

W. T. WOODSON PTSA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2008 ☞ Woodson Library

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

Attendance: Catherine Potter, Jeff Yost, Sandy Barron, Nell Hurley, Charlie Oppenheim, Jeff Nelson, Lexi Daché, Annie Schwartz, Donna Greer, Sandy Hoch, Bianca Seward, Dung Pham, Cheryl King, Denise Furst, Joyce Bouchard, Leisa Weir, Christina Mavity, Peter Brandman, Sumaia Alhadithi, Joy Salpini, Jim Scutt, Vicki Chamlee

I. Welcome and Introductions—President Catherine Potter called meeting to order.

II. Minutes from September 2008 meeting approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Sandy Barron presented budget (through October 14, 2008). Will pay national and state PTA dues, which will reduce membership funds \$2.75/member. No update to Cavalier Cruise budget information.

IV. Membership—Nell Hurley prepared report comparing membership data from October 2007 and October 2008. With 2,134 students enrolled, we have 1,078 PTSA members, including 225 students and 4 staff members. Memberships are up 21.5%, with 25% having paid online. While program donations are down 14%, Cav Cruise donations have doubled (\$5,278). Overall membership intake (fees and all donations) is up 28.6%.

V. Student Directory Sales—Sandy Hoch ordered 1,150 directories, donated 35 to the school's front office, and sold 1,030 copies. Printer advised prices will go up next year; PTSA may have to increase what it charges members. Discussion held on how to improve the directory's compilation process. Many suggestions were fielded, including possibly requiring the directory forms be filled out and returned for students to obtain their lockers, avoiding copying the membership form and directory form on same page, and finding a better way to compile the Coalition pledge information (asterisks).

Coalition pledge participation: up from 18% in 2007 to 53% in 2008.

VI. PTSA Website—For the first time, the PTSA accepted online membership registrations. The increase in membership stems in large part to this opportunity. Catherine Potter introduced Pete Brandman and expressed appreciation for his Web work on the PTSA's behalf.

VII. Review and Approval of Teacher Funding Requests—Jeff Nelson advised that requests are submitted and reviewed in the fall and spring. Out of the teacher funding budget line item, the PTSA spends two-thirds of the fund in the fall and reserves the remainder for spring competitions and other requests. Process: Jeff sends out a notice for requests to all the teachers and administration, the requests are then submitted by the

deadline, and Jeff reviews them with the PTSA president and Mr. Yost. The requests are voted on at that meeting. Requests cover classroom activities, school-sponsored events, and boosters' needs. The original request forms are available for any Board member to review.

Seventeen requests were presented and approved for the amounts shown on the attached page (*see* W. T. Woodson PTSA—Fall 2008—Funding Requests by Teachers and Club Sponsors).

Comments were made during the meeting that the groups that receive funding should also volunteer and assist with PTSA activities.

Leisa Weir motioned to approve the entire slate. All seconded the motion.

VIII. Principal's Report—Jeff Yost reviewed *Governor Tim Kaine's visit October 14*, commemorating the fiftieth year of GED in Virginia where it all started, at W. T. Woodson. Many cabinet members and senior staff accompanied the governor.

Back to School Night was a success. Teachers liked new format; 10-minute passing time was helpful. About 75% could view video. For next year: will reserve both cafeterias and evenly distribute school groups, and will have students (all in same shirts) available to lead folks in the right direction.

Regarding Hospitality, Chris Mativy said parents liked the new arrangements. All monies raised went to student groups. Will distribute the groups more evenly next year.

Discussed *PSAT and ACT/SAT testing* and practice tests and fees, and how there may have been some confusion this year with signing up for the PSTA. The PSAT form is confusing as it does not clearly indicate who does or does not pay and who should take the test. *Action for next year*: The school should explain on the PSAT form who should take what test and when and the tests' associated fees (e.g., PSAT is optional for freshmen and fee = \$X; sophomores must take PSAT and test is free; and so on).

IX. Committee Reports

A. *Athletic Boosters—Charlie Oppenheim*—Reviewed the Capital Campaign, which pays for enhancements to school for all students' (including Frost) and community's use. Wants to pay for additional items during renovation while county has permits for installations and renovation personnel are so helpful (installing scoreboards, etc.). Focused on proposed new track (current one is condemned) and artificial turf at end of track and light pole repair. Has approached outside groups for sponsorship and funds for turf. Fairfax County will not allow any turf to be installed until all funds are in hand; further, county is putting turf in middle school fields' first. Currently booster and recreation funds pay for field maintenance, lining, and mowing, none of which will be necessary with turf.

B. *Academic—Practice SAT and ACT Tests—Catherine Potter (for Wendy Hecker)*—For November 15 practice tests, 90 students have signed up (80 SAT, 10 ACT). Trying to finalize when Princeton Review will review tests with the students. About 40 have signed up for the January 10 test date. Need volunteers to help direct people those mornings. PTSA will incur minor custodial fees.

C. *Craft Fair—Catherine Potter*—November 8 at Frost. Still need volunteers to help set up the night before and to dismantle afterward.

D. *Renovation*—*Jim Scutt*—Upper and lower halls, English, and math areas are done along with state-of-the-art cafeteria and food prep areas. Old office area will be done by January. Auditorium is moving along; bad flea infestation under the stage hampered progress. Chorus room should be done by February. Terrazzo floors will be stripped and polished (not replaced). One peeve: stairways and rails will not be redone. Treads will be covered with caps and rails repainted. Suggestion box has been removed from office.

E. *Cavalier Cruise*—*Joy Salpini*—Made more than \$200 on fall fund-raiser and \$240 on 50-50 raffle (football game). A cruise ticket's sale price goes up November 1.

X. PTSA President's Report—Catherine Potter

A. *DIT parking*—Attended Governor's function and met School Board members. Talked to the latter about FAIRGRADE and the DIT lot. Please email Dean Tisdal. Thus far, county is firm: DIT will not be relocated.

B. *Dance and Senior Lock In*—Friday, September 26, had about 250 students.

C. *FAIRGRADE*—Board members are not moving on it this year. The report that was due in October 2008 might not come out until spring. For those interested parties, particularly students, go to Board Meetings and March! (Students get heard first.)

D. *Fairfax County Budget Hearings*—Athletic fees and AP testing costs will increase as well as class sizes. Clinic aides will probably be cut.

XI. Other Business

A. *Homecoming*—More than 1,300 students attended.

B. Principal's comments re: budget—County will get pushback on clinic aides. Certainly class sizes will increase while salaries freeze. FCPS is tasked with 10–15% reductions in the budget and will surely pass cost along to individual schools to save the county money.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting October 11, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., Library.