

Washtenaw International PTO
Meeting Minutes
6:30pm Mon. 1/14/2019
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); Nancy Harvey (Treasury Team; G11 Alex); Jeff Clark (G8 Juna); Ruby Daily (G10 Dawson; G8 Kail); Mary Beth Maes (G9 Alina; G7 Reed); Shonda Brewer (G9 Calista); Jamie Mayo (G8 Nathan); Rachel Hervey (health & physical ed. chair and senior class dean); 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 12/10 PTO meeting.

Moved (Stacy) and seconded (Nancy) to approve the minutes with one correction: The library was moved to the 700, not 600, wing (fewer classrooms, fewer students, more centrally-located). Motion passed unanimously.

2. Principal's Report (Jessica Garcia) -

Wished everyone a happy new year, and thanked the PTO Executive Board members who met with the school administrative team earlier this month.

a. School space changes -

Media Center was remodeled over winter break, so it now contains Mr. Giddings' office, Ms. Young's office and lab space, plus a new classroom (used by Ms. Wiggett who was previously sharing a classroom). Restorative practices office has been remodeled into 2 offices (used by new counselor, Ms. Chaney, & social worker, Ms. Canyon).

b. School events -

1/17 (Thurs.) Washtenaw International Open House 6:00pm (last open house of the year)

c. School staff changes -

Ms. Groves took a new job in Texas. Ms. Strates is long-term sub while Ms. Sheffer is on maternity leave. Isley Coleman and Herman Gibbs (WIHI alums) are now new graduate assistants at the school. School newsletter will be coming out soon with details.

d. Career Day –

WIMA Career Day on 12/19 was a success, with a diverse group of 15 presenters. WIHI Career Day will be in March; school is seeking more volunteer presenters!

e. Cultural Diversity initiatives -

Cultural Proficiency meeting attendance has been a steady 20-30 people recently. Dec. 12 meeting about religious diversity went well. Next meeting February 19, 2019. Last meeting of the school year will be in April. Future topics: Gender/sexual orientation and inclusion; Race and inclusion

f. 1/24 (Thurs.) Parent University – topic focus is Community Action Service; Mr. Fox will facilitate.

A section will be added to the school website, devoted to Community Service hours, requirements, etc.

3. Teacher's Report (Ms. Rachel Hervey) –

a. **Testing Update**

Ms. Hervey serves as the school's testing coordinator, and shared some news about testing.

The State of Michigan has decided that 8th graders will now take the PSAT-8 plus 2 sections (science & social studies) of the M-STEP. The PSAT is a paper-and-pencil test, non-adaptive, timed, etc., so this may be a new experience for the students.

Khan Academy can now be linked to College Board accounts (needed for SAT, AP, etc. testing); students in 8th grade on up will need a personal email address in order to set up their College Board accounts. Letters will be sent to parents with this information. Ms. Hervey will also meet with 8th graders to make sure they have personal email accounts and to assist with creating College Board accounts.

11th graders will take the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test).

On Tues. 4/9, there will be no school for 10th and 12th grade, and the 8th graders and 11th 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 6th-9th & 12th grade. All students will be dismissed at 12:00 pm.

On Thurs. 4/11, the 8th and 9th graders will be testing, but everyone else resumes their regular schedule.

11th graders will take the M-STEP (science & social studies) the week of 4/15. The State of Michigan requiring 11th graders to take the ACT means every student gets to take that test at least once at no charge.

Counselor Brian Nemo meets with students to review their scores and discusses how to improve.

Khan Academy has free practice tests available.

6th & 7th graders will take the M-STEP between the end of April and end of May.

IB Diploma Exam will be given in May.

Accommodations may be provided for any student with an IEP or 504, but that is up to the College Board.

Mr. Chapman, Ms. Bargardi, and Ms. Hervey submit requests for accommodations based on existing IEPs/504s. Parents can contact Ms. Hervey with any questions or concerns. PTO members asked that this testing info be included on the Assessment Calendar.

b. **Senior All-Night Party** (Thurs. 5/30) – Looking for a new chair; preferably **not** a senior parent.

STUGO members will be here to do the setup (2:30-4:30 that afternoon); the evening begins at 9:00pm.

Seeking parent-volunteer chaperones from 9th, 10th, and 11th grades (for the whole night, or in shifts).

Senior breakfast at the school that morning. Then rehearsal at Rackham during the day.

Graduation Reception – After Commencement on 5/30 at Rackham Bldg. in Ann Arbor. Sponsored by the 11th grade. Sue recommended the school make the payment as early as possible.

