

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

Welcome

PTSA Co-President Sue Kanter welcomed everyone.

The Transition House Presentation

Staff members made a brief presentation about The Career Transition House, a program at St. Luke's House, Inc. for high school juniors and seniors with serious emotional disabilities. The program helps students make a successful transition to college, vocational school, or work force. The Program combines the expertise of St. Luke's House and the Transition Unit of MCPS. It provides resources to students and families alike. It previously served only Special Education students but has been recently awarded a Social Security Administration grant that will allow them to serve up to 100 more students. Transition House works with students up to a year after high school graduation. For more information call 301 493 4200 x303 or email ctpinfo@stlukeshouse.com.

Approval of February Minutes

February Minutes were approved.

SGA Report

Elisa Jacome, SGA Vice President, reported on spring activities. Blood Drive is scheduled for March 31 in the small gym. Students aged 16 and up can give blood with parent permission. Parents can give blood as well. Second Annual Spring Fair is scheduled for May 31st from 4:30-8:30pm. Funds raised will be donated to Whitman clubs. There is a toiletry drive going on at present. Proceeds from Mr. Whitman contest, scheduled for May 16th, will go to charity. Feedback from the Senior Brunch, formerly an evening banquet, was very positive.

Principal's Report

International Night was a huge success! Whitman's Debate Team is sending 16-17 students to the National Tournament. Spring sports have gotten off to a good start. A water main break which caused a sinkhole on the football field has been fixed in time for track and lacrosse events.

Enrollment is expected to 1876. Based on enrollment, some teachers have been released to find work at other schools. The Tech Ed department will see an increase in the number of staff since MCPS has limited the number of classes that meet the Tech Ed requirement, but changes in course offerings which will affect staff members. Special Education has lost 1 ½ teachers. The staffing for Special Education students is based on students needing at least 15 hours/week. A Composition Assistant as well as an English Department Instructional Assistant has been cut. There have been no involuntary transfers in core subjects. Comprehensive offerings remain the same.

Whitman has been made aware of the possibility of a protest at our school by a group called the Westboro Baptist Church. A letter will be distributed before or shortly after Spring Break addressing the issue at length.

Presentation by Rebecca Kahlenberg: “The Upside of a Down Economy for Raising Teens”

Co-Presidents’ Report

Jennifer Kelly, Post Prom treasurer, and Sue Kanter reported on the current tax deductibility for Post Prom contributions. A resolution was presented that would bring the Post Prom committee and all its activities under the umbrella of the PTSA for the purpose of passing through tax exempt status. A motion was made to adopt the printed proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and passed.

Nominating Committee, comprised of Judy Brooks, Jen Hohenboken, Anne Hollander, Jan Bennett, and Joan Wolf, is in the process of finding candidates to replace retiring Executive Committee members.

International Night was a great success. Festival of the Arts under the guidance of Art Department teacher, Mr. Burgess, is scheduled for May 13th – 14th.

Treasurer’s Report

Janice Mehler, PTSA Treasurer, reported on revenue and spending. Dr. Goodwin mentioned the need for new desks. Cost is approximately \$100/desk. Dr. Goodwin will check with Business Manager, Eddy Campbell, about availability in MCPS warehouse. There is enough money in the Program and Classroom Grants line item to buy at least 10 desks.

VP Reports

Jay Kaufman, Membership VP, reported that membership is complete for ’08-’09. A suggestion was made to follow Hockey Team model and have online credit card payment available for PTSA dues and contributions.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Noelle McHugh, Recording Secretary