

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

*October 17, 2023*

**Agenda**

- Presidents' Update
- Principal's Update
- Treasurers' Report
- Important Upcoming Dates
- Family Giving Campaign

I. **Call to Order**

Co-President Rebecca Weel called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

In attendance: Yvette Russell, Rebecca Weel, Trisha Bechard, Jason Benowitz, Samantha Alvarez Benowitz, Karen Cape, Jill Gabin, Karyn Gooden, Aishwarya Kumar, Jennifer Richey, Liz Sorem and Barry Waldman.

II. **President's Update**

Prohibition is booked for November 1 for Middle School and November 2 for High School socials. Venue is parent-owned. Events are planned for 7:00.

Elections will be held next week, October 26 for 6th grade reps and High School reps. There are now 2 committed 6th grade reps running and one maybe. Priority is for new parents. There are 2 candidates for high school reps.

Erin Banks is in a full-time job, so will need another committee lead or 2 co-leads for the spring benefit.

Encouraging anyone reaching out to the school to remind that everyone is here by choice. Everyone should take the time to speak respectfully. There are many examples of emails, voicemails and more that are not appropriate. This relates to the attacks in Israel and overall parent communication to the staff and administration. A note, similar to last year, can be sent and a statement made at the beginning of PA meetings and coffee gatherings.

December EB and PA meeting dates may change.

Possibly having a Compassionate Communication session as part of a PA meeting.

Suggestion on having sessions for students on financial responsibility, opening up accounts, how to save money, etc. There is a Life Essentials class in high school.

Suggestions were made to share sports updates in parent newsletters, similar to what is done with morning announcements at school.

Samantha is looking into sponsors for high school robotics competitions. It costs about \$38,000 to have a program, and \$6,000 to enter a NY one. She has submitted grants to 8 places and heard from one. Mercedes has committed to a \$5,000 donation. Suggestion was made to highlight for parents in the newsletter what is needed.

Homecoming was a big success. It was the 5th event at the Hudson and staff were very complimentary how well it was run.

### III. Treasurer Report

\$3,485 received in Family Giving to date.

Some expenses made for welcome events and sports fees. Funds will be coming in to cover those fees. Track uniforms are being covered by PA, but most if not all costs will be fulfilled by booster fund and dues.

\$1465 in interest was already generated from the Capital One transfer.

There is a penalty for filing taxes late that is being disputed.

Discussion on when to start Family Giving. Last year, first contact was sent at the end of October. New sets of correspondence are being drafted.

Cabaret Night and Family Giving will be starting soon so funds will be coming in soon.

No decision made on raising the suggested donations amounts for Fund Raising.

### IV. Diversity and Inclusion Update

Event will be planned in spring, around March timeframe.

### V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Barry Waldman, Recording Secretary