

Washtenaw International PTO Meeting Minutes
6:30pm Mon. 9/9/2019
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); Anne Hooghart (Recording Secretary; G8 Kasey & G7 Cassidy); Shonda Brewer (Communications Chair; G10 Calista); Stacy Sucarski (Grade 11 Class Parent; G11 Ian); Sonal Owens (G9 Asha); Ruby Daily (G9 Kail); Rebecca Richardson (G9 Ben); Jason Tallant (G7 Addy); Rosette La (G10 Anh-Tu); Shonnie Becker (G10 Gabe & G7 Mimi); Shannon Baer (G7 Jeremiah); Alicia Brown (G9 Amelia); Jamie Mayo (G9 Nathan and G6 Ryan); Christina Arnold (G10 Kiyla); Joslyn Hunscher-Young (teacher representative); Nhu Do (principal)

Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.

1. Introductions –

Lisa B. invited everyone to introduce themselves. Everyone present is a PTO member and has a vote. Approval of the minutes of 6/10 PTO meeting was tabled until distributed for review.

2. Treasurer's Report –

Nancy H. distributed and explained the reports of the end of FY 2018-19 (June 2019) and July/August 2019, including 7 corrections made after an internal audit revealed minor errors.

Moved (Rebecca) and seconded (Ruby) to approve the June treasurer's report (end of FY2018-19) as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved (Stacy) and seconded (Ruby) to approve the corrections made to the FY2018-19 treasurer's report as written.

Moved (Shonda) and seconded (Stacy) to approve the July & August 2019 treasurer's report as written. Motion passed unanimously.

At June meeting, postponed setting the preliminary budget for FY2019-20; Nancy distributed and explained the proposed budget.

Moved (Mary Beth) and seconded (Stacy) to approve the proposed FY2019-20 PTO budget as written. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Principal's Report –

a. **Reflections/Feedback on Start of School -**

New no-cell-phone policy seems to be going over better than expected (introduced slowly over the past 2 weeks).

Developed 3 major school behavior norms for all WIMA/WIHI students (thanks to Sara Gentry & Beth Vonck for leading this effort).

Relationship Initiative: For students to succeed, they need to feel safe, secure, and supported. Plan to start having student leaders wear WI T-shirts so people can ask them for help, etc.

Next year's Back-to-School Picnic will be moved to September to increase attendance.

Ms. Do invited questions/concerns. Lisa B. stated that parents reported problems due to WIMA New-Student Orientation being concurrent with schedule-pickup for other grades.

One new G9 parent missed Curriculum Night because they didn't get the Dean's email announcement. Ms. Do clarified there was a problem with PowerSchool and Registration Gateway that affected several Grade 9 families; it has now been fixed.

One parent with students at WIMA and WIHI talked about the difficulty posed by having the WIMA & WIHI Curriculum Nights back to back on 1 evening. Ms. Do said it might be possible to reduce the burden, but putting it on 2 different nights would pose a burden on the staff members. A parent asked if there might be a way to video Curriculum Night presentations and make them accessible to families afterwards.

