

**Washtenaw International PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**6:30pm Mon. 3/18/2019**  
**Washtenaw International Technology Center**

In attendance: Lisa Brown (President; G9 Victoria); Stacy Sucarski (Vice President; G12 Tim & G10 Ian); Rashonda Arnold (Co-Recording Secretary; G10 John & G7 Christina); Anne Hooghart (Co-Recording Secretary; G7 Kasey & G6 Cassidy); Sue Barker (Treasury Team; G9 Melody); Jeff Clark (G8 Juna); Ruby Daily (G10 Dawson; G8 Kail); Mary Beth Maes (G9 Alina; G7 Reed); Kyrsten Persells (English teacher); Caitlin Donnelly (math teacher); Ashley Fox (social studies teacher); Jessica Garcia (associate principal)

PTO Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

1. President's Report - PTO Pres. Lisa Brown distributed copies of the minutes of the 1/14 PTO meeting. Moved (Stacy) and seconded (Mary Beth) to approve the minutes with the following corrections: The 2/11 PTO meeting was cancelled to avoid conflict with the NAAPID at Night event, which ended up being rescheduled to 3/11 due to inclement weather, so the originally-scheduled PTO meeting on 3/11 was rescheduled to 3/18. The 1/24 Parent University focused on Community Service was rescheduled to this Thurs. 3/21 at 6:30pm.

2. Principal's Report (Jessica Garcia) -

- a. 3/8 WIHI Career Day - Thanked all the parents and other volunteers who came to present at the 3/8 WIHI Career Day. Feedback was good, but we are also looking to expand the diversity of career types and presenters even more.
- b. Thanked PTO for support of Pastries with the Principal. Ms. Do has been working on it with the seniors; there are 4 more dates, due to snow-day rescheduling. Ms. Garcia will start WIMA Pastries with the Principal on 3/20. Donuts with the Deans has also experienced delays due to weather-related cancellations. Cookies with the Counselors is ongoing.
- c. 8th-grade Farewell: Still need a volunteer (6th/7th-grade parent) to lead coordination of the reception & the dance. The school staff will handle the official celebration program. Mrs. Garcia will send an email with the date of next meeting.
- d. WIMA field trips: The school still has a goal of having a field trip each year for each grade level. This year, 6th graders will visit the U-M Museum of Art; 7th- & 8th-grade will go to Wright Museum of African-American History on 5/15. Permission slips and per-student fee are due by Friday 3/22. Any students who cannot afford the fee can contact a Counselor for access to the Faerie Fund.
- e. Standardized assessments coming up:  
2nd week of April: Assessments will affect the usual school schedule, and may vary by grade level. On Tues. 4/9, there will be no school for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking these standardized tests. All students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm. On Wed. 4/10, there will be no school for 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade. All students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm. On Thurs. 4/11, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be testing, but everyone else resumes their regular schedule. 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the M-STEP (science & social studies) the week of 4/15.
- f. Melting Potluck has been moved to Friday evening 4/12, and Cultural Proficiency Meeting focused on race moved from 4/11 to Wed. evening 4/17.
- g. Pep Assembly is this Friday. This is the last one for the year; 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be joining 9<sup>th</sup> grade and some special events are planned for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades.
- h. Student of the Month recognition has returned! Every month each grade will choose one student that demonstrates a learner profile trait. This month was caring and next month is communication. It doesn't just have to be academics.

- i. 3/14 WIHI Choir Concert - Interrupted by a tornado warning and everyone evacuated to the basement and bathrooms after the first song. The concert is rescheduled for Wed. morning 3/20, and is open to anyone who would like to attend. IB requires students to perform and record it.
- j. Friday 4/5 Noteworthy: Adults-only fundraiser to support the music program (and specifically the upright piano goal). Food/drinks/music/dancing/trivia/silent-auction at Concourse Hall in Ann Arbor (\$30/person).
- k. Meet-and-greet (“Cultivating Conversations”?) for prospective families at Cultivate coffeeshop. This will be an informal way to welcome new families and answer any questions they may have. Volunteers (parents and students) from our current school community are welcome to help. We have an amazing community and we want to build connections and get new families involved earlier. See “Parent Ambassador Program” info in New Business below. Dates are still being finalized.
- l. Traffic and neighbors near the school: Ms. Garcia met with neighbors today about traffic concerns (during drop-off/pickup); one neighbor/parent volunteered to help—others are welcome! The school is working with the city/township to get a flashing traffic light installed. School administrators are willing to attend a Normal Park Neighborhood meeting, if possible.
- m. Kudos to Washtenaw International! 100% of the current WIMA 8th-grade are going to WIHI.

### 3. Teachers’ Report (Ms. Caitlin Donnelly, Ms. Kyrsten Persells, & Mr. Ashley Fox) –

- a. **3/21 IB Diploma Course Selection** - 10th-graders can begin selecting their courses toward the IB Diploma. There is an expanded set of courses to choose from, including drama, psychology, and sports health science. The new math classes include more calculus-prep. They will ask if there will be an opportunity to do calculus in IB Physics.
- b. **IB Literature** – Next year they are looking to revise the 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum to focus more on social justice.
- c. **EDJI** - Planning the next EDJI Day for Friday 4/12, focused on the LGBTQ community. WIMA students will be allowed to attend only 2 breakout sessions (“how to be an ally” and “hate speech”). That also happens to be the Day of Silence. Parents asked that communication be sent to parents regarding the Day of Silence.
- d. **IB Drama** – Includes things like director’s notebook, monologues, and collaborative pieces. This is a great opportunity for the students to put together these pieces of work.

### 4. Treasurer’s Report -

Hard copies of the Treasurer’s Report were distributed, showing a balance of \$21,247.88.

Sue explained several highlights of the report.

PTO received refund of overpayment from Music Boosters.

Transfer of \$1500 into the Faerie Fund has been approved and made. That could potentially be used toward field trips, if needed.

The \$1500 from WIMA PTO was included in the report. Since WIHI and WIMA PTO is now combined, the money has been added. There was some discussion regarding moving this money over to one of the programs. We will discuss later as the need becomes available.

The staff grant is the Gold Level sign-up genius that PTO purchased for staff & administration to trial for a year. If they find it beneficial, they will budget for it in the future.

Sue recommended budgeting an additional \$150 for the Pastries with the Principal, as it was originally based on just WIHI needs, and now WIMA is also participating.

It was moved (Ruby) and seconded (Stacy) to allocate another \$150 for the Pastries with the Principal. Motion passed.

There was discussion of the class-specific funds that the senior class each year uses toward its graduation expenses.

It was moved (Jeff) and seconded (Ruby) to approve the treasurer's report as written. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Briefcase tool is just about ready to go, and Sue recommends renewing the subscription. Might need to set up training (video?) for club advisors regarding PTO Treasury procedures.

5. Fundraising and Social Events -

- a. School Carnival Fundraising Extravaganza - Sue presented an idea from the Music Boosters, to perhaps invite each family to donate a certain amount, in exchange for tickets to events throughout the year and a set of tickets to participate in a community-building carnival-type fundraiser with booths/activities by various student clubs, classes, etc.
- b. WIMA Game Night - PTO is willing to support; Lisa will check with administration.

6. Current/New Business -

a. Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant - Mr. Fox reported that the school's application for this \$2000 grant was approved, with the PTO as the fiscal agent. The Normal Park Neighborhood Association has a community garden on the school grounds, and will collaborate with WIHIMA on creating its own, with raised beds between the 600 and 700 Wings and some fencing to keep critters out. Different classes could adopt the garden during certain months of the year (especially during the summer), and would share the produce with various organizations, and report on our progress to the funders. Students could earn service hours for helping with the garden. There is a meeting this Wednesday (3/20) at 2:45 pm in room 807 for anyone interested.

b. Washtenaw International Parent Ambassador Program – Lisa shared a draft of information about the mission and activities; please send her feedback by email.

b. Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10) – PTO has reserved the Media Center for two appreciation luncheons on Tues. 5/7 and Thurs. 5/9.

c. Spirit Week this week!

3/18 - PJ Day

3/19 - Future Self Day

3/20 - Squad Day

3/21 - Retro Day

3/22 - Class Color Day

d. Parent University Thursday (3/21) at 6:30 pm.

7. Other Business -

- a. MLK Day of Service activities (Mon. 1/21) – successfully made 100 shoe-uppers; Lisa will mail them.
- b. NAAPID (rescheduled to Mon. 3/11) – poorly attended, due to schedule change, but WIHI was well represented in doing the ushering, etc.

Next PTO meeting: Monday 4/8 at 6:30pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.