

**Walt Whitman High School
PTSA Meeting Minutes February 17, 2009**

Welcome

PTSA Co-Chair Sue Kanter called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

January Minutes were approved.

Student Government Association Report

Doug Acker, SGA President, reported on the Pennies for Patients, Leukemia and Lymphoma Drive, Battle of the School and Battle of the Beards. Proceeds from the Winter Dance will benefit the Debate Team. [The Winter Dance was later cancelled because of conflicts with sports playoffs.] Books collected from an upcoming book drive will be earmarked for a MCPS school.

Presentation: Less Commonly Taught Languages by Michelle Quackenbush.

Languages considered LCTL at Whitman are Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Latin and Japanese. The presentation was extremely informative. To view the power point please go to the Whitman website

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/whitmanhs/parents/ptsa/ptsa_meeting_minutes/foreign%20language%20presentation_files/frame.htm. Ms. Quackenbush used a promethean board for her presentation to demonstrate how teachers and students use them each day.

Principal's Report

Dr. Goodwin reported that registrations are due next week. They will hear in March about staffing for '09-'10. Current enrollment is 1855 and anticipated enrollment is 1866 for next year. Staffing is based on student registrations. MCPS refers to it as Zero Based Staffing. He does not expect any major changes in class size. There will be some teachers who retire without being replaced. He encouraged everyone to attend the theatrical production, The Odd Couple, this weekend and International night held 3/12. There will be an African American Assembly on 2/26. The students from Seoul High School were here for a week. It was great visit for all involved. Nine Whitman students will be going to Seoul in July for a similar exchange. The Senior Banquet scheduled for 3/15 will be a brunch rather than the traditional dinner due to rising costs. Winter sports have gone well. Wrestling won the region but lost the state championship. Summer Reading is being reevaluated at the county level. There is concern about students being required to buy books for annotation in some classes as well as general concern that there are not enough books available at libraries for students to get reading done without purchasing the book. Since the school is not allowed to charge students for anything that is directly related to the curriculum it is not possible for school to expect students to buy books in order to get reading done. The summer reading discussion is a byproduct of the discussion of fees that was raised in the fall. There has not been a definitive determination made re fees but it appears that anything directly related to the curriculum may not be charged for. Whitman's Auditorium will be closed this summer for renovation of the outdated

lighting system. The cost is estimated at \$100K. Budgeted monies from MCPS will pay for the work. Question was asked about class size: English classes are capped at 28 with most others at 32. PE has no limit. Whitman is required to provide oversized class reports to MCPS. The Administration has been able to whittle it down to just 7 classes.

Co-President's Report

PTSA Co-chair Vicky Strella reported on upcoming events including the Capitol Steps fundraiser on Sunday, March 8th at 7pm in the Auditorium, International Night on March 12, Dine Out for Whitman (Post Prom fundraiser) on 3/18, Talent Show, and Festival of the Arts in May. Senior Parent Volunteer(s) are needed to coordinate a Beach Week Talk on the finer points of Beach Week. There may be a joint presentation done with Walter Johnson. As in years past, Mrs. Melanie Hudock is offering an alternative to the traditional beach week with a trip to Disney. Please contact her if your student may be interested.

Treasurer's Report

Janice Mehler reported that we are still identifying where to cut costs due to shortfall in membership donations this fiscal year. There have been some savings in lowered newsletter printing costs and the Lloyd Thacker presentation was less costly to the PTSA than had been expected.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle McHugh (Recording Secretary)