whitman Efforts

Several new coffees and other orientation events were held to welcome new families to Whitman, thanks to the Welcome-to-Whitman committee chairs, Jody Curtis and Mette Jessen/Whitworld.

C. Homecoming

The SGA is coordinating a number of activities for Homecoming on November 4 and the dance on November 5. Parent volunteers will be recruited via Whitnet.

D. Upcoming Events

September:

- 28 Early Release
- 29 No School – Rosh Hashanah

October:

- 5 Stressbusters Parent Meeting, Surviving the Freshman Year, 7:30-9:00 PM, Media Center (parents of students from all grades welcome)
- 10 Columbus Day/Open House for Parents, All Day
- 12 PSAT Testing, Grades 9-11
- 18 PTSA Meeting, 7:30 PM, Media Center
- 19 News Literacy Project Annual Fall Forum, 7:30-9:30 PM, Auditorium
- 20 Whitman 3rd Annual Golf Tournament
- 21 No School – MSTA Convention
- 27 CAC Meeting, Transitions in High School, 1:15-2:15, CIC
- 28 End of First Marking Period
- 31 No School – Professional Day

November Sneak Peek

- 2 Stressbusters Speaker, Dr. Brad Sachs, Parenting Teens, 7:30-9:00 PM, Auditorium

E. Research Manuals for Purchase

The original order of manuals is sold out but more have been ordered. Kim Schifrin will announce via Whitnet when they are available for purchase. While not mandatory, the manuals are recommended and very useful for English and other classes in which students research and write papers. Copies are also available for temporary use in classes and in the media center should students not wish to purchase them. The cost is \$30 and proceeds support the purchase of new materials for the media center.

IV. President-Elect's Report - Cindy Campbell

A. Students and Whitnet

Upon request by students, Whitnet will now be available to student subscription and participation. Whitnet is the PTSA's moderated listserv. Student participation will help teachers with club postings and allow the students to take greater initiative in communicating about their activities.

Information about subscribing to Whitnet and Whitcom is available on the school website in the PTSA section.

B. Viking Voice

Because of the wealth of information available on the school website and via Whitnet, this printed newsletter will no longer be produced by the PTSA board. Thanks went out to PTSA member Patti Silver for the many years she and her company have provided layout and production assistance with the Viking Voice. The board may consider a special summer printed piece to help new families learn about Whitman before entering the school.

C. Distracted Driving Presentation, Tuesday, November 15th

This year the PTSA meetings will be combined with speakers or other activities to help educate, inform and support parents. The first speaker will be at the November meeting. Sal Zambri, a Whitman parent, has a powerful presentation and video about the perils of distracted driving. Students will hear him speak earlier in the day, and then parents will hear his presentation after the PTSA meeting.

V. Principal's Report - Dr. Alan Goodwin

Dr. Goodwin introduced his valuable assistant principals: Kathy McHale, Brandi Heckert and Jerome Easton. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and urged everyone to maintain involvement in the school and at these meetings.

He addressed the following topics:

Clubs Night Taking place on the same night as the PTSA meeting, parents were urged to visit the wonderful array of clubs and activities that the students were providing to recruit new members.

Start of School School has gotten off to a smooth start. Enrollment is at 1950 (compared to a projection of 1927 and 1955 at the end of the 2010-11 school year). A few additional international students are expected once their enrollment processing at the central office is complete. Parents are welcome to visit the school any day.

Sports Boosters Thanks to their fundraising efforts, the weight room has been expanded and a new scoreboard installed. In addition, many other arts, music and other activities are supported by parent booster clubs.

9/11 The SGA wanted to have commemorative activities, and worked with the PTSA and staff to develop the activities that took place: videos and time for reflection and to write commitments to do something kind (these were posted on large poster sheets in the main hallway). Other schools did not do much for 9/11, and Dr. Goodwin expressed pride in the leadership our students showed to remember this important time.

Facilities The new Media Center has new carpet, as does the Career Information Center (CIC).

National Merit Semi-Finalists This year 22 Whitman students received this distinction. This high level of achievement is reflective of the quality instructional program at the school and strong support at home.

Safety Three arrests have taken place at school since the first day. Two were the day of the PTSA meeting, both for drug involvement. Dr. Goodwin urged parents to keep track of prescription medications and be vigilant. Students arrested received 10 days' suspension and can be transferred to another school temporarily for this first offense.

Upcoming Programming Parents are encouraged to attend the many events coming up: Stressbusters October 5 (How to Survive High School); the News Literacy Project, started by a Whitman parent to help students learn about news source reliability, and now in its 3rd year.

Education Foundation Foundation President Elisa Glazer was introduced. The Foundation solicits donations from parents, which fund many important projects and improvements around the school, including Promethean boards in classrooms, professional development, and support for needy students.

Communication Dr. Goodwin and the staff respond as soon as possible to emails from parents. If you don't get a response from a teacher in a few days, feel free to let him know.

Shelter-in-Place and Evacuation Drills Whitman follows county guidelines which the staff will post onto the website for parent information.

Class Sizes. The 10th grade is the largest, with 508 students. The others are roughly even, with fewer than 500 in each grade.

Cluster Communication PTSA Cluster Reps represent opinions of the PTSA membership to the School Board and County Council. The Cluster Representatives from the Whitman cluster meet regularly to discuss items of mutual concern and interest. Jean Schlesinger and Deb Lang will keep the membership informed of these meetings and discussions.

Be Vigilant Dr. Goodwin closed his talk with a reminder to parents to “be vigilant” and stay in charge for the safety and welfare of students.

VI. Treasurer’s Report

- A. Presentation of the 2011-2012 SY Budget
Post-Prom is now an official line item of the PTSA budget and no longer an independently budgeted program.
- B. Approval of the 2011-2012 SY Budget
A motion was made and approved to approve the budget.

VII. PTSA Board Members’ Reports

- A. Membership
Currently the membership is at 525 families, with nearly 200 more memberships to be processed and added to the database. There is still time to join online or by dropping a check off at the school. Of note are the 208 student members.
- B. Volunteers
Noted at the meeting were committees seeking volunteers:
 - Staff Appreciation Committee, which provides food monthly with a different theme each time
 - Media Center, recruiting volunteers for the first time
 - Post-Prom, which will require the support and assistance of many
- C. The Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)
Leadership seminars are available and open to anyone to attend. Listen and Learn events are taking place with new Superintendent Dr. Joshua Starr. The next in our area is October 10, 7:30 p.m. at BCC High School. (Dr. Starr has children at Burning Tree ES in our cluster.)
- D. Directory Update
Directories are now provided via PTSA membership. They are in final production and will be distributed via homerooms in mid-October. Copies will be available for sale in December as well. All proceeds go to the senior class.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Following the meeting, two of the 9/11 videos that our students had seen during school were shown to parents.