

W. T. WOODSON PTSA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 9, 2008 📖 Woodson Library

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Attendance: Catherine Potter, Jeff Yost, Sandy Barron, Joy Salpini, Jim Scutt, Annie Schwartz, Peter Brandman, Bianca Seward, Lexie Daché, Maureen Burt, Barbara Fisher, Marcie Cohen, Wendy Hecker, Joyce Bouchard, Ed Hackett, Jeff Nelson, Vicki Chamlee

I. Welcome—President Catherine Potter called the meeting to order and deviated from agenda, giving Principal Yost the floor first.

II. Principal's Report—Jeff Yost

A. *May 2009 SOL Testing*—disseminated draft of proposed May SOL schedule. Final schedule will be accessible on Woodson home page by February. *Note:* Tests fall on the Friday before and the Tuesday after Memorial Day. Tests will be done online (in morning blocks), with results available the next day.

B. *Introduced guests:* Marcie Cohen and Barbara Fisher, Social Workers.

C. *Announcements*—Now up and visible on TVs in school. Announcements and posters, after receiving the Activities Office approval, will be limited to approximately 12 designated locations (tack strips will be installed for mounting the posters).

D. *Pep Rally*—Held during seventh period. Great spirit but overcrowded. Will try splitting into two rallies, halving the audience.

E. *Benches*—Will order in the late spring or summer.

F. *FCPS Budget*—Summer school will change. Possibly only offering retakes for failing grades or for graduation fulfillment (only one class needed to graduate).

G. *U.S. News and World Report's "List of Top 100 Public High Schools"*—Woodson reaches number 90. Nice to be recognized.

III. Depression Screening—Marcie Cohen and Barbara Fisher

Proposed a pilot program at Woodson similar to what other area high schools have offered: only with written parental permission, students take a nationalized test (10–12 questions) that addresses depression. Collaborative effort with school-based psychologists and counselors. Apprise parents of results, offer referrals; do follow-ups. Must ensure confidentiality.

Seeking advice re: getting the word out to students. Ideas: publish in WEmail, PTSA newsletter, website, student newspaper, fliers; have teachers announce in health and PE classes; set up a booth outside cafeteria; get referrals from students and teachers.

Mr. Yost: email comments or concerns to him, and he will forward.

Handout: "What to Do When a Friend Is Depressed. . ." (NIMH)

IV. Minutes of November 2008 meeting approved unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Sandy Barron presented budget (current through December 9, 2008). Craft Fair did not reach its expected income, and its expenses were over the budgeted amount. Academic Committee made \$860 on the practice tests.

VI. Academic Practice Tests—Wendy Hecker

Tests held November 15: 11 took ACTs; 53, SATS; 18 no-shows. All positive feedback from participants. Princeton Review personnel will hold review session December 10, interpreting scores and so forth.

Next test date: January 10, 7:45 a.m. Sign-ups so far: 29 ACT, 50 SAT.

Cavalier Awards: bestowed quarterly to students based on faculty recommendations (not solely academic). Presented certificates and \$5 gift cards to recipients at November 12 ceremony.

VII. PTSA President's Report—Catherine Potter

A. *FAIRGRADE*—Project White Out at the regular School Board meeting December 4, according to Pete Brandman, was well attended. Sandy Hoch did a great job addressing the board.

The FCPS report (under embargo) still not been presented to Superintendent Dale. He will meet with PTA presidents December 18 and with the School Board in January.

Seniors: Email the board members with your stories re: how Fairfax County's grading policies have affected your college application.

C. *DIT Lot*—Principal Yost will meet with Dean Tistadt December 10 regarding the safety issues negotiating the parking lot.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. *Athletic Boosters—Maureen Burt*—Go to website <wtwoodsonsports.org> and help support Woodson's 900+ athletes. Displayed samples of Spirit Wear (link on Woodson home page). Raising \$800,000 for turf and \$200,000 for a new track.

B. *Cavalier Cruise—Joy Salpini*—203 seniors have registered thus far. Can buy Red Fox Inn raffle tickets online (closes December 17; prize awarded December 22). Meetings will heat up in January. Bob Hooks will do security (Mr. Scutt will contact him). Beatles fund-raiser will be held in March (location to be announced).

C. *Woodson Coalition—Cheryl King*—Fairfax County Youth Survey results in. Handouts included survey; "FAX" from the center for Substance Abuse Research (U Maryland, College Park); and "Should 21 Be the Legal Drinking Age?"

IX. Other Business

A. *Possible Fund-raiser*—Wendy Hecker: yard signs for seniors

B. *Renovation*—Jim Scutt—Old drama rooms will be new "gang" bathrooms. Will apprise Mr. Robyak that ladies room next to auditorium is locked.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting January 13, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., Library.