

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

PA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2023
6:30 PM Via Zoom

I. Opening

Co-President, Rebecca Weel called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. There were approximately 62 participants on Zoom.

Agenda

- Presidents' Update
- Treasurer's Report and Budget Representation
- Approve April Minutes
- Principal's Report
- PA and SLT Elections
- Presentation of the Updated Bylaws

April PA meeting minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

Rebecca started the meeting with a Mentimeter on what people are excited about for Memorial Day Weekend.

Next meeting is Tuesday, June 13 at 9:00 am. We will be voting on our budget and updates to the bylaws.

Sports Banquet is June 9th.

Arts Night is June 15.

End of year teacher gifts collection will be collected over the next few weeks

III. Treasurer's Report

We are behind our goal for Family Giving by \$30,000. Our goal is \$120,000 and we are currently at \$90,688. We are still encouraging people to donate and leverage company matching. Auction brought in \$96,050. Overall goal for revenue is \$233,000 versus actual of \$191,000. Some of the gap has been reduced with savings on expenses. Senior dues are still coming in. Overall we are under by \$18,000 versus projected \$25,000.

Suggestion was made to send Family Giving totals by family on an ongoing basis, to encourage additional giving. Principal Jenkins stated that in-person meetings will also help with increasing Family Giving.

Budget for 2023-2024 was reviewed. The Outward Bound Program will receive limited funding from DOE so PA is supplementing. This budget will be voted on by the PA general membership on June 13.

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

IV. Principal's Report

Principal Jenkins discussed the importance of PA funding for professional development. Teachers are strongly encouraged to take professional development during the summer. Crew teachers are also given three-day training on the importance and value of advisory in school. AP teachers also take professional development training.

We have partnered with Take2 Film since 2015. Every single grade will be touched by film for one of their expeditions.

Decision Day celebration happened last week in Central Park. Students wore their college gear. Scholar Athletes were honored. Pictures were taken.

This is the 6th class graduating 8th grade and it is the highest number of students staying at WESS,, along with the highest number of students matching to specialized high school.

V. SLT and PA Elections

Mary-Elizabeth Vachon and Liz Sorem are helping run the election, since they are not up for election at this juncture.

PA Positions - all Executive Board elections were uncontested

- Co-Presidents - Rebecca Weel and Yvette Russell
- Treasurer - Jason Benowitz
- Recording Secretary - Barry Waldman
- Communications Secretary - Karen Cape
- VP at Large - Max Alvarez
- VP of High School - Jill Gabin
- VP of Middle School - Jennifer Richey

- Co-VPs of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Samantha Alvarez Benowitz and Aishwarya Kumar

SLT

- There is one position open for SLT - Bo Magnussen, Debra Plafker, and Anneli Ballard ran for the seat and the election was won by Bo Magnussen with 35 of 53 votes cast.

VI. WESS PA Bylaws

Changes to bylaws were reviewed. These include financial, meeting, number of board members per position and term limit updates. A vote by the PA general membership to approve the updated bylaws will be held on June 13.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Barry G. Waldman

Barry G. Waldman, Recording Secretary