

PTSA MEETING MINUTES
Wakefield High School PTSA
September 19, 2023

Attendees:

Cheryl Simpson, Susan Norris, Madi Norris, Emily Bernstein, Malik Bazzell, Lori Frazier, Felicia Howard, Susan Weiss, Brooklyn Weiss, Rosemary Ros, Lisa Fore, Lara Mooneyham, Djuana Mills-Hazel, Heather Kerr, Jill Barwick, Lance Atkinson, Michelle Tomlinson

- I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President, Emily Bernstein, at 6:31pm
- II. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the May 2023 meeting will be approved at the October 2023 meeting.
- III. President's Report – Emily Bernstein
 - A. Mistletoe Market
 1. main focus – remake the school into a craft fair as main PTSA fundraiser
 2. did very well last year; higher attendance and higher grow income.
 3. need all hands-on deck, especially on Fri, Nov 10th starting at 8am and Sat, Nov 11th starting at 5:30 am
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Susan Norris
 - A. Budget:
 1. Susan reviewed the budget with the group.
 2. \$68,775 is left over from last year.
 3. The budget for 2023-2024 was voted on and approved on 9/7/23.
 4. We should have about \$30,000 to spend this year, if Mistletoe Market is as successful as last year.
 5. \$625 sales tax coming back.
 - B. The audit from the 2023-2024 school year is complete – Felicia Howard and Lori Frazier completed it with me. There was one double payment, which Susan was aware of, and it has been fixed.
 - C. Check Reimbursement Requests: these forms need to be completed with attached documentation. Emailing and texting requests will not be accepted.
 - D. Emily Bernstein will take responsibility for picking up PTSA checks, as the Treasurer cannot do that
 - E. Goodberry's is hosting a PTSA fundraiser on 10/9/23.

- F. Mistletoe Market: We made \$20,674 in vendor fees and have 9 open spots left for MM2023.
 - G. Have paid for insurance, teacher breakfast and BAC Meeting.
- V. Principal's Report – Malik Bazzell
- A. Upcoming Events:
 - 1. Welcome and Welcome back to PTSA members
 - 2. Senior meetings are happening
 - 3. Homecoming dance is on Saturday Sept 30th; tickets are on sale
 - B. 2023 Report cards are out for schools – we are in the top 4.4% for growth (last year we were top 15%) and 11th in a district of 268: pushing teacher because of learning lost but also being supportive of teachers because of not having pay increases and all the demands placed on them. Would like us to support them with more supplies, lunches on workdays, etc..
 - C. PACK Time: Hybrid of SMART lunch, more contained. Looking for feedback as it rolls out. Goal is to support a growth focus – with remediation throughout the day. Focused on mastery of skills vs. grades. A student could have an A but still need remediation as more mastery of skills is required and it is not a punishment – it's supportive. Teachers are working harder with PACK Time because it is like having an extra class.
 - D. Wake Tech will require tuition this fall.
 - E. Baccalaureate:
 - 1. Interfaith celebration.
 - 2. Senior parents needed to volunteer.
 - 3. Michelle Tomlinson is happy to speak to her pastor to run it with volunteers.
 - 4. Can advertise on the Senior page.
- VI. Student Representatives –Brooklyn Weiss, Maddi Norris, Victoria Bernstein
- A. Brooklyn Weiss: A lot of students seem to like pack time b/c they can make up work.
 - B. Maddi Norris:
 - 1. at the start of school there was a lot of traffic in the hallways – hard to make a 5 min transition for some.
 - 2. Lunch line was long – leaving little to no time to eat. (Mr. Bazzell added he thinks this has been addressed but to let him know if it continues to be an issue)
 - 3. Lots of students did not know there was a gymnastics team – it's not on the athletic calendar. Susan Weiss will follow up with the Booster Club, so they know it needs updated.

VII. Faculty Liaisons: Lance Atkinson

- A. Noted that Juniors and Seniors probably will not like staying on campus for PACK time, as they like to go off campus for lunch.
- B. Workrooms being stocked was a big impact for the staff. Susan Weiss will continue to see those remain stocked.
- C. A larger sum for teacher grants would be a good use of our PTSA money.
- D. Student Council wants help for Homecoming décor. Susan Norris volunteered to send out a Sign-Up Genius for materials. Theme of the dance is “Decades” – 20’s (Freshmen), 60’s (Seniors), 80’s (Juniors), and 3000’s (Sophomores). Emily Bernstein will be the PTSA contact for Student Council moving forward. There is a HOCO person interested in organizing it next year. Emily will get involved with Student Council.