- b. **Standardized Test Scores/School Rankings** - This year's 12th graders' SAT scores from 11th grade (average: 1286.7, compared to statewide average of 1007) made Washtenaw International rank #1 in Washtenaw County; #3 in Michigan. Though we want the students to do well, "the points are not the point." Colleges/universities look at 5 main factors related to admission, and standardized test scores are only 1 of these factors. Last year, 11th-graders paid a nominal fee (\$45) for SAT preparation; this year, the school requests that the PTO provide \$1000 to cover cost of having teachers lead these sessions; 9th graders will take the P-SAT, and the school will absorb that cost. One parent mentioned that her daughter is participating in DAPCEP.org, which offers ACT prep on Saturday mornings for only \$25/student. There was also discussion about sharing resources re college scholarship opportunities, etc.
 - c. **Staff Hiring** – WI hired a new Spanish teacher and is in the process of hiring an assistant for the Student Support Team.
 - d. **Volunteers Needed for IB Learning Evaluation Process** – Washtenaw International's next step in the International Baccalaureate accreditation program is to do a self-study. Asked for 2-3 parents of "Diploma Programme" (Grades 11-12) to volunteer to help provide the parent perspective. Nancy H. & Rashonda A. agreed to help (thank you!).
3. Teacher Representative Report (Ms. Joslyn Hunscher-Young, Social Studies Dept. Head & Diversity Equity & Inclusion leader) –
- a. **International Dinner & Expo** – Everyone is invited to a potluck on Friday 9/20 from 6:00-9:00pm. This year, the conference/performance session that we used to have at the Melting Potluck will take place in an Expo at the beginning of the evening (contact JHunscherYoung@wihi.org to sign up to present). STUGO (Student Government) and MASA (Ms. Foster) will be leading the dinner portion. At the end of the evening, there will be a talent show portion. Signup links will be coming out in the Dean's Notes to families.
 - b. **Writing Center** – Now open to students on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, from 2:45-3:30pm; please signup online.
 - c. **Peer Meditation/Peer Mentoring programs** – Expressed gratitude for the PTO's Wellness Fund support for these programs. Students are currently being trained to help facilitate Restorative Justice.
 - d. **Senior Night Party** – Ms. Rachel Hervey (12th grade advisor) is looking for coordinator(s) to help lead the senior night party after the graduation ceremony (a Thursday evening in May). Volunteer parents from other grades are needed to chaperone. Parents who have done it in the past mentioned that it was not difficult, and the time flew by.
 - e. **National Honor Society** – WIMAHl Morning Tutoring by NHS members starts on 9/10, in Room 506, from 7:15am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- f. **WIMAH Robotics Team** – This after-school club is now open to students in grades 7-12, led by Mr. Phelps (ephelps@wihi.org). It meets at WIHI from 6:00-7:30pm on Thursdays, with optional meetings every other Friday as well.

4. Current/New Business -

- a. **PTO Membership Drive** – While not strictly required, the PTO is inviting each WIMAH 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 (date TBA) with a “perks package.” Proceeds will support our PTO’s Fairy Funds, Health/Wellness Fund, Technology Fund, and Staff Grants Fund. An email containing links to the online signup will go out soon!
- b. **Additional PTO Goals** – Our stakeholders were asked this spring what additional goals they might like the PTO to take on, beyond our existing goals. Feedback included: community inclusion, supporting out-of-school student experiences, and environmental sustainability. Ours is a “green school,” and the PTO continues to provide recyclable paper products for school events. Lisa B. asks all families to encourage their networks to participate in our school events, as appropriate.
- c. **WIMA Chili Cookoff** – 5th annual this year! Need to set a date and publicize.
- d. **Homecoming** – 10/26 at Ann Arbor Sheraton. Need parent volunteers to chaperone.

7. Other Business –

- a. **Committee Chairs** – Seeking chairs for various PTOs committees (Dine-to-Donate, Scrip, and Store Loyalty; PTC Meals; Winter Family Game Night; Holiday Gift Basket; Spring Carnival; and Teacher Appreciation Week in May) as well as Parent Reps for certain classes/grade levels. Please contact Lisa Brown if you can help!

Fundraising – We haven’t publicized store loyalty/reward programs very much, but still netted around \$4000 last year. WIMAH has programs with Kroger, Busch’s, Arbor Farms Market, and Amazon Smile, as well as Great Lakes Scrip for gift cards, etc. One parent suggested that we put links on the PTO website, explaining how to sign up for each of the store-loyalty/reward programs to benefit our school.

Box Tops has switched to a convenient scan-your-receipt format (with free downloadable app). They will accept both hard-copy and electronic submissions through October.

- b. **Parent-Teacher Conference (10/29-10/30) Meals** – Seeking volunteers in the morning/daytime/evening to help serve the various meals. Our usual coordinator is overseas.
- c. **SAT Preparation Sessions** – As Ms. Do mentioned, the school is seeking funding (\$1000) from the PTO to support the SAT preparation provided during late-start days, beginning next Thursday 9/19. Four to six sessions are planned for this semester. Moved (Rashonda) and seconded (Anne) to approve the request for up to \$1000 this semester, and collect data from students before deciding whether to approve it for future semesters/years.

Next PTO meeting: Monday 10/14 at 6:30pm.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.