

## **Washtenaw International High School PTO Meeting Minutes 10 May, 2012**

### Attendees:

Kelley Bezrutch – President	Fatma Burgeid
Christina Howell – Vice President	Stacey Spencer
Martha Crisler – Recording Secretary	Sloan Talbot – Student Council
Karyn Goven – Treasurer	Malak Elshafei – Student Council
Dave Dickenson	Ayesha Taj
Su-Fen Lin	Majid Taj
Jack Huang	Naomi Norman – Washtenaw Intermediate School District
Mirada Jenkins	

### End of Year Picnic

Student Council representatives requested support for a year end student/teacher picnic on June 19 following the completion of exams, noon to 5pm. They are requesting a few chaperones, some grill cooks and cleanup help. Additionally they are requesting donations of food and supplies. They will supply meat / veggie kabobs. Julie Bernas will be requested to set up a website to sign up volunteers for food/supplies. People will need to sign up by 12 June. Mirada Jenkins will create a flyer.

### Flower Sales

Some orders are in and are being compiled by Martha Crisler. Next year we can plan ahead and communicate at the beginning of the year that this will be a PTO fundraiser.

### Ypsi Pride Cleanup Day

Karyn Goven provided a flier to Kelly Cartwright which has been included in the newsletter. The cleanup day is 19 May at 9:00-1:00. Parents and students are asked to participate. Kelly Cartwright provided a list of items which are a priority. Donations from Flower Sale have also been solicited and some flowers have been committed.

### Questions and Answers with Naomi Norman

The remainder of the meeting was a Q & A period with Naomi Norman from the Washtenaw Intermediate School District.

- Dave Dickenson coordinated a list of questions and submitted them to Naomi ahead of time.
- Currently there are 103 existing students enrolled; 3 will not be returning, 5 new sophomores joining in the fall.
- 100-110 new freshmen are expected. WISD has budgeted for 100 per grade and staffed for 125. School was built to accommodate 600-650. Fewer new freshmen applied than last year, but a higher percentage followed through with process to become accepted.
- Per agreement between the WISD and the consortium school districts there is no minimum requirement for enrollment during the startup process.

- Next year an expanded communication and marketing program for enrollment will be undertaken to boost enrollment numbers.
- Staffing – currently there are 10 teachers on staff, 6 of those are part time.
- Next year Ms Gordon will be leaving – her replacement position is posted on job openings. Schedules will be adjusted to expand most current part timers to full time. Additional part time positions will be filled for some combination of Spanish, French, Science (Chemistry), Math, Econ, History and Speech. Some teachers will be moving up with the kids. All teachers will be teaching multiple grades. There will be 3 or 4 sections of each class.
- Explore / Plan / ACT testing is key to establishing the success of the school's curriculum. WIHI's curriculum aligns very well with other SE Michigan IB schools' curriculum.
- The IB Application Timeline was distributed. It is a 2 ½ year process and starts with very detailed application. A consultant was brought in for several days to assess WIHI's risks associated with achieving IB approval. The consultant was very thorough and provided subsequent advisement for the second WIHI application phase which is much more detailed. WIHI has passed the candidacy phase, so is now an IB Candidate School and is moving into the Application Phase. The Authorization Decision is expected in March 2013.
- Dr Okma will likely continue with WIHI until there is someone who is truly ready to step into or hire into the role. He will likely continue at least two more years as a principal and will stay on as a consultant for multiple years. He is highly committed to the school and students. His time has been expanded for more hours in the past few months. Mr Wynn will continue as lead teacher and IB coordinator.
- For IB development, the teachers must submit their lesson plans to more advanced IB teachers. They also submit examples of student work and their reflection on that result. This is required several times a year.
- Impact of Willow Run and Ypsilanti financial and achievement difficulties on WIHI. There is a risk of a financial manager and / or a state takeover of underachieving schools. Willow Run and Ypsilanti are studying consolidation as a way of addressing the issues. WISD is working hard to prevent state takeover, but if that happens WISD will have authority to appoint the new board until school board elections in 2014. There is no risk to WIHI students' eligibility associated with these issues.
- Grants were investigated from multiple automotive companies. Nissan has expressed interest in supporting the WIHI science programs.
- Naomi shared details associated with the budget. There is money in the budget to meet the minimum requirements for the chemistry lab, but WISD is pursuing grants to enhance the labs.