VIII. VP Programs (not filled):

- A. Lamp of Knowledge: Susan Norris
 - 1. Oct 6th might be the date – waiting to confirm with Ms Keefer.
 - 2. Susan is working on setting something up for the Seniors. Have previously done letters and pins. Suggested wallet for back of phone – black and maroon.
- B. Honor Roll: Susan Weiss
 - 1. Nothing to report yet.
- C. Teacher Grants: Susan Weiss
 - 1. Nothing to report yet.
- D. Senior Scholarships: Not Filled
 - 1. Everything is set up – just need someone to fill the position.
 - 2. Parents and students need to be PTSA members in order to apply.
 - 3. Interviews via Zoom have worked better than those done in person as it is more easily scheduled. The interview is recorded and then viewed by others.
 - 4. Applications open in February, the week after Spring Break.
- E. Graduation Reception: Not filled
 - 1. Nothing to report yet.
- F. Wolverine of the Week: Susan Norris, Felicia Howard
 - 1. Ms. Wolfe reached out to Susan Norris and asked for gift cards for WOW winners - about \$750.
 - 2. There was discussion about how to best a lot the funds – gifts cards vs having a quarterly celebration. Currently do a quarterly celebration for 30 minutes with food. The celebration is for all of the students, as opposed to just celebrating the ones that are posted, which is decided via a drawing for each grade.

3. Mr. Bazzell indicated that previously one of the APs got gift cards for the school. Maybe this can be done again. We will revisit this topic.

IX. VP Communications: Rosemary Ros

- A. School calendar is not populated. Mr. Bazzell will look into this. The media center may become responsible for updating it. Roles will also need to be updated, as some people are not correct as well.
- B. Rosemary is only as effective as the information she has – please include her in communications that need to go out to grade levels. Mr. Bazzell will ask the counseling office to be sure to loop Rosemary into communications.
- C. People must answer membership questions to be admitted to our FB.
- D. Bulletin Boards: Susan Weiss
 1. Main bulletin board is updated. Senior info is by the front office

X. VP Membership: Cheryl Simpson reported that we have:

- A. Retail Cards: - no report
- B. 55 parents + 26 students + 23 faculty = 104 members
- C. NCPTA dues = \$546
- D. Member dues received = \$1036
- E. Susan Weiss will handle the teacher membership incentives. Mr. Atkinson will highlight benefits of membership, ie: grants & soup

XI. Advocacy / BAC (Board Advisory Committee): Michelle Tomlinson

- A. We hosted the last meeting and provided dinner. Thank you.
- B. Topic was Special Education.
 1. One of the big indicators of how kids are doing out of school, is whether they are getting jobs etc. The numbers are looking good; positive data received for Wake County
 2. High school focusing on job skills preparation – looking for business will to hire students in the program
 3. Compliance Group – planning parent advisory committee – esp seeking parents with children who have special needs
 4. They assigned a dedicated web site and phone number for special education
 5. Michelle to send update to Rosemary
 6. Mr. Bazzell will follow up with a contact he has about the Prom for Special Needs students. We hosted it before COVID (in collaboration with several other high schools) and would like to know what is going on with that now, if anything.

- XII. School Improvement: Susan Norris, Felicia Howard
 - A. School did well in growth – as Mr. Bazzell reported
 - B. Next meeting is a quarterly review in October
 - C. Staff has been working diligently on improved school culture – there’s a decrease in transience of staff members
 - D. Business Alliance – Sarah Joyner did the role previously. A representative is needed. Emily will ask Ms. Joyner about it.

- XIII. Hospitality: Susan Weiss
 - A. Can we increase our hospitality budget? Susan Norris said we can make that decision after Mistletoe Market.
 - B. Lara Mooneyham happy to help with Hospitality.

- XIV. Wakefield Strong (not filled): Susan Weiss:
 - A. Backpack buddies: food for students on the weekends. Can we help with this? Yes, Susan will send out a Sign-Up Genius for donations of backpacks and food.

- XV. Old Business – None.

- XVI. New Business –
 - A. “How to College” – Dr. Brenner presented in person last year and received very positive feedback from attendees. Emily is going to look into ideas to partner with her moving forward, as she has expressed interest in sharing a percentage of sales of books and cards as a fundraiser for PTSA. Discussed that if a virtual event was held with a code for the school, it would be preferable to having to hold physical items at school, and collect money. To be continued.

- XVII. Next PTSA Board Meeting: October 10, 2023 - 6:30 pm

- XVIII. Adjournment:
 - A. Cheryl Simpson made a motion to adjourn.
 - B. Jill Barwick seconded the motion.
 - C. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.