

D R A F T
W. T. WOODSON PTSA BOARD MEETING
M I N U T E S
June 9, 2009 ☞ Woodson Library

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Attendance: Catherine Potter, Jeff Yost, Nell Hurley, Donna Greer, Sandy Barron, Sandy Hoch, Wendy Hecker, Joyce Bouchard, Cathy McGivern, Annie Schwartz, Carole Post, Bianca Seward, Sara Schneider, Matt Schneider, Kathy Nebhut, David Nebhut, Pete Brandman, Lexi Daché, Vicki Chamlee

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

II. Minutes—Approved May 2009 meeting’s minutes.

III. Treasurer’s Report—Sandy Barron—About \$6,000 less than projected income, and while expenses were also less, not all receipts are in for year’s events. Cav Cruise has accrued less funds as well and is scaling back plans. It might start out 2009–10 with a zero balance (usually leaves about \$8,000 in account). *Jeff Yost:* Next year’s senior class will be larger, with approximately 60 more students. Treasurer’s Report approved.

IV. Introduction to New Officers and Transfer of Powers—Catherine Potter

Thanked all present for work and support. Has already begun transition process, meeting with successor, Nell Hurley. Catherine pledged to continue her work on the brick project and to assist Nell, whom she officially introduced to gathering.

Nell Hurley then introduced the new Executive Board:

Donna Greer, vice president

Annie Schwartz, correspondence secretary

Sandy Barron, treasurer

Vicki Chamlee, recording secretary

V. Principal’s Report—Jeff Yost

A. Bricks—Susan Foster needs brick’s dimensions for planning front entrance area’s design.

Intermission for his Athletic Boosters’ Meeting appearance (returned 7:26 p.m.)

During this interim, with refreshments provided by Sandy Hoch and Donna Greer, Nell expressed appreciation for her predecessor and discussed potential straw poll of current PTSA members regarding possible switch to PTO. Will attend June 10 county council meeting with Catherine. Fairness in School Sports wants to make transferring or pupil placing students more difficult by mandating that the student take two AP classes per year. Would be impossible for freshmen. If the council accepts this position, however, then the PTAs would have to endorse it.

Sara Schneider spoke about the Fairgrade process and how FCCPTA supported the group and the community’s involvement on preventing the purchase of Gatehouse II. Likes how the community is aligned under the PTA’s umbrella organization.

B. Pupil placement—Principals decide on each unique application request based on placement guidelines.

C. Recognition—WTW ranked 71st on *Newsweek–Washington Post*'s list of top-performing public high schools, was awarded the Siemens Foundation Award for AP performance, and was 90th on *US News & World Report* list. Virginia Music Educators Association also has invited the band, which was a Virginia Honors Band this year, to perform at its fall conference in Hot Springs.

D. Renovation—Trailers are empty. As of June 19, work will begin on changing the front drive to accommodate a new kiss-n-ride (from Pickett side) and a double bus lane. Main gym being worked on currently. Will have a screen and new flooring, lights, and so on. Replacing the doors on several entrances.

E. Prom—Went well, and Waterford in Springfield was quite nice. RE: request to move 2010's date—SATs are the next morning—and to restrict the event to juniors and seniors, Class Council sells the tickets and can restrict the sales. Waterford has already been booked for next year. *Nell*: Give suggestions to Leadership students for future changes.

F. Exams—"Early bird" exam schedules allow teachers to give part of an exam earlier in the year and allows for extra time to grade essays and so on. A mixed class, with upper classmen, follows a different schedule. Students can review exam grades and confirm final grades the last of school.

G. Parent volunteers needed for the following:

1. Summer packet prep—about 20 volunteers to assist FCPS employees. All info going into the packet must be approved by July 30 and will be photocopied and assembled August 5. Any additional material can be made available at Cavalier Kickoff September 2.
2. Chaperones for dances
3. Directory—link with Web coordinator. Parents will receive membership/directory page in year's first WTW mailing.

VI. President's Report—Nell Hurley

A. PTSA Teacher of the Year Award—To Mr. Ehrlich at the last chorus concert. Was great. Auditorium's new seats are nice addition.

B. Summer packet—Please volunteer and get information in by July 30. Will include information from Athletic Boosters, Crew, membership, volunteer opportunities, SAT-ACT/PSAT exams, Woodson Coalition.

C. Newsletter publishing—Will revisit during summer meeting. Will explain the 8-period day, website, and directory.

D. PTA-PTO exploration—Will conduct a straw poll of membership re: opinion on staying a PTSA or changing to a PTO. Change would require setting up a new 501c3 account and depositing new funds to a neutral fund. Prepare an explanatory packet. If majority decides to go with the PTO option, the others can join Frost's PTA.

E. Student directory—Jeff has agreed to pay for printing to keep costs at \$5.

F. Audit—Volunteers to audit PTSA books are Annie Schwartz and Nell.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Cavalier Cruise—No report.

B. Hospitality—Jeff expressed appreciation for all the help throughout the year and for the teachers' lunch. Food is always welcome! Committee also hosts a breakfast at the beginning of the year.

C. Craft Fair—Given Crew's support in the last several years and lack of a chairperson, should we let Crew assume responsibility and profits? Discussion tabled to see if a volunteer comes forward to run it. Cav Cruise relies on PTSA funds generated from such fund-raisers. Idea: get volunteers from groups that submit teacher funding requests.

D. Teacher funding requests—Catherine suggested that the PTSA try to maintain teacher funding requests at the same level. The PTSA's support of WTW's teachers helps make Woodson a top 100 school. Donna suggested asking whether the requestor is a PTSA member. Might bring in more teachers as members.

E. PTSA Teacher of the Year Award—Put criteria for choice on website. Will revisit fairness question re: making PTSA membership a criterion.

F. Blanket fund-raiser—Suggested by Wendy Hecker.

Before meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m., Nell announced meetings would be held at her home during the summer and her availability via email, anytime. Sandy Hoch acknowledged the participation of the Leadership students—Bianca Seward and Lexi Daché.

Next regular meeting: September 15, 6:30 p.m., Library.