

WEST END SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION
227 WEST 61ST STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023
WESSPA.ORG

PA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2023
6:30 PM Over Zoom

I. Opening

Co-President, Rebecca Weel called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. There were approximately 62 participants on Zoom.

Agenda

- Presidents' Update
- Treasurer's Report
- Cabaret Night, Parent Socials, Coffee Chats
- Approve September Minutes
- Election of 6th Grade and High School Reps

II. President's Report

Yvette Russell and Rebecca Weel opened the meeting with a Mentimeter on where people have seen Best Fall Foliage Locations.

Yvette shared some guidance on working as a community with respect and some norms that we should follow:

- Act with kindness
- Assume best intentions
- Listen to one another
- Be open to different perspectives and ideas
- Be thoughtful about different situations and circumstances
- Focus on and represent the community
- Disagree in a respectful way
- Be patient

Bo Magnussen discussed the upcoming Cabaret Night as one of our first fundraisers of the year. There is only room for 100 people. The event is scheduled for November 15 at the Triad Theater. 158 W72nd Street. Comedians, juggler and sing-along piano player will be entertaining WESS parents. A VIP wine reception will be held at 6:30. Additional donations are welcome. The outing will continue at the bar next door as the afterparty gathering.

Parent socials are planned at Prohibition. Middle School parents will be gathering on November 1 at 7 pm and High School parents November 2 at 7 pm.

Four more coffee chats are scheduled:

- 12th Grade- October 27th at 9am
- 9th Grade- October 30th at 9am
- 7th Grade- November 1st at 9am
- 11th Grade- November 2nd at 9am

Coffees will likely repeat later in the year for all year grades.

Crew and electives will swap places on Tuesday so there will be fun activities for Halloween. Karyn will send out guidelines about what costumes are appropriate.

Many PA meetings and other gatherings will occur in the WESS building.

September PA meeting minutes were approved.

WESS Benefit Event will be held as a fundraiser in the spring.

Annual fundraising campaign will kick off soon.

Book club will be launching in a few weeks.

The second annual WESS FoodFest is planned for this year. It is a collaboration of PA VPs of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Student Leaders, SLT Teachers and Administration. It will likely occur in March. It was a huge success last year.

The PA issues a monthly newsletter. Please let presidents know if you do not receive it.

PA presidents can be reached at papresidents@westendsecondary.com

III. Treasurer's Report

Family giving has bumped up a little, although formal requests have not been made yet. Cabaret Night revenue is starting to come in with tickets being sold, for a total of \$1,780, so far. There are some expenses for teacher professional development, passages expenses and hospitality events in September. Dues are being collected for track, soccer and volleyball. Interest is growing from money in the new savings account.

Treasurers can be reached at ptreasurer@westendsecondary.com with any questions.

IV. Elections

Elections for High School (2) and 6th Grade (3) Representatives are being held. Preference is for parents who are new parents to the school.

High School Representatives - the vote was uncontested:

- Laurie Marshall
- Liz Sorem

6th Grade Representatives - the vote was uncontested:

- Matt Merdinger
- Rachel Polimeni
- Sheri Wilson

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Barry G. Waldman
Barry G. Waldman, Recording Secretary