4. Treasurer's Report -

Hard copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed, showing a balance of \$19,007.33.

Nancy explained several highlights of the report.

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

Sue mentioned that, due to generous donations toward Holiday Baskets for school faculty and staff, we have a positive balance of over \$1100 that we could potentially use toward Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

The Treasurer's Briefcase tool is just about ready to go, and will save future treasurer teams a lot of work.

Sue will be sending all the clubs/organizations info this week about how to use it.

5. Fundraising -

a. SCRIP - We have scrip accounts with Kroger, Busch's, and Arbor Farms, as well as an Amazon Smile account. Mary Beth Maes recommends that we make a point of helping (new) families sign up for Washtenaw International scrip accounts during an initial parent/family event at the start of the school year.

b. Aubree's Dine to Donate on 12/17 was well-attended. Ruby will follow up regarding check from Aubree's.

c. Hungry Howie's certificates – remaining certificates were handed over to the Treasury Team to track.

d. Sue volunteered to set up a Communication/Fundraising Committee meeting.

6. Current/New Business -

- a. Painting the Rock – Needs to be painted to promote MLK Day activities; Ms. Garcia will check with Mr. Fox. There is a sign-up sheet accessible to teachers/staff; Ms. Hervey monitors the Rock-Painting calendar. Need a protocol by which groups painting the rock should supply & cleanup any paint, brushes, etc. used.
- b. SignUp Genius Grant Request – Sue proposed that the PTO pay \$249 to fund a 1-year trial run of the “gold plan” to be used by the school (administration and counseling team, etc.; up to 10 administrators possible) starting immediately. The idea would be for the school to evaluate whether they would like to propose adding a subscription to next year’s school budget. It was moved (Nancy) and seconded (Jeff) to approve the use of these funds for this purpose. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. MLK Day of Service activities (Mon. 1/21; 9:00am-1:00pm) – asking students to bring \$2 for pizza lunch; thanks to Angie Smith for chairing this!
Signups have been sent out for 3 different activities:
 - 1) Sole Hope Project (Lauren Dotson) – needs: large safety pins, cotton denim jeans, plastic folders, scissors, sharpie markers, etc.
 - 2) Whiteboard surfaces (Mr. Fox) – will be adding contact paper to surfaces of regular tables to make them “whiteboard” type surfaces; needs TBA
 - 3) SafeHouse (Lisa Mathew) – making single-serving snack bags for their clients; needs: plastic baggies, snacks (Pop Tarts, Cheezits, pretzels, etc.), white sticker labels, Sharpie markers
- d. Community Service Hours/CAS – Parent University on Thurs. 1/24 (6:30 pm) – Mr. Fox will facilitate this session, about tracking student volunteer hours, providing volunteers with feedback, etc.
- e. WIHI Open House (Thurs. 1/17) – Parent Janet Duc Teng is spearheading refreshments for the 15 students who help set up and lead tours, plus the staff who work late that evening to support the event. It was moved (Nancy) & seconded (Ruby) to approve the use of \$50 for this. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. NAAPID (Mon. 2/11) – Annual event originally founded by Ann Arbor administrator Joe Dulin which has grown to become an international event. Originally focused on African-American parents, it is now open to everyone. Nancy Harvey strongly encouraged everyone to attend; she always enjoys it and learns a lot. In order to encourage attendance at NAAPID at Night on 2/11, the **February PTO meeting will be cancelled.**
- g. Changes to Calendar: IB Curriculum Night has been moved to March. Other changes have been made due to the standardized testing schedule.
- h. Field trips: Lisa talked with Ms. Garcia about their importance. The school is working on acquiring grant funds, and might charge families a nominal fee.
- i. Pizza with the Principal: Getting pizza on time is not working well, and student numbers are unpredictable; Sue proposed doing pastries with the principal (or Dom’s Donuts with Ms. Do)
- j. EDJI Day: A parent voiced concerns about the survey questions to which her 6th- and 7th-grade children were asked to respond, as they seemed age-inappropriate and unengaging, and would not help achieve the purpose of the activities. Was advised to contact Ms. Joslyn Hunscher-Young (jhunscheryoung@wihi.org) about those concerns.

7. Old Business

- a. Holiday Baskets – Thank you to all who made donations and put baskets together. Nancy will be sending a thank you to Lucky’s Market for pineapples donation.
- b. Teacher Wish List – Spanish books still on wish list for Spanish library. Other items taken care of.

Next PTO meeting: Monday 3/11 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.