

Wilde Lake High School
PTSA Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020

- Attendees – Linda Leslie, Matta Zeinali, Rebecca Beall, Marcy Leonard, Demetrius and Phillip Weatherford, Amy Gomez, Amy Churilla, Dori Mornan, Erika Chavarria, Romelda M., Darla Lewis, Irene Julian, Marcus Nicks, Jen Lowry, Natalie and Beau Cybyk, Yetti Lipede, Kathy Boschulte, Tracie Holliday, Darla Lewis, Kimberly Hudgens, Kathleen Keck, Lisa Gray, Pat Marshall, Tracie Schmidt, Alissa Putman and Tania Faulkner
- Meeting called to order at 7:05pm
- Welcome to Wildecats parents and family members
 - All were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.
- Approval of September meeting minutes
 - Minutes did not go out to the membership. They will be approved at the November meeting.
- WLHS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coalition Members
 - Mr. Nicks
 - Bring restorative culture to the community.
 - Examine ways to be better as a school by brainstorming ideas to bring about a more restorative culture during virtual and in-person instruction, anti-racism and trauma-informed training, and mental health support for student groups.
 - Ensure no one gets left behind, be mindful of blind spots, anti-racism will allow us to be the best we can be.
 - Opening up lines of communication so that others can benefit from resources that some have already benefited from.
 - Ms. Chavarria
 - Focusing on staff development.
 - Being intentionally anti-racist.
 - Uplifting student voice and getting them involved in the community, doing needs assessment in the communities around Wilde Lake and using that information to make informed decisions.
 - School climate and culture survey recently went out for all to complete.
 - Goal of becoming a community school and addressing the needs of the school and community. Planning to physically go out to communities that students live in to have conversations and develop relationships in an organic way. Explore creative ways to engage parents that are not able to attend PTSA meetings and other events.
 - Started the process of engaging students and intends to continue doing that.

- Excited to partner with PTSA. Appreciate PTSA's willingness to work with the DEI team this year and in previous years.
 - Want systemic change not just a week of change and movement.
- Ms. Keck
 - DEI School Improvement Team Committee meeting is scheduled for 10/21 at 1 pm. The focus will be on suspensions and discipline and working to close the disparities that exist. There are disparities in discipline and disproportionate suspension rates for black and brown students, students with IEPs, and students receiving Free and Reduced Meal Services.
 - Email Mr. Nicks and Ms. Keck to join the committee. Need student and parent input.
 - All School Improvement Team Committees (SIT) are meeting on 10/21.
 - The DEI Coalition released its first newsletter which went out in the school newsletter on 10/16. Working on a Spanish version of the newsletter.
- Open floor Q&A and discussion with the DEI Coalition
 - Rebecca Beall expressed a desire to partner with the DEI Coalition in her role as a Harper's Choice Village Board Member to engage the community and plan community conversations in Harpers Choice.
 - Lisa Gray mentioned a recent Active Minds activity and highlighted Dr. McKnight-Dean dropping off popcorn to students as a great way of engaging and interacting with the community while socially distancing.
 - PTSA is available to help financially and otherwise. DEI team encouraged to ask for help when needed.
- Principal's Update
 - Introduced and thanked the DEI team members - Marcus Nicks, Kathleen Keck, Erika Chavarria, DeAnna Watson, and Anthony Bell.
 - Students for Social Justice meeting is on 10/22.
 - School Improvement Team Committees are looking for parent and student involvement.
 - Restorative Justice Survey/School Climate Survey was sent out in the newsletter and Canvas this week. Students took the survey during Wildecats time last Monday. Staff are also taking a version of the survey. All are encouraged to take the survey.
 - BOE Dates – important decisions to be made during the next three board meetings
 - October 22 –
 - Decision on start of Athletics and if to keep or eliminate final exams for this school year. If final exams are eliminated, Q1 and Q2 grades will make up final grades for 1st Semester and Q3 and Q4 grades will make up final grades for 2nd Semester.
 - November 5 –

