

# W. T. WOODSON PTSA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2008 📖 Woodson Library

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

*Attendance:* Catherine Potter, Jeff Yost, Sandy Barron, Ed Hackett, Tom Marr, Eileen Nelson, Nell Hurley, Toney and Denise Furst, Joy Salpini, Linda Halstead, Leisa Weir, Janice Yohai, Carole Post, Christina Mavity, Jennifer Cooper, Cheryl King, Annie Hutton, Faye Henris, Scott Pratt, Annie Schwartz, Sandarshi Gunawardgna, Prabodha Taytilake, Susan Crawford, Wendy Hecker, Joyce Bouchard, Lori Sharn Bryant, Lexi, Daché, Bianca Seward, Seving Namkung Sara Schneider, Kathy Nebhut, Laura Mead, Jim Scutt, Dana Hummel, Maureen Burt, Vicki Chamlee

I. Welcome and Introductions—President Catherine Potter called meeting to order. All attendees introduced themselves to the group.

II. Minutes from May 2008 meeting approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of 2008–09 Budget

IV. Discussion and Approval of 2008–09 Budget—Treasurer Sandy Barron reviewed the general account (income falling while prices and fees increasing). In anticipation of FCPS budget cuts, the Treasurer counseled caution with increasing expenses. During renovation, for example, the craft fair has been moved to Frost Middle School and earns less money. Mr. Yost said this fall, without the auditorium available, a conflict with a performance will necessitate moving the fair off campus yet again. Goal is to fund all line items. All committees submit requests for funding for PTSA's approval, per bylaws. Treasurer Sandy Barron mentioned that there were two changes made to the budget since it had been published in August: insurance fees rose to \$392 (she received the bill in early September), and newsletter printings increased from five to six. Sandy then answered various questions on the budget.

The floor was then opened for discussion on the budget, and Cheryl King, Woodson Coalition, inquired about the large reduction in funding for the line item "Special Projects," which is the line item that has been funding Woodson Coalition speakers for the past few years. As part of the discussion, it was suggested that the Woodson Coalition should request funding for the speaker as does any other group, such as crew or band, by submitting the request as a "teacher funding request." VP Tom Marr spoke on the importance of the speaker and the favorable impact the appearances have had, while other parents mentioned that they did not think it had much of an impact and questioned whether it was worth taking kids out of the classroom to hear a speaker, particularly juniors and seniors. Mr. Yost mentioned that during the year he might be able to offset the costs of some of the PTSA line items, perhaps as much as \$7,000, to help

with various functions, such as the sock hops, newsletter printings, and for the Woodson Coalition budget (Special Projects line item), specifically to help cover the speakers' fees.

*Motion to approve budget:* After much discussion, particularly over the reduction for the Woodson Coalition, Nell Hurley suggested that the budget's continued discussion be postponed to a later date and moved that current budget be approved with the two changes outlined by the Treasurer. The PTSA could make changes as necessary and approved by the board. The motion was seconded, and a vote was taken. The motion passed with two dissenting votes.

V. Membership—Nell Hurley—Out of 2,100 students registered thus far, PTSA has 500 memberships. Several families are also making donations.

#### VI. Communications Issues

A. WEmail—Leisa Weir, Technology—Discussed going paperless, but some segments of the population only receive school information in paper format. Sending newsletters via email only would not work. Further, the new Keep In Touch System's private and confidential list, which the county maintains, will not allow for mail merges.

*Please note:* WEmail newsletter is capped at 5,000 characters, or less than two (2) pages. Every report must be concise. Deadline for submissions is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays to woodsonemails@aol.com, with distribution every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

B. Website—Catherine Potter for Pete Brandman—Website updated, and folks can become PTSA members online. Will send notices out through this PTSA avenue (testing this week), and the PTSA's newsletters might go paperless by January or February. PTSA membership form to be linked to Woodson Home Page.

