

Washtenaw International PTO Meeting Minutes
6:30pm Mon. 10/14/2019
Media Center, Washtenaw International

In attendance: Lisa Brown (President; G10 Victoria); Mary Beth Maes (Vice President; G10 Alina & G8 Reed); Nancy Harvey (Treasury Team; G12 Alex); Rashonda Arnold (Treasury Team; G11 John, G8 Christina & G6 Angela); Jeff Clark (Co-Recording Secretary; G9 Juna); Anne Hooghart (Co-Recording Secretary; G8 Kasey & G7 Cassidy); Shonda Brewer (Communications Chair; G10 Calista); Abbey Woodman (G9 Elizabeth); Ruby Daily (G9 Kail); Jamie Mayo (G9 Nathan & G6 Ryan); Rebecca Richardson (G9 Ben); Kathy O'Bryan (G9 Kaylee); Tamara Larson (G9 David/DJ); Shannon Baer (G7 Jeremiah); Beth Al-Heleal (G10 Zaynab; G7 Shems; G7 Baneen; G6 Fatima); Rachel Hervey (teacher representative); Jessica Garcia (asst. principal)

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

1. Welcome & Minutes of Previous Meeting –

Lisa B. welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Minutes of 9/9 PTO meeting (with one spelling correction) were approved unanimously.

2. Principal's Report –

a. **Pickup/Dropoff System** - We have a pretty stable system for drop-offs in the morning; the pickup system is being reviewed for improvements.

Some students will earn Community Service hours for helping with pedestrian/traffic flow (no student volunteers will be allowed to stand in the crosswalks due to potential danger). Bike rack will be moved from the cafeteria area toward the south end of the building.

b. **School Holidays** – Last week's teacher PD day was held on Yom Kippur (10/6), with no school for students; school received positive feedback from Jewish families.

The school is trying to rotate no-school religious holidays to honor different faith traditions. Wed. 10/30 is half day for P-T Conferences; Thurs. 10/31 & Fri. 11/1 no school for students.

c. **Conference Meals** – Thank you to the PTO for preparing and serving meals to the school faculty and staff during P-T Conferences (Tues. 10/29 and Wed. 10/30)!

d. **SAT Preparation Process** – Thank you for the PTO donation toward SAT preparation activities this year!

e. **School Clubs** – Administration has met with school clubs, and this year, every club has submitted a preliminary budget. PTO administers school club finances, and things have been improved significantly in recent years.

f. **Celebrations** – Mr. Elish received a grant from Teaching Tolerance to implement activities. Student Support Team received a grant to support the Peer-to-Peer program.

Students with 2 or more non-passing grades will be invited to the Lunch Learning Lab (free lunch with counseling staff) to make up work/improve grades/make academic plan for success.

Teachers will be asked to submit nominations for "Student of the Month" for each grade, based on a different IB Learner Trait each month.

3. Teacher Representative Report (Ms. Rachel Hervey, Health & Phys. Ed. Dept. Head and Senior Class Advisor) –

- a. **Late Start for NMSQT Testing** – This Wed. 10/16 will be a late-start day, and students in 11th grade will have the opportunity to take the NMSQT/PSAT, the original SAT prep test.
- b. **Homecoming Soccer Game (Thurs. 10/24)** – 9th-12th graders can sign up to play (alumni & staff teams will also take part). WIMA will have a Passport activity while WIHI has a pep rally, where fall athletes will be honored as well.
- c. **Homecoming Dance (Sat. 10/26 @ 7-11pm)** – Held at the A2 Sheraton this year. U-M football game begins at 7:30pm, so plan accordingly. Parent chaperones are still needed! Please contact Ms. Hervey if you can help.
- d. **Senior Night Party (Thurs. 5/28)** – Every year, non-senior parents are sought help lead the senior night party after the graduation ceremony. Parents who have chaperoned before said that the duties are clearly spelled out and not difficult. Three administrators are each in attendance for 1 of the three 3-hour shifts that night. Two parents of 9th-graders (Kathy & Tamara) volunteered to chaperone.
- e. **National Honor Society** – Holding a fundraiser to purchase graduation cords. To support this effort, please visit the [Panera at 3205 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104](#), near Whole Foods, between 4:00-8:00pm on Thurs. 10/17, and make a purchase. If you mention Washtenaw International, a portion of your purchase will go toward the NHS.

3. Treasurer's Report –

Nancy Harvey distributed a Treasurer's Report for September. She explained that the apparent activity on the report mostly reflects adjustments/allocations made after the initial FY 2019-20 PTO budget was approved at the 9/9 meeting.

Rashonda reported that so far, the PTO Membership Drive has brought in about \$4000.

4. Current/New Business -

- a. **PTO Membership Drive** – The PTO invited each WIMAHI family to donate \$50 to join the PTO, and receive in exchange 1 WIPTO T-shirt, plus admission to Game Night (1/23/2020) and Spring Carnival (May 2020 date TBA; Ruby D. & Tamara L. will co-chair) with a “perks package.” Proceeds (\$4000 so far) will support our PTO's Fairy Funds, Health/Wellness Fund, Technology Fund, and Staff Grants Fund.
- b. **Parent-Teacher Conferences (Tues. 10/29 & Wed. 10/30)** – PTO will serve 56 staff members “breakfast for dinner” on Tues. evening, and soup/sandwiches the next day. Abbey W., Kathy O., & Rebecca R. volunteered to help. A SignUp Genius link will be sent out so parents can sign up to volunteer and/or donate.
- c. **WIMA Chili Cookoff (Thurs. 11/21)** – Competitive potluck for WIMA families. 5th annual this year! Jeff C. agreed to help publicize. A SignUp Genius link will be sent.
- d. **Holiday Baskets (Dec. date TBD)** – The PTO would like to continue this tradition for the school faculty & staff members. Abbey W., Rebecca R., and Kathy O. volunteered to help.
- e. **Prospective Student Information Nights** – For WIHI: 11/7/2019, 12/4/2019, 2/4/2020; for WIMA: 11/3. Application window: 11/8/2019 – 2/7/2020. Need about 15 current students to act as student ambassadors/guides each of these 4 nights. Training happens between

end of school and the 6pm start time; PTO usually supplied a simple meal for that group.

- f. **International Dinner (9/20)** – One parent indicated that combining the dinner with the Expo presentations (formerly part of the spring Melting Potluck) was a really good idea. Discussion of how to avoid running out of food; suggested having people bring 30-40 servings instead of 20; having students walk around as “servers” rather than allowing people to fill up their plates from the buffet from the get-go.

7. Other Business –

Fundraising –

- a. Ruby D. would like to lead the salsa-sale fundraiser (with Jose’ Madrid company) again this year. Target start date is 10/28, so order forms could be distributed at P-T Conferences. Mary Beth volunteered to co-chair this with Ruby.

It was moved (Shonda) and seconded (Tamara) to move forward with the salsa fundraiser. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Ruby had considered sponsoring a Dine-to-Donate for PTO, but after consideration/discussion, the PTO is giving school clubs the first chance to use Dine-to-Donate fundraisers.

- c. Mary Beth M. proposed a sock-sale fundraiser that would also benefit a charity, ideally sometime around the holidays. She will bring more details/information to the November meeting, so we can all decide.

- d. Box Tops for Education has switched to a convenient scan-your-receipt format (with free downloadable app). They will accept both hard-copy and electronic submissions through October. Anne H. volunteered to submit all Box Tops collected (please turn in at the office or directly to Anne) by the October 31 deadline.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.