- Details of 2nd semester instruction plan will be discussed – virtual, hybrid, or in-person (if vaccine available).
- November 19
 - Board will make a decision and vote on 2nd semester instruction plan.
- School Support team is reviewing attendance, completion of assignments and class participation, and reaching out to families to identify barriers and to ensure no student gets left behind. It is important to learn how our kids learn and what is best for them, and then provide resources and strategies to engage them. Some children are struggling. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback to teachers on how their children are doing - things that are working well and not. Parents can also reach out to grade-level administrators and email Ms. Leonard anytime.
- Staff is working very hard with virtual lessons, assessing our kids, etc. Reminder to teachers and parents to care for themselves as they are caring for home and school/work responsibilities.
- Virtual athletics – some teams are meeting virtually but not all. Parents encouraged to contact coaches or Mr. Penn with questions or if interested in teams that are not currently meeting.
- Holiday Winter help – the school is collecting donations and partnering with community groups to get food baskets and gift cards by mid-December for families in need. Donations can be made via the school website (OSP). Families in need of assistance during the winter/holiday season should contact the principal's secretary, April Richardson (april_richeson@hcpss.org). \$1,500 has been donated so far.
- Treasurer's Report
 - The October Treasurer's Report will be shared with the membership via email.
 - Cash on hand is \$25,477.10
 - PTSA is in need of membership and direct donations in order to get to its budgeted amount of \$6,300. To date, \$4,130 has been received.
 - Expenditures that will be coming soon include the \$3,000 check presented to the school for the Teen Parenting program. The PTSA needs an explanation of how these funds will be spent.
 - Working on spending money for mental health grant and need to work with the school to pay for online training.
 - Pat Marshall volunteered as the third resource to assist Tracie with auditing the books.
 - Tracie plans to share treasurer reports with the board via google drive so that board members can have access to the files for future meetings.
- Updates from the Maryland PTSA, PTAHC, CAC, SECAC.
 - CAC (Lisa Gray)
 - Digital resources team had a virtual meeting on 10/16. There were four special guests who shared a presentation on Canvas Tips for Parents. Minutes will be shared once they are posted on board docs.
 - Policy updates were given and new members voted in.
 - CAC Presidents met with the Board of Education (see Board Docs for details).

- PTAHC
 - Pat has no report/update. Cynthia Fikes attended the last PTAHC meeting.
- Memberships (Jen Lowry)
 - 130-135 new members have joined the PTSA so far this year. Membership is down from last year.
 - Email went out to encourage new memberships.
 - Membership committee has been brainstorming on ideas to encourage new memberships -
 - Using lawn/yard signs to encourage community to join PTSA
 Members are encouraged to email other ideas to Irene, Alissa, and Jen.
 - Members are also encouraged to retweet and re-share the PTSA's posts on social media.
- WLHS and HCPSS Announcements
 - Request for PTSA Reps on School Improvement Team (SIT) Committees - All committees meeting on 10/21 at the same time.
 - Graduation and Post-Secondary Indicators: meredith_adams@hcpss.org and jennieve_hill@hcpss.org
 - Student Wellness (mental health): nicola_kosecki@hcpss.org and stephanie_tam@hcpss.org
 - PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support -- student celebrations and connections): jamie_proctor@hcpss.org
 - DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion): kathleen_keck@hcpss.org and marcus_nicks@hcpss.org
 - Upcoming Board of Education SRO Public Meetings and Hearings
 - November 12, 6:30-8pm
 - Mental Health Virtual Workshop for parents and families sponsored by Family Works Together (paid for by Horizon Grant)
 - November 10, 7-9pm via Zoom
 - HC DrugFree National Drug Take-Back Day. Drop off unneeded extra medicine.
 - October 24, 10am-2pm
 - Need volunteers and medical personal to help, especially from noon to 2pm. All volunteers should register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdultVolunteerOct24>
 - Volunteers who are medical personnel will meet by Slaten House/UPS and non-medical personnel will meet by Feet First.
 - Fall Semester Answer Classes
 - Last class was held this past weekend (two class sessions). PTSA can schedule an ACT class and other SAT sessions if needed.
 - PTSA Website
 - A live link to the PTSA website is now operational on the school website.
 - The PTSA website representative is working on updating the PTSA website.
 - Staff Recognition Program

- Need to engage the hospitality committee to get this program going.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm