

Washtenaw International PTO Meeting Minutes
6:30pm Mon. 4/8/2019
Washtenaw International Outdoor Seating Area

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); Nancy Harvey (Treasury Team; G11 Alex); Shonda Brewer (G9 Calista); Jeff Clark (G8 Juna); Mary Beth Maes (G9 Alina; G7 Reed); Sara Gentry (math teacher); Nhu Do (principal)

PTO Meeting was called to order at 6:38pm.

1. President's Report - Due to lack of access to the copier, some of the usual minutes/reports were not distributed in hard copy; they may be shared later via email.

2. Treasurer's Report -

Hard copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed, showing a balance of \$25,604.22. Nancy explained several highlights of the report. Sue recommended that next year, the PTO allocate a budget for bank fees, due to ordering checks, fobs, etc. Planning to set up a training (video?) for club advisors regarding PTO Treasury procedures. It was moved (Anne) and seconded (Shonda) to approve the treasurer's report as written. Motion passed.

3. Teachers' Report (Ms. Sara Gentry) –

- a. **DP Honor Society** - 11th- and 12th-graders with the eligible GPA (3.5 by December of 10th grade year). Honors Convocation, April 24th, 7:00 pm.
- b. **Senior All Night event (Thu. 5/30)** – Still in need of volunteers for this event. Signup using the Signup Genius [email link](#) sent out this week.
- c. **EDJI Week** - Mon. 4/8: Mix-it-up at lunch and painting the rock for Melting Potluck this Friday; EDJI activity from 1:25-2:30pm on Friday 4/12, focused on the LGBTQ community, is open to parents/families.
- d. **Spring Beautification Day (Sat. 5/18)** - City of Ypsilanti is scaling back this year to selected parks, not the whole community. Washtenaw International students are encouraged to go help at one site (Rutherford Pool is closest), and then perhaps share the meal together, before returning to WIMAHI to work on the yard. This will also count toward Community Service hours.
- e. **New Math Program** - Making a transition to a new/different math curriculum aligned with IB at the SL and HL level, to start in 10th grade this fall. Two WI teachers attended a conference earlier this year to get training about it.

4. Principal's Report (Nhu Do) -

- a. **Mental Health Awareness Week (4/15-4/19)** - Will focus on a different aspect of mental health (such as depression, anxiety, etc.) each day of the week. Led by Peer-to-Peer group and Student Support Team. We also have a school-based counseling program via EMU.
- b. **School Calendar** - In response to student/family feedback, and the new IB Exam Schedule, the school's leadership team has been examining 2 possible options for next year's calendar: 1) maintaining the mid-August start on a Thurs./Fri. with a long weekend for President's Day and Good Friday/Easter, and reducing/eliminating half-days of school; or 2)

move to a post-Labor Day start, but have school on Good Friday, but at least 1 long weekend per month. Most WI students come from the Ypsilanti, Plymouth-Canton, and Ann Arbor districts, so WI tries to align with those districts' schedules as much as possible. Ms. Do sent out an email to stakeholders this morning, inviting them to vote on the 2 options.

- c. **Senior Farewell (Thurs. 5/30):** Still need a volunteer (11th-grade parent) to assist Nancy Harvey coordinate the reception & the dance.
- d. **College admissions:** Many WIHI students are receiving admissions from prestigious schools in Michigan and elsewhere, and are being offered very significant scholarships. The PTO supported the cost of bus transportation for the college tour for WIHI seniors.
- e. **Honors Convocation/Commencement:** Students have given feedback about how posting seniors' GPA, etc. in the program can make people feel badly, so there will be a different way of recognizing students for individual achievements at both events starting this year. Feedback from families is also welcome.
- f. **Enrollment:** Kelly Cartwright is doing a good job, and there's strong WIHI enrollment for next year. WIMA is also having strong enrollment (including 90% of seat reserved for YCS).
- g. **Self-defense course:** Offered after school, geared toward women and 11th/12th-graders heading to college. It was well-attended and well-received, so the school wants to offer it again next year, open to a larger audience, possibly during the school day. PTO might consider adding a budget line for such activities.
- h. **Melting Potluck (Fri. 4/12) -** Speakers from 5-6pm; dinner from 6-7pm.
- i. **8th-grade Lock-In:** Discussion about reasons given for changing the event this year, to possibly shorten it and make it less exhausting for chaperones. (The 9th grade class is doing a "lock-in" from 5-9pm this year.)

5. Current/New Business -

- a. **Cultivate Conversations/Washtenaw International Parent Ambassador Program** – Meet-and-greet at Cultivate coffeeshop for prospective WIHI families (Thurs. 4/25, 6:30-8:30pm) and prospective WIMA families (Wed. 5/15, 6:30-8:30pm). Volunteers (parents and students) from our current school community are invited to attend and extend a welcome/start building community with these new families!
- 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. We could use some volunteers to help clean up the area on the Friday before (5/3). Muffin Monday, Taco Tuesday, Gift-card Wednesday, Mediterranean Thursday, and TBD Friday.
- c. **8th-grade Farewell (Thurs. 6/13):** Students chose the theme: Hollywood. Ms. Church was voted to be the speaker. Sue is happy to lend her chocolate fountain. We have a few student volunteers, and still need a parent volunteer (preferably 6th/7th-grade parent) to lead coordination of the reception & the dance. The school staff will handle the official celebration program. Next meeting Thurs. 5/2.
- d. **WIMA Parent Orientation (4:00-5:00pm; Tues. 4/9)** – Reps there will talk about the PTO.
- e. **Cultural Proficiency meeting** - this Wed. 4/17.
- f. **School Carnival Fundraising Extravaganza** - Sue presented ideas for a community-building carnival-type fundraiser with booths/activities by various student clubs, classes, local organizations (library, restaurants, pool, etc.). "Perks Packages" would give purchasing families tickets, swag, etc. that ends up cheaper than buying the items a la carte on the spot. We would need to communicate what the funds raised would be used for.

7. Other Business - PTO Board members have 2-year term limits. Need to think about recruitment for new PTO officials for next year.

Next PTO meeting: Monday 5/13 at 6:30pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.