

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

PA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2023
9:00 AM Via Zoom

I. Opening

Co-President, Rebecca Weel called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. There were approximately 68 participants on Zoom.

Agenda

- Approve March Minutes
- Presidents' Update
- Treasurer's Report
- AP for All
- PA and SLT Elections

March minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

Rebecca started the meeting with a Mentimeter

Graduation for 12th grade is 6pm on June 13 and June 20th at 6pm for 8th grade..

There is school on June 9 for WESS students.

Spring Benefit

Spring Benefit was a huge success. Big thanks to Erin Banks and her team. Everyone was thanked for donations, coming out and all the work that went into it.

Live Out Loud event was held on April 18. There was high turnout of students, parents, teachers, and staff. It was a helpful and collaborative discussion over LGBTQ+ terms such as how to handle changing pronouns and ways to support people exploring their identity. There are plans to bring the team to speak with WESS staff as well.

A WESS student and former one won the Toshiba science competition. More information will be in the weekly newsletter.

SLT and PA Elections

Elections for PA and SLT will be held on May 24, at 6:30 pm

PA Positions

- Co-Presidents
- Co-Treasurers
- VP of High School
- VP of Middle School
- VP at Large
- Co-VPs of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Communications Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- High school representative
- Co representatives for 6th grade

SLT

- Kimberly Kay is the chair
- There will be at least one position open for SLT
- Everyone has to run again
- Only body that includes administration, students and parents
- It meets once a month in the morning
- An equal number of parents and staff, including Principal, Teacher's Union Representative, elected parents, PA Co-President, and students.
- Please reach out to Kimberly Kay - SLT Chair, kkisok@gmail.com

III. Treasurer's Report

Auction brought in \$96,550.94, while last year brought in \$100,000. Came in short of upped goal. Overall, we are lower on donations than budgeted. This can impact budget for next year. There will be one more Family Giving push before the end of the year.

There have been some expenses for student socials for middle school, auction and sports. Erin is sending out all receipts for the auction.

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

IV. AP for All

Assistant Principal Joe Rodriguez led this part of the meeting. Goal had been of Mayor deBlasio of students taking 5 AP courses. WESS students take 9-12 AP courses. WESS offers 17 AP courses. Colleges look favorably on AP courses, not just the scores on the tests, but the fact that they are taken.

At WESS, in ninth grade, students start just with one AP course. We don't want to overwhelm our students, and the course is AP Human Geography. In 10th and 11th grade AP courses have research projects and papers, which gives them sort of a nice introduction to the kinds of demand and rigor they should expect in college. AP test scores don't appear on student transcripts. Only Regents test scores appear on student transcripts.

- 100% of WESS students from first graduating class have a post-secondary plan
- 97% are enrolled in college or university
- Students not pursuing college are pursuing gap year programs, engaging in job readiness programs or entering the workforce directly
- Average SAT score of 1140

This year's senior class is building on last year's progress. Passing rate for AP exams has been really high at WESS.

There had been a program to help pay for AP classes by the city in the past. That program has ended. Families may be eligible for a fee reduction. Payments can be received until June. There is also a form that needs to be completed if student wants to opt out.

Request was made to share what students need to pass and get college credit.

Concern was raised about the possibility of not finishing the curriculum adequately before the AP test as other regions of the country start school weeks or a month before New York does. Students needs to do a lot of work. WESS tries to be strategic to reach all key elements that are addressed on the tests.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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