

**WEST END SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 11, 2024

Agenda

- President's Update
- Principal's Statement
- Treasurer's Report
- Upcoming Events
- Other EB Updates

I. Call to Order

Co-President Rebecca Weel called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Board members shared recent experiences they have had with their children.

In attendance: Rebecca Weel, Max Alvarez, Samantha Alvarez Benowitz, Trisha Bechard, Jason Benowitz, Jill Gabin, Jessica Jenkins, Laurie Marshall, Matt Merdinger, Rachel Polimeni, Liz Sorem, Barry Waldman and Sheri Wilson.

II. President's Update

December EB meeting minutes were approved.

Discussion was held about events for 6th grade students and families. Middle school socials will likely be student led this year with school administration involvement.

There was discussion about having class crew WhatsApp groups and selecting crew parents to serve as leads.

Karen Cape has created a new WESS PA website. It will be made available to the PA to review. Rebecca took us on a tour of the new site.

Book Club is on Tuesday, January 17, at 9:30 am.

The January PA Meeting is next Wednesday in person.

Another Robotics grant was received and the club kicked off officially. More funding will be needed to pay for the coach. Budget is probably short by around \$7,000 out of \$40,000 total. There will be a parent breakfast in early February, possibly February 6, so they can see what is being done. A foundation may be presenting a large physical check donation.

March 2 will be the Food Festival and April 5 will be the Spring Benefit.

III. Principal's Report

Jessica thanked the PA for the teacher's appreciation luncheon at the end of the year, hosted by Rachel Polimeni and Kathryn Oblad. Teachers are very appreciative.

Jessica would like to bring back crew parents, so that it is consistent across the whole school. She is proposing a small committee that meets with her, Joe and our social worker to define what the crew parents' roles will be. Output would be a one page document. Jill Gabin and Yvette Russell would be good tap into for that committee. 3-4 parents would be a good number of people on this committee. Trisha volunteered to be involved. Ideal timing would be Regent's week.

JSU and BSU have been involved in discussions with the administration to pilot student education. This will be rolled out in the coming weeks. Ideally these groups will present to the parent association. Plans will be made to bring in middle schoolers to the discussion.

IV. Treasurer Report

\$34,500 in family giving has been collect from 61 families since the last meeting. In total \$53,300 was collected from 86 families which is down 18% from last year. We got more in corporate matching this year: \$5,300 versus \$1,500 last year at this time. WESS \$540 in interest earned since the last meeting. Last year, total family giving was \$92,892.

\$680 was spent on the college march for a total of about \$2,400. \$600 was covered for 7th grade field trips.

Spent funds on SAT prep and diagnostic prep, that will be reimbursed by parents. PA supported \$1,000 for staff holiday lunch and treats. Rachel Polimeni and Kathryn Oblad hosted the staff lunch from a food truck, as expected, and it went very well.

PA is supporting for CATES Diagnostic testing and it needs to be determined out of which bucket this will be taken from the budget. Funds have been allocated for Deeper Learning conference to cover flights and expenses for two teachers.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Waldman, Recording Secretary