

Walt Whitman
PTSA Meeting
November 16, 2010

Welcome

Dr. Goodwin welcomed parents to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Approval of Minutes

Mario Finelli moved to approve the minutes from October's meeting. The motioned was seconded and approved.

SGA Report

General Assembly meeting during third period. 1 delegate from each class goes. Zach provided a summary of the business attended to:

1. Powder Puff Football was recently approved with anti-aggression measures. The competition between juniors and seniors will be held in the spring.
2. Movie Night Fundraiser– Ferris Bueller's Day Off will be shown December 16
3. Blood Drive – December 16
4. Library Committee has been formed to address a student issue. Ms. Trullio is allowing the library to stay open longer. She is keeping track of the number of people using it after school.
5. MC Regional SGA – two weeks ago Whitman sent 4 students to the MCR meeting. It was a chance to interact with other SGAs.
6. Box Top Fundraiser – SGA is starting to collect during 3rd period. There will be different awards for largest collectors.
7. SGA met last week with Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The high school that raises the most money wins an award. SGA is looking at adding to existing events that will add quality and quantity to our fundraiser.
8. Zach pointed out the calendar hanging at the top of the stairwell. Students feel it is a nice innovative change that garners school spirit. The idea came from a new SGA member.

Dr. Goodwin noted that he appreciates Zach's leadership. He likes his fun/ serious mix. He really appreciates the written proposals the SGA has submitted that support their ideas.

Art School Forum

Marjorie Scott explained what the Art School Forum is. She went through a FAQ sheet explaining that the forum is not mean to be a competition but an opportunity for students from throughout the county to come and show their portfolios to perspective colleges and universities.

Principal's Report

Dr. Goodwin recapped what has been going on:

- The Education Foundation purchased 18 new computers. They are being delivered to the media center tomorrow. This will give Whitman the capacity to accommodate 2 classes in the library.
- Had the second book discussion. 18 to 20 people participated.
- Finished the last of the literacy series. Newseum was filming.
- Playoffs – Girls Cross Country won states
- The play is supposed to be fabulous. Whitman has won the best musical and drama for the last three years.

Dr. Goodwin noted that he had some bad news to report. There have been some drinking and drug episodes. Whitman has a zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol. Usually Whitman has about 6 incidents a year. 3 boys were caught under the influence of alcohol at a football game. 2 girls were caught with drugs at school during the week. It bothers him that there are still unsupervised parties. We need vigilance and persistence.

Dr. Goodwin explained that Whitman's zero tolerance policy calls for a 1 year suspension from after school activities. If a student does 100 hours of community service she/he may regain after school privileges after 6 months. Whitman tries to keep kids engaged but it doesn't always work so the school is sticking to the no tolerance policy.

There were some questions regarding the immediate repercussions for the kids. Dr. Goodwin explained that when students are caught with drugs or alcohol at school or at a school function they automatically get 10 days of suspension. Depending on the severity of the offense, they may be recommended for expulsion. Whether they are recommended for expulsion depends on the quantity of the offending substance with which they are found. There is a difference between consumption and distribution. Dr. Goodwin did note that the school does not report suspensions to colleges.

Dr. Goodwin also noted that for the most part "partying" is not happening here. It is happening in the home and parents often cover and make excuses for their children. He again asked for vigilance and persistence in guiding our children to make the right choices.

Maryland Energy and Sustainability Co-op

Dr. Goodwin would like 5 or 6 solar powered lights for the parking lot. He invited Whitman alumni Miranda Hitchcock from MESC to speak. Whitman's green team is very active. MESC is looking to work with them and the faculty to get solar lights and reach other green goals. If the Whitman Community members join MESC, they will give \$50 back to the school.

President's Report

The Viking Voice is changing from a quarterly to a twice a year publication (November and April). It will be exclusively on-line unless you opt in for a mailed copy.

Whitcom was designed as an opportunity for open discussion where people can post and others respond. There is a gray area in regards to advertising. Often people try to use it as a forum for free advertising. PTSA is creating a new policy that there will be no advertising on Whitcom.

There are still preordered directories waiting for pick-up. There are about 100 available for purchase. Deb Lang is accepting revisions for an addendum.

Turkey Chase is Thanksgiving morning. The school with the most sign ups gets \$1000.

Membership

We've reached a slow down. Parents membership totals \$19,025; student membership totals \$2,045; we have \$8790 in contributions.

Treasurer's Report

Haven't spent anything. Most of the activity is from membership.