

**WEST END SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION**  
227 WEST 61<sup>ST</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10023  
WESSPA.ORG

**PA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

September 28, 2022  
9:00 am In-person and Via Zoom

**I. Call to Order**

Co-Presidents, Yvette Russell and Rebecca Weel called the meeting to order at 9:08am. Quorum was established. There were 80 participants on zoom and 40 in-person.

**II. Co-Presidents' Introduction**

Co-Presidents Yvette Russell and Rebecca Weel opened the meeting with introductions of themselves, which was followed by introductions by the Executive Board. This is the first hybrid in-person and zoom PA meeting.

Newsletters will be sent regularly and parents should reach out with any questions or concerns. The presidents can be reached at: [papresidents@westendsecondary.com](mailto:papresidents@westendsecondary.com)

**III. Principal's Update**

Jessica Jenkins opened her comments discussing the challenges of the last few years regarding much of the communication being over Zoom or email. Encouraged parents to come to school in person throughout the year to meet with teachers and the administration. Administration is thinking creatively about ways to bring parents into school throughout the year, including coffees with the principal, visits to classes, etc.

Ms. Jenkins shared her background and the high academic achievements of last year's seniors that graduated, as well as this year's graduating class.

Curriculum night is scheduled for tonight, September 29. Unfortunately, it will be held remote only. Decision was made by senior leadership at the DOE based on equity, access for those that are non-vaccinated. Individual conferences can be requested with specific teachers. Recordings from curriculum night will be made for each grade's presentation for those that cannot attend live. Between 5:30-6:00 is an opportunity for the counselors and parents to introduce themselves. At the end of curriculum night, Ms. Jenkins and the administration will be on zoom to answer any questions.

Case managers are still being assigned for students with IEP and parents should hear from them by Monday. An email has been set up for questions [504accommodations@westendsecondary.com](mailto:504accommodations@westendsecondary.com)

There has been a great start to the school year and students seem much happier. One class graduating does not define the school's success. What happens afterwards defines it.

#### **IV. Marianna Telerman - WESS Athletic Director**

Partnering with other schools to have access to more sports. We are defined as a sending school. This applies to high school only. Middle school sports are managed by Milton. If high school students want to play a sport that WESS does not offer, they can apply to play that sport for another school for their passion, to meet new friends and possibly get a scholarship. Girls basketball, gymnastics, table tennis, swimming. Link for student information submitted to PSAL has to be completed by tomorrow, September 30 for winter and spring sports. Badminton, double dutch, rugby, outdoor track, tennis, volleyball, track, and pickle ball may be offered for the spring. Kids should submit even if they are not sure as the deadline is September 30.

Opportunities for parents to get involved in the Booster Club. Reach out to Marc Lovci to get involved. There is a pizza party tonight for the volleyball team. Last year a sports banquet was held to celebrate the students and will look for more opportunities like that.

WESS is part of the Charter School League. WESS pays for Charter League sports.  
PSAL - stands for Public School Athletic League.

#### **V. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Jenkins reported that the 7th, 8th and 9th grade students missed out on trips, including Outward Bound due to the pandemic.

The WESS budget from the DOE is \$8 million, but it is very tight. Other schools owe the DOE several hundred thousand dollars. Expect to receive additional funding this year from the city, but not in the next month or two. WESS is over enrolled and students want to enter school every day.

Ms. Jenkins and Ms. Gooden are trying to ensure that 6th-to-9th grade students will have similar Outward Bound experiences. Several OB instructors moved on and the cost of the experience programs are high. Cost from OB was quoted as \$57,000, much higher than in years past. WESS is now exploring other options. These trips help define the school. Trip for 6th graders in the past was paid by the school budget and was \$31,000 in the past.

Trips could be partially funded from PA reserves as the school does not have adequate funds to fully fund them. The PA budget that was approved in June has a surplus of \$25,000. This discussion has just begun and any changes to the PA budget will be discussed at next month's meeting. It is critical for parents to contribute what they can to the annual fund, which doesn't always happen. This can be \$1 or \$10, whatever parents can adequately afford.

6th and 7th grade - total of \$46,000 needed for both grades. Trip for 6th and 7th grade is slated for October 19-20

8th grade- possible Virginia trip

9th grade - Planning Crew Connect for one day in Manhattan to support WESS core values. It starts and ends in Central Park. Potentially slated for October 29 and 30th.

Club Getaway in Connecticut has a component where they plan the experience for the students. It should be two full days and one night for the 6th and 7th graders. Club Getaway is working with the school to customize the trip. There was going to be a 7th grade rock climbing experience, but will likely be canceled to put the funds towards the overnight trip.

Looking into an overnight as well for 8th grade. Looking at a trip to Virginia that ties in to their studies of United States history.

In high school there are trips to the Grand Canyon and other places that tie into the curriculum.

Budget was approved in June. There is only \$25,000 in reserve for these types of events. We can't vote on this today, as parents need to have 10 days notice before voting on a budget. School is going to commit to the trips now. The Annual Giving campaign first goes out in October.

**Revenue** - There are two big fundraisers.

- \$120,000 - minimum goal for Annual Giving campaign
- \$110,000 - Spring event goal

**Expenditures**

- We have spent \$2,000 for the 12th grade graduation location deposit. Graduation is June 13, 2023.
- \$3,046 for the hydroponic lab
- \$18,000 spent out of \$20,000 professional development done during the summer
- Small funds for hospitality, coffees
- Entrance fees paid for leagues
- Paid for John Jay - location for volleyball practice
- Have \$150,000 in a separate bank account as a special reserve that could be leveraged for the 6th-to-9th grade trips.

Treasurers can be reached at [patreasurer@westendsecondary.com](mailto:patreasurer@westendsecondary.com)

**VI. Executive Board Introductions**

The executive board team introduced itself.

VP At Large Max Alvarez emphasized the importance of parent involvement in partnership with the school administration. He will stay after the meeting and is always looking for volunteers. Aishwarya Kumar, VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion looked forward to hosting seminars and possibly an International Food Alley this year.

We will vote on 6th grade reps at the October PA meeting. Barry Waldman shared insights into the role and that it is a great way for 6th grade parents to get involved. Last year there were several in-person events for parents and students. Ms. Jenkins stated that high school students actually crave interaction with the middle school kids.

**VII. Upcoming Events**

Coffees all at 9 am  
12th grade - October 6  
8th grade - October 13th

9th grade - October 24  
7th grade - October 25  
10th and 11th grades - October 26

Cabaret Night will be held at the Triad Theater on November 16.

The next PA meeting is on Wednesday, October 26 at 6:30 pm.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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