

W. T. WOODSON PTSA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2009 ☞ 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, Charles Basil, Joyce Bouchard, Ginny George, Donna Greer, Carole Post, Christina Mavity, Rita Manfredi-Shutler, Dung Pham, Rassah Ostadhosseini, Carol McDevitt, John and Grace Heller, Sara Schneider, Maureen Burt, Vicki Chamlee

I. Welcome—President Catherine Potter called the meeting to order. Welcomed Leadership Class students: Charles Basil and Rassah Ostadhosseini.

II. Minutes—Approved December 2008 meeting's minutes.

III. Treasurer's Report—**Sandy Barron**—Little activity. Report approved.

IV. Announcements

A. Desserts on Broadway—*Ginny George*—Choral Dept., under Michael Ehrlich, allows students who fulfill audition requirement to sing; boosters provide desserts. In Cavalier Hall (smaller venue), so adding an extra performance: Jan. 21 (preview); Jan. 22–23 (evenings); Jan 24. (matinee and evening). Flier distributed.

V. President's Report—**Catherine Potter**

A. FAIRGRADE—Superintendent Dale last week explained he supports weighting grades for students who've successfully completed IB and AP classes. Feels it will motivate participation in those classes. Greater numbers of students taking IB and AP classes helps FCPS stay in "Top 100 High Schools List."

School Board meeting Jan. 8 (standing room only) showed 5 members in favor of Option D—10-point grading scale and weighting grades for IB and AP classes and honors classes. Will vote on issue Jan. 22, Luther Jackson MS. Likely will accept weighting IB and AP grades and ask for further study of grading system.

Washington Post editorial and Marc Fisher opposed FAIRGRADE this week.

As a PTSA, agreed to (1) writer letter to School Board expressing support for FAIRGRADE; (2) ask friends and family to email School Board (politely emphasize fairness to all); (3) encourage attendance at Jan. 22 meeting. Wear white!

B. Tessie Wilson visit—Invited to PTSA meeting to discuss FCPS budget and FAIRGRADE. President will both check with WTW Building Use re: a date and invite Ms. Kaye Kory and feeder schools to participate.

C. Early Decision—Please remind seniors who have been accepted into colleges using early decision admission to withdraw their applications from other schools.

D. SLEEP—School Board will address start times for FCPS at Jan. 22 meeting. Discussion covered middle school after-school activities (will be cut); bus route changes; Frost start time (will not change). *Jeff Yost*: WTW could go to an 8-period day, with all

classes the same length (period 8 = “return period”). Instructional Council will visit other schools, including the academies, and see how it’s handled. Athletics will probably go to mornings. *Upshot of discussion:* Recognizing differing viewpoints, PTSA did not take a stand, pro or con, on this issue.

E. Academic Practice Test—Joyce Bouchard—Jan. 10, 69 students took SAT; 23 took ACT. Review is Thursday, Jan. 29 (still looking for a space). Positive feedback; made \$2,000. Keep testing to two dates; email suggestions to Wendy Hecker.

F. Spring Fundraiser Letter—Eileen Nelson—Will be in newsletter also. Earliest ever sent (usually done in March). General feeling is to send in late January next year.

VI. Principal’s Report—Jeff Yost

A. Postage—County removed school’s postage machine over break. No more bulk mailings from the school.

B. May 2009 SOL Testing—SOL schedule will be accessible on WTW home page end of Jan. Will include active links to respective classes.

C. Guests: University of Delaware Band—Will stay in WTW gym Jan. 19 and march in inaugural parade.

D. Parent Dance—March 14; sponsored by senior class. Dating Game in April.

E. Ribbon cuttings and dedications—Planning under way for rededication of gym, auditorium, and stadium.

F. Course offerings—Catalog will be on CD and online (no paper). Will include Photostory. Students will still have recommendation days with teachers. *New for 2009–10, two new classes (time TBA):* Vocal Ensemble (all year, 1 credit); Jazz Band (spring semester; ½ credit). Any student can try out but must pass audition. Will be taught by Mr. Ehrlich and Ms. Hall, respectively. Mr. Bubeck’s participation in Jazz Band is hopeful.

IV. Announcements (Continued)

B. Band–Cav Cruise Fundraiser—Carol McDevitt—March 1, “1964: The Tribute,” Oakton H.S., David Adler (WASH-FM) emcee. Tickets linked to Band, Cav Cruise, and website. Need help selling tickets (1,100 seats) and advertising. Will use marquee and Mr. Yost will inquire about putting up fliers at Oakton H.S.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Cavalier Cruise—Joy Salpini—Meetings start this week. Need volunteers for Valentine balloon sales and delivery. Contact: Jan Snyders and Rhonda Shoemaker.

B. Renovation—Jim Scutt—Auditorium will be delayed till late March/early April. 5 quad trailers moving out end Feb./early March. Gym will be offline March–Sept.; no new bleachers. Foreign language, Chorus room, and new arts hall bathrooms done in Feb. *Jeff Yost* says students can redo the murals in baths and arts hall.

C. Athletic Boosters—Maureen Burt—Website <wtwoodsonsports.org> up. Help support athletes and buy Spirit Wear. “Pack the Pit” for senior wrestlers, Jan. 10.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting February 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., Library.