

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

PA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2022
6:30 PM Via Zoom

I. Opening Exercise

Co-Presidents, Yvette Russell and Rebecca Weel called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. There were approximately 75 participants on zoom. Co-Presidents began with an exercise on Mentimeter on what people like about fall.

II. Co-Presidents' Statement

Co-Presidents Yvette Russell and Rebecca Weel opened the meeting with a statement about goals of the PA meetings.

III. Approve PA Minutes

June 2022 and September 2022 PA minutes were approved.

IV. Elections

Statement was shared about rules for elections and that every parent of WESS students can vote. There are two 6th grade rep positions and one VP of HS position available. Each of the candidates spoke about their backgrounds and reasons why they are running.

6th Grade Rep Candidates - position was uncontested and motion to elect Ms. Galansky and Ms. Johnson passed

Galia Galansky
Erica Johnson

VP of High School - this election is contested

Liz Sorem

Laurie Marshal was not present due to illness, but Rebecca Weel read her statement

Ms. Sorem was elected as VP of High school.

V. Upcoming Events

Cabaret Night is coming up on Wednesday, November 16 at the Triad Theater. There are only 100 tickets available, so participants are encouraged to purchase soon.

Middle School events are being planned by Jennifer Richey.

6th grade event will be on November 1

7th grade event will be on November 2

8th grade event will be November 9

All of the middle school events will be held at:

Bodega 88, 573 Columbus Ave, at 6:30

If you would like to be a 7th or 8th grade rep, please contact Jennifer Richey at pavpms@westendsecondary.com

Next meeting for the Spring Event will be held at 7pm on November 3. Email Erin at wessbenefit@gmail.com if you are interested in helping plan the event.

The International Food Festival will be held in January 2023 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. Please email pavpdei@westendsecondary.com if you are interested in helping plan the event.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Some money is coming in from the yearly campaign and Amazon Smile, along with Cabaret Night.

Initial expenses for 12th grade graduation at Symphony Space and dues have been allocated.

Our school is a bit over enrolled, so we will get additional funds from the DOE. Due to that fact, EB will not need to solicit additional money for the class overnight trips.

The core revenue sources are the spring event and the yearly campaign and those funds have not really started yet. As such, the budget will appear negative for much of the year until those events are kicked off formally.

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

VII. VP of HS

Skip Card spoke about the outreach he is doing to high school parents and the buddy program. There are some new students still joining the school. If anyone wants to be in the buddy program please contact the reps at: pavphs@westendsecondary.com

Prom planning is going to begin.

A high school parent event will be held at Prohibition in the next few weeks. Date to follow.

VIII. Principal's Update

Jessica Jenkins opened her comments discussing the coffees that were held in-person. First WESS open house for prospective middle schoolers was held last week, for the first time since October 2019.

Working on creating an Open School week by early January that will have scheduled open classrooms for each grade. Parents will rotate through several classrooms during their visit. This will be an opportunity to see the teachers in action, see the classrooms, in-person. This will help parents gain connections to parents in the building.

Parent teacher conferences will have to occur over Zoom due to DOE regulations. There is more parent engagement over Zoom. They will occur on the night of November 17 and during the day of November 18.

If parents have concerns please reach out to Karyn Gooden and/or crew teachers.

WESS is being nominated by the district to showcase its work around the work that we're doing around culturally responsive education.
Question about high school trips. Prior trips went to Costa Rica. Notes will be going out to high school parents.

The next PA meeting is on Monday, November 28 at 9:00 am.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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