

**W. T. WOODSON PTSA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 15, 2009** 📖 **Woodson Library**

**Attendance:** Peter Brandman, Annie Schwartz, Margarita Foster, Lauren Post (Student Representative), Carole Post, Dung Pham, Rita Manfredi-Shutler, Kathy Nebhut, Beth Mulloy, Jennifer Lewis-Cooper, Cheryl King, Phyllis Payne, Carol and Bob Patterson, Loren Brandman, Ann Ames, Lorraine Reilly, Malcom B. Coate, Mary Ann Schock, Meg Stofko, Beth Whitehead, Lorine Stovall, Sara Schneider, Catherine Potter, Jeff Yost, Nell Hurley, Donna Greer, Sandy Barron, Sandy Hoch, Vicki Chamlee

**I. Call to Order**—President Nell Hurley called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**II. Minutes**—Approved June 2009 meeting’s minutes.

**III. Membership Report**—**Donna Greer**—44 students, 108 adults.

**IV. Introductions**—Attendees introduced selves.

**V. Treasurer’s Report**—**Sandy Barron**—Discussed audit report, which was approved unanimously. Presented PTSA budget and, with Nell’s help, explained certain aspects. One less fundraiser this year; Crew is taking over the Craft Fair. Took questions on PTSA versus PTSO budgets that focused on several committees and issues.

A. After paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the PTSA, remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more non-profits fund by October 31, 2009. Will set up PTSO budget.

B. *Directory*—Mr. Yost is paying for the printing to keep the costs low. Said he would pay for the directories’ printing in the future as well.

C. *New income*—*Back-to-School Night book sales (October 1, 2009) for English classes*—Arranged with bookseller; if sales are greater than \$1,000, school receives 28 percent profit (less than \$1,000 garners 22 percent). Students on free and reduced lunch can get books through the administration. Option discussed to reduce profits, split the difference, and offer books at a reduced price.

D. *Question re: Special Projects line*—Jennifer Lewis-Cooper explained the *Woodson Coalition’s* purpose (provide parents and students with information and strategies for combating teen alcohol and drug use) and past projects. Not a fund-raising group, it receives \$1,500 from the government, but funding is scheduled to be zeroed out next year. Currently, any Coalition funds from the PTSA come from Funding Requests, but the representatives—Mrs. Lewis-Cooper and Cheryl King—would like the Coalition to have a separate line item in the budget.

- *Amendment offered:* Motion to add a separate line item for Woodson Coalition in the amount of \$2,000.

Seconded.

- *Another amendment offered:* Motion to add Coalition as a separate line item but wait until PTSO budget is prepared to determine specific funding

amount.

- *Discussion:* Coalition's funding was moved to Funding Requests because (1) unlike other groups with dedicated line items, it is not a PTSA-sponsored group; (2) it receives funding from other schools and sources; and (3) it donates money to Cav Cruise, which is a PTSA group.
- *Vote:* 8 votes to add as line item to budget; 14 against.
- *Motion:* Send to committee.

*E. Motion to approve PTSA budget as provided was seconded and carried.*

## **VI. Communication Issues—Nell Hurley**

A. WEMail—Per Principal Yost, the PTSA no longer has a way to send out information except through Keep-in-Touch email blasts, which should be used selectively and can only be used for single messages. Need to find a better alternative.

Tabled to discuss with PTSA Webmaster.

B. To contact Nell, use this email address: hurleyjenkins@erols.com.

## **VII. Principal's Report—Jeff Yost**

A. *Planetarium*—Renovation ongoing. Star ball to be replaced September 16. Elementary school field trips were cut. Mr. Brown is now a full-time astronomy teacher (4 classes), but his classes are finished before lunch to accommodate planetarium visitors. Elementary schoolchildren can visit, but their schools will have to pay for transportation to Woodson.

B. *Front Kiss-n-Ride*—Commuters from the east can access the new drop-off area off Pickett, but approach it from Main Street. Avoid the Frost traffic from Starlit Ponds.

C. *Parking*—Eight designated visitor spots are located next to handicap spots in front of school. Otherwise, adults may park anywhere, except the staff parking (53 spaces with yellow lines) in the Whitacre lot. Students will receive parking passes in 10 days.

D. *Enrollment*—2,065 now, or 1,800 regular students + 265 special ed students. Biology and PE classes are overcrowded.

E. *Rededication*—Saturday, November 7, 10:00 a.m. Ceremony will take place outside main entrance. Will feature a flag that has been flown over the Capitol Building, invited special guests, and music; and tours will be conducted.

F. *Cavalier Sign*—Has been cleaned up (cost \$5,000). For those who need to publicize events, please go to Activities Office for the letters. The PTSA had set aside money for an LED sign, but Fairfax City government will not allow one on Main Street.

G. *Cav Kickoff*—Apologized for the chaos. New plan in development for next year's schedule pickup: each grade will have a separate room, and it will be held during staff hours so folks can take forms to the clinic and so on. Freshmen will come early in the day and meet teachers. Pep rally, etc., will also be conducted.

H. *Period 3*—Learning seminars are supposed to be “after-school time” for classes and a chance for teachers to build relationships with students. Intended as a stress reliever. Encouraged students to give him feedback.

I. *Cultural outreach*—Meeting with Korean students' parents September 16.

## **VIII. President's Report—Nell Hurley**

A. *Directory*—Sandy Hoch has added staff email addresses and will contact

performance arts teachers for PTSA representatives. Jeff Yost offered to be Woodson Pyramid Coordinator. Another parent has offered to be a cross-cultural representative.

*B. DIT Fence and Lot*—School Board Member Tessie Wilson and Braddock Supervisor John Cook walked through the Whitacre parking lot in August and saw firsthand the DIT lot's configuration. Will move fence 5 to 12 feet and install a pedestrian walkway for safety purposes.

*C. Senior Dance and Lock-In*—September 25 after the football game.

*D. Back-to-School Night*—October 1—5:00 p.m., cafeteria opens; 6:00 p.m., Jeff Yost and Nell Hurley to address first-period classes. Will sell directories, books, etc.

*E. PTSA Vacancies*—Sandy Hoch volunteered to coordinate nominating committee.

*F. State PTA's Legislative Agenda*—Tabled until next meeting. Will email the agenda in advance for everyone's review.

## **IX. Committee Reports**

*A. Hospitality*—No report.

*B. Renovation and Rededication*—Already discussed. Please attend!

*C. Funding Requests—Rita Manfredi-Shutler*—Flyers and emails will go out to staff, and she will review the requests with Nell and Jeff. The requests will be voted on at the next PTSA meeting.

*D. Cavalier Cruise*—No report.

*E. Woodson Coalition*—Already discussed. Will revisit at next meeting.

*F. Athletic Boosters*—No report.

*G. Craft Fair—Lorine Stovall*—Scheduled for November 14 at Woodson; attendance is free. Sent out a mailing and 52 vendors have sent in reservations for tables thus far. Phyllis is signing up volunteers to help set up and take down event. Annie suggested Crew give vendors free coffee.

## **X. Other Business**

A. Suggestion from Rita—Move Homecoming next year to a different weekend. Many military families would like to have Columbus Day weekend to travel and see family.

Student Rep Lauren: We like having the three-day weekend for Homecoming. Need to set up all day Saturday and tear it down on Sunday. Having Monday available for homework and rest is welcome.

## **XI. Adjourn—9:00 p.m.**

**Next regular meeting: October 13, 7:00 p.m., Library.**