

W. T. WOODSON PTSA BOARD MEETING
M I N U T E S
February 10, 2009 ☞ Woodson Library

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Attendance: Catherine Potter, Jeff Yost, Sandy Barron, Ed Hackett, Sandy Hoch, Donna Greer, Joyce Bouchard, Wendy Hecker, Carole Post, Lexi Daché, Jeff Nelson, Joy Salpini, Annie Schwartz, Peter Brandman, Christina Mavity, Rita Manfredi-Shutler, Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, Susan Crawford, Vicki Chamlee

I. Welcome—President Catherine Potter called the meeting to order.

II. Minutes—Approved January 2009 meeting's minutes.

III. Treasurer's Report—Sandy Barron—*Spring fund-raiser letter:* less than \$2,000, or about \$3,000 less than last year (thus far). Request repeated in current newsletter. *SAT/ACT practice tests:* made almost \$2,000. *Brick sale:* made \$10,700, or 107 bricks sold; need square footage estimate to determine brick walkway's design. Want to sell ~25,000 bricks for great impact; can add on additional rings of bricks as they sell. *Cav Cruise: 1964* ticket sales will be factored in next report. Report approved.

IV. President's Report—Catherine Potter

A. FAIRGRADE—School Board voted unanimously to change grading scale. Waiting to see how change will be implemented. Weighting honors classes is an issue; need to be uniform across schools. Will weight AP/IB grades this year, and GPAs for seniors have been recalculated. *Parents:* Students report teachers expressing dismay over new grading system and say they will stop offering extra credit opportunities.

B. SLEEP—FCPS has posted community meetings and bell schedules. Changes may be implemented in 2010–11. Take survey online and share opinion. *Parents:* Does remedy for H.S. students severely impact M.S. and E.S. students? If Transportation Committee's proposed schedule is adopted, late buses will stop for middle schools. Will M.S. after-school activities be cut and at-risk populations impacted? *Student observation:* FAIRGRADE is much bigger issue among student body.

C. FCPS Budget Meeting at WTW—Tessie Wilson and Kristen Michael, director FCPS Office of Budget Services, March 3, 7:00 p.m., Cavalier Hall (Science Wing), to discuss 2009–10 school budget. Jeff Yost will conduct tour beforehand. *Hospitality*—Chris Mavity will check w/committee re: refreshments. Can't exceed budget. *Parents:* If SLEEP is not implemented, will cost savings from bus rerouting be in budget? Impact? Proposed having Woodson Pyramid Meetings, at different times of day, and bring in parents of the younger (feeder school) students.

D. Officers and New Board Members (2009–10)—Need PTSA volunteers. Gave brief descriptions of open positions. Suggested adding a fund-raising committee. *Parents:* Dissolve jobs that have not been done in years; have a group of teachers fill teacher representative function, with teachers attending meetings on rotating basis.

E. WEmail—Not all announcements can go in WEmail. For example, we cannot accommodate Athletic Boosters acknowledgments of sponsors' substantial gifts to WTW. Not much room in newsletter, but need to find to fulfill boosters' requests.

F. Fund-raising—Need more ideas. Extend practice academic tests to three dates or reach out to other schools' populations? Resend spring fund-raiser letter?

G. Teacher of the Year—Meeting to establish criteria for choosing nominee. Called for volunteers. Annie Schwartz to assist.

V. Principal's Report—Jeff Yost

A. SLEEP—Staff voted 98–65 to retain current bell schedule. Whether or not Woodson has a later start time, Woodson is beginning to look at a change to current bell schedule. An 8-period day (75-min classes) is one possibility. Students would still have only 7 classes. It is *way too early* for a decision. WTW Instructional Council, meeting of staff, parents, and students, were provided information about *all* FCPS high schools' schedules. The 8th period could be for collaboration, review sessions, etc., while still retaining even/odd days.

B. DIT Lot—Dean Tistadt's staff person observed lot with Mr. Yost. No fences will move; however, will add a stop sign in lot and a second walking gate to fenced lot.

C. Q&A—Parking: Adult ed (ACE) students may park in front of school but not block access. *Renovation*: In February, Clinic and Security offices will open in old but newly renovated spaces, and Chorus moves into new space. Auditorium not available until May. This summer, front area's trailers will be removed, new kiss-and-ride area installed, and trees planted. *Cafeteria's offerings and nutritional value*: Contact Food Services. County determines what is sold. *Back-to-School Night*: October 1, Thursday. *Summer School*: Credit recovery (only for graduation) will be offered at base schools. Classes for enrichment might be available online; still to be decided.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Teacher Funding Requests—Jeff Nelson—Letters sent out; due February 27.

B. Academic Committee—Wendy Hecker—Cavalier Awards disseminated February 3 to 10 students. *Practice tests*: Princeton Review regraded last one and resent scores. To prevent confusion with sophomore class PSAT in mid-October, will wait and kick off practice test advertising at Back to School Night.

C. Cavalier Cruise—Joy Salpini—Yard signs fund-raiser; contacts: Mrs. Rice and Linda Leonard. (Thanks to Wendy for idea.) Thanks to Annie for Valentine's Day balloon help (blowing up balloons Thursday). About half the Cav Cruise tickets have been sold thus far. *1964 Beatles* show March 1; Oakton H.S. will hang posters.

D. Athletic Boosters—Maureen Burt—Attending Senior Night at basketball game. Written comments available for review.

E. Woodson Coalition—Jennifer Lewis-Cooper—Saturday Night in the Suburbs in March 18, Cavalier Hall, 7:00 p.m. March 28, Unified Prevention Coalition Conference at Oakton H.S. Student assembly in Cavalier Hall this April. Speaker is Brandon Silveria, a DUI accident survivor (now disabled); his father will be available to speak to parents. FYI: Bill now under consideration in Richmond re: teen licensing process to ensure parents are aware of new rules of the road, will require parent and teen to attend 1.5-hour presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.—**Next meeting March 10, at 7:00 p.m., Library.**