VII. Principal's Report—Jeff Yost—*Renovation:* Ahead of schedule. Current seventh graders will not see trailers at Woodson. Looping amplification system for hard of hearing folks is being installed in auditorium. Clinic, attendance, and security offices moved. Front kiss and ride in progress and could be ready next fall. Main gym will be taken in March with a return hopefully by September 2009.

*Parking:* Adults can park anywhere on campus; students with passes in Whitacre lot.

*Back-to-School Night, September 24, 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.:* First hour in cafeterias A and B and in hallways; 6:00 p.m., report to first-period class; 6:10 p.m., video presentation re: Blackboard; other classes afterward. Would like to host two sessions next year to accommodate parents who have more than one child at the school.

*Population:* Registered as of September 8, 2008, 2,103 students.

#### VIII. PTSA President's Report—Catherine Potter

A. FAIRGRADE—In May 2008, Woodson PTSA expressed support for FAIRGRADE, which is campaigning to change FCPS grading system from six-point to ten-point scale. Vice President Ed Hackett helped host an information picnic last weekend. Visit website (fairgrade.org) and ask School Board members to pass FAIRGRADE action now, instead of delaying hearings. Largest senior class in years is graduating this year, and grades could be changed retroactively to help FCPS students compete for college entrance.

B. DIT parking—Contrary to FCPS promises prior to renovation, parking for trucks and employees’ personal vehicles expanded significantly and fenced in over summer. Formally asking Dean Tisdal to move lot back to previous spot, to remove fencing, and to allow the public to use the empty spaces in the evenings. DIT representative Scott Pratt countered that the lot has only gained 300 square feet, and the county reconfigured the lot per architect’s design. Cannot open road next to building to morning kiss and ride traffic because of DIT safety concerns (loading and unloading equipment from Tech Center).

C. Dance and Senior Lock In—Friday, September 26. Need volunteers to chaperone. Please contact Annie Schwartz.

D. Student Directory—In development. Will be for sale at Back-to-School Night.

E. Newsletter—Deadline for submissions is September 21. Carol Post taking submissions.

## IX. Committees

A. *Hospitality*—*Chris Mavity*—Will not supply food at Back-to-School Night. DECCA or the freshmen might assume the responsibility as a fund-raiser. Will revisit this issue next year, once we get feedback from the parents this year.

B. *Cavalier Cruise*—*Joy Salpini*—Volunteers needed for spring flower sales and security. Fall flower sale under way. Reservations for cruise and flower sales can now be done online and at Back-to-School Night. In budget, what appears to be an \$11K deficit is not a real deficit. These funds were surplus that had not been included in the budget before.

C. *Woodson Coalition*—*Jennifer Lewis-Cooper and Cheryl King*—Hosts “Saturday Night in the Suburbs” program and a speaker for the Woodson student body. Please sign letter re: no alcohol at students’ parties, and designation will be made in directories. Distributed handouts: “Parents Who Host Lose the Most” and “Drug and Alcohol Abuse Facts.”

D. *Reflections*—*Catherine Potter for Janice Yohai*—Contest open to all FCPS students (six arts categories; see [vapta.org](http://vapta.org)). Deadline for submissions is late October. The theme for 2008–9 is “Wow!”

E. *Odyssey of the Mind*—A parent has offered to sponsor this program at Woodson. If we have interested parties, we will have to include in budget.

## X. Other Business

A. *Renovations*—*Jim Scutt*—About 85 percent done. Library, cafeteria, and kitchens are all new and quite nice. Air quality readings are done weekly and posted quarterly. Tasked now with visiting feeder schools and relaying what has been accomplished at Woodson.

B. *Security questions from parents*—*Jeff Yost*—Locks some doors after 7:30 a.m. School has 18 marked entrances/exits and 4 security personnel. Feels 95 percent of students “do the right thing all the time.” Open to questions and “very proud to be the principal of Woodson High School.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

**Next meeting October 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., Library.**