

March WIHI PTO Minutes

3/9/2015

7:00 PM-8:30 PM

Media Center

Agenda Topics

Call to order- Kelley Bezrutch

Welcome/Introductions

Attendees: Kelley Bezrutch, Kim Vnuk-Kronick, Susan Wichhart, Sloan Talbot, Alexabelle Talbot, William Garcia, Joy Lange, Tami Schumacher, Meg Wallace, Susan Wichhart, Christine Pellar-Kosbar, Nelson Andres Stockdill-Garay, Paula Drummond, Ayesha M. Taj, Meg Wallace, Carol Knight-Drain, Vikk Kaspeiek

Old Business:

Approval of the consent agenda-approved
February meeting minutes-approved
February financial report-approved

Treasurer's report - Tami Schumacher

PTO Balance: - \$245

The PTO account deficit created by the purchase of the UN Flags and spirit wear is decreasing due to more flag sponsors. Thank you if you have already become a sponsor, if not please consider giving to this very worthwhile project. The Script and grocery card program is doing well, a big thank you to all who are using these cards to help support WIHI. Also, please buy WIHI spirit wear; there are many attractive clothing items, cups, lanyards, magnets etc. This is a great way to advertise our school and to support the WIHI PTO. There will be a table set up to sell spirit wear during the new student spring orientation.

UN Flag Project-Complete-Phase II Update- Kim Vnuk-Kronick

The UN flag project is almost complete; we are waiting for a flag to arrive that was recently donated by a family. A key to the flags is currently being made by Robb Kerr and will be hung in the gym, so all flags can be identified. A very big thank you to Arthur Talbot, Kelley Bezrutch, Kim Vnuk-Kronick and Robb Kerr for the many hours spent planning and hanging over 200 flags!!! There is a small ceremony being planned for the completion of this project.

New Business:

Student Updates-StuGo Representative- Sloan Talbot

Prom tickets are currently selling for \$70; on March 20th the price will increase to \$80. Please see a member of the prom committee or stop by the office for information regarding buying Prom tickets.

The **Senior Silent Auction** raised \$2500 after expenses; this money will be put toward the senior gift and the senior trip to Saugatuck. The seniors are renting a charter bus to hold the entire class for the trip to Saugatuck which will be the day before graduation.

Spirit week starts 3/16/15: Monday- PJ Day, Tuesday-Mismatch Day, Wednesday-Zombie/Survivor Day, Thursday-Thoroughbred Thursday (Dress up/Dress to impress), Friday-School spirit (wear blue and green) and PM Passport schedule for Pep Rally.

Upcoming WIHI events

Charity Week begins mid-April after spring break, every day a different charity will be chosen to benefit from donations made to participate in small events. More information will be coming out about the charities and the events of this week. The planning committee for charity week is looking for in-school incentives to encourage students to participate in this worthwhile event.

The **Courtyard Dance** is May 14th, everyone is invited. This event is very close to Junior/Senior prom, underclassmen are encouraged to attend the Courtyard Dance. The theme will be black out and is casual; neon lights will be all around.

The **Everyone is Free Club** Dinner is March 27th, tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from any club member. The money from this dinner will go to help North Korean children.

BuildOn will be selling pizza donated by Little Caser Pizza. They hope to raise \$2000; with the money going to support the WIHI sponsored school in Malawi.

Pasta Polooza is a fundraiser to support the WIHI music program. Tickets are \$5 for children and \$10 for adults. The Polooza will include pasta, music performed by WIHI students and a silent auction.

Junior Class Work Day for CAS hours and the class project will be making decorations for the WIHI prom. Juniors can drop by to help anytime on March 20 and 21st. **Forensic** season is here, there will be a tournament every Saturday. There will also be a WIHI showcase symposium March 21st from 6:30 to 8:30, which will highlight WIHI performers.

The last **Model UN** team tournament starts tomorrow and is all week in Kalamazoo. Most of the team is seniors, recruiting is underway for next year's team. The Current team received best prepared school last year. Mr. Wynn is the teacher advisor.

Staff updates- teacher rep- William Garcia

Placement testing for incoming students starts this week. These tests are to insure the student is placed in the correct math class and to determine if additional work needs to be done over the summer to properly prepare students for WIHI in the fall.

Regarding current students, all parents should have gotten a letter if your student is getting a C- or less in a class. Please contact your student's teacher, Mr. Nemo or Mr. Wynn to discuss and develop a plan.

Juniors are in extended essay mode, there will be a meeting with all juniors this Thursday to discuss and plan for the extended essay.

Band and choir auditions are coming up.

The Theory of Knowledge essays for seniors were sent off and everything looks good.

An email from the PTO was sent out inquiring whether parents are getting class emails. If you know of someone who is not getting these emails, please let us know.

There were 258 applicants for the incoming freshman class this year; we are not sure where the class will be capped. There is a possibility we will enroll 170 freshmen with a projected attrition rate to 150 students. WIHI's goal is to have 600 students in the building.

Saline has been the school of choice in the past, but it looks like this portal may be closing. WIHI is negotiating with other consortium districts and it is looking like Ypsilanti may become the school of choice portal.

. There will be a school of choice lottery of 50 spots, happening soon. All 40 AA students said yes. There are 98 in Ann Arbor who did not get a spot. Now that WIHI is hitting enrollment numbers, the lottery and school of choice is changing and will be managed from the central consortium.

GSA Update- Alexabelle Talbot & Nelson Stockdill-Garay

A **Gender Neutral Bathroom** is being identified at WIHI. It is important to have a bathroom for everyone to use, regardless of their gender identity. For people who do not feel comfortable using a bathroom of a particular gender, this will be a bathroom they will feel comfortable using. AAPS is creating a gender neutral bathroom in all of its schools, called the Shift program. This need is becoming more prominent throughout the world as a civil rights issue. A sign funded by the WIHI GSA has been ordered for the bathroom, which will probably be the one by the gym. It is currently not being used and is locked. This bathroom has stalls and will not be locked for safety reasons. There is a plan to check this bathroom regularly during the school day by GSA members to make sure it is being used as intended. Mrs. Do has given her stamp of approval for the gender neutral bathroom.

Day of Silence to support those who feel Silenced about their bullying April 17th 2015

On the Day of Silence, a Vow will be taken to be silent with the people who feel they need to be silent and cannot speak out about their bullying. An email will be coming from the PTO and Mr. Nemo regarding this upcoming day of silence. WIMA will be invited to attend.

NOH8- campaign - Kelley Bezrutch/Kim Vnuk-Kronick

The national NOH8 Campaign has grown to stand against discrimination and bullying of all kinds. The message of "No Hate" can be interpreted and applied broadly and speaks to each person in their own way. At WIMA/WIHI, we believe the NOH8 Campaign aligns well with our goals of building a caring, collaborative community where all students feel accepted.

NOH8 photo shoot in March. Attendance requires a \$2 donation. Group pictures are \$2 a person, but your \$2 will cover multiple poses on one day. Proceeds benefit the anti-discrimination charity work at WIMA/WIHI and in the community. Attendees receive a NOH8 temporary tattoo and a photo in our NOH8 display. Photos will be taken in the Media Center; attendees are encouraged to wear white shirts and dark pants. Parents, staff, students and guest are welcome. Sign in at the front office with "NOH8 as your reason for visiting.

Senior last day April 24th, they have a week off then they begin IB exams

Next PTO meeting- Monday, April 13, 2015 7-8:30