

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

PA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2023
6:30 pm Via Zoom

I. Opening Exercise

Co-President, Rebecca Weel called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. There were approximately 47 participants on Zoom.

Principal Jessica Jenkins kicked off the meeting with a discussion and exercise related to expeditionary learning. Everyone had the opportunity to attend three different sessions led by teachers that were about twelve minutes, followed by two or three minutes of questions from parents.

Everyone rotated through three breakout groups out of a possible five:

- Standards Based Grading and JumpRope
- Learning Expeditions/Workshop Learning
- Crew
- The Arts and Expeditions
- Our College Office

II. President's Report

Upcoming Events:

Sat, March 4	WESS Food Festival
Tues, March 7	Middle School Parent Social
Thurs, March 9	High School Parent Social
Fri, March 10	6th Grade Student Social
Thurs, March 16	Live Out Loud in-person Workshop
Wed, March 22	Next PA Meeting, 6:30 Pm
Thurs and Fri March 23-24	Student-led Conferences
Fri, March 24	7th Grade Student Social
Fri, March 31	WESS Spring Benefit

January minutes were approved.

Principal's Report

On March 23 and 24th, we are going to have student led conferences which will take the place of parent teacher conferences.

Teacher appreciation coffee was recognized for warmth and compassion by the staff.

Presentation of Learning for 7th grade took place yesterday. 87 parents were registered and many attended.

Ninth grade POL took place last week and was also well attended.

Tutoring will be available for students for AP courses. Tutoring sessions will take place throughout the week at various times to account for student schedules.

Restorative Justice

Jozef Mackie - WESS Restorative Justice Facilitator - gave a presentation on Restorative Justice and how it is applied at WESS. Presentation was sent around after the meeting.

Did an opening exercise on how everyone is feeling right now. Many said "connected".

He works to understand the root causes of behaviors and work on solutions together. Administration leadership along with crew teachers, class teachers and other counselors. Collaboration is done with other outbound schools too.

Disruption - if a student engages in disruptive behavior the teacher in the class will try to resolve the situation in the moment, not focusing on punitive actions. A restorative conversation, teacher documentation and possible contact to parents/guardians.

Disrespectful - If disruptive behavior is repeated after different interventions or the behavior is repeated.

They have social media guides available for parents for 12 and under and for 13 and older students.

WESS has been working with Common Sense Media

60-75% of issues at WESS start from social media. Need parents partnering with school to work with students to educate them on proper usage.

Feedback from parents on call was very positive.

III. Treasurer's Report

Family Giving is approximately \$18,000 behind the same point last year. It's never too late to contribute towards Family Giving.

Spring Event is March 31. Ticket sales have already begun to come in.

Contribution of \$20,000 made towards eighth grade trip. Started to fund some of the expenses for senior expenses including prom. Donations are also coming in which will offset that.

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

IV. Upcoming Events

The International Food Festival will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at WESS to focus on foods and cultures from around the world that we have in our WESS community. This will be hosted by the Diversity and Inclusions VPs along with administration, SLT and PA. Please email pavpdei@westendsecondary.com if you are interested in helping plan the event.

WESS Spring Benefit - Friday, March 31 7-10 pm at the Hudson. Erin Banks is the Chairperson of the committee. Parents are encouraged to begin soliciting donations and gifts. Flyer and donation form links can be found at www.wessbenefit.com. Reach out to the team at wessbenefit@gmail.com. Erin will be "walking the block" on Tuesdays to solicit businesses for donations. Team is also looking for grade-level baskets.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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