

W. T. WOODSON PTSA BOARD MEETING
M I N U T E S
May 12, 2009 ☞ Woodson Library

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

Attendance: Catherine Potter, Jeff Yost, Sandy Barron, Wendy Hecker, Joyce Bouchard, Cathy McGivern, Rita Manfredi-Shutler, Carole Post, Christina Mavity, Donna Greer, Peter Brandman, Annie Schwartz, Sandy Hoch, Nell Hurley, Ed Hackett, Dixie Mayall, Vicki Chamlee

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

II. Minutes—Approved April 2009 meeting’s minutes with one change: Nell Hurley pointed out state, not County Council, PTA decides stances on issues.

III. Treasurer’s Report—Sandy Barron—Appears we’ll end year below income projections, but we’ve incurred fewer expenses. Spring fund-raiser brought in \$2,900. *Catherine Potter on Teacher Funding Requests (2009–10)*: need to tighten form and ensure expenses match the original requests and that money is spent appropriately. Treasurer’s Report approved.

IV. New Business

A. Bylaws—Catherine Potter—Proposed “motion to approve the Amendments to the Bylaws, as distributed and discussed at the March and April PTSA meetings, and published in the April Newsletter, and further, to submit such Amendments to the Virginia State PTSA for approval.” *Discussion*: Caveat is not all Virginia State PTSA wording is included verbatim since the state’s standard template’s wording arrived after the process had begun. Bylaws will likely be rejected, but they must be submitted for the WTW PTSA to remain in good standing. Nell Hurley had discussed WTW PTSA’s concerns regarding the PTA’s standard template with Northern District PTA representative. Will elaborate at May 20, 2009, PTSA–PTO meeting at WTW. Vote held: 16 yeas; 1 abstention. Motion passed.

B. Election of Officers—Catherine Potter—Proposed motion to elect the following candidates to the respective PTSA offices for the 2009–10 school year: president, Nell Hurley; vice president, Donna Greer; treasurer, Sandy Barron; secretary, Vicki Chamlee; and corresponding secretary, Annie Schwartz. Vote held: 16 yeas; 1 abstention. Motion passed. Volunteers still needed for committees.

C. PTSA v. PTO Meeting [7 p.m., May 20]—Catherine Potter—Representatives from the National, District, and Fairfax County PTAs and the Bonnie Brae Elementary School PTO will speak. Seven elementary school in Fairfax County have PTOs, and 3 private schools in the county have PTAs. All 25 secondary schools have PTAs, but not all are necessarily in good standing (issues with bylaws, dues, and so on). Attend meeting to hear representatives discuss the facts regarding the two groups’ differences.

V. Principal’s Report—Jeff Yost

A. Year-End Testing Schedule—Changed schedules to accommodate Monday's early release for elementary schools. WTW website details changes for exams and SOL tests. The latter will be held in the main gym, auxiliary gym, and Cavalier Hall. Staff will set up the testing sites. Monday–Thursday will follow the regular bell schedules without a break to ensure enough time for the testing (7:20–9:00 a.m./9:10–10:45 a.m./regular classes). After holiday weekend, instructional day will change to accommodate 6th and 7th bell classes' tests. Teachers will monitor their classes' SOL exams.

B. New Bell Schedule for 2009–10—Administration will review the changes with the staff. Then the new schedule will be presented via either videotape or live feed during seventh period to all 9th, 10th, and 11th graders.

C. Back-to-School Packet Distribution—For the coming school year, the packet of school forms will be mailed to students to ensure materials will be returned in the time required. On September 2 (Wednesday before Labor Day), 4:00–7:00 p.m., teachers, students, and volunteers will be at WTW with back-to-school information: supply lists, gym uniforms, PTSA memberships, and so forth. Will include a spirit pep rally, possibly out on the ball field. Class schedules will be distributed; process still to be determined. Might print out, on demand, at various locations throughout the school. PTA forms may be handed out at the same time.

D. WTW Summer Institute—Once open only to students taking AP classes, the institute is now open to all students. Will be held August 18 and 19 (5:00–9:00 p.m.). Covers note taking, test taking, and time management.

VI. VII. President's Report—Catherine Potter

A. School Board Superintendent's Meeting with PTA Presidents—Dr. Dale has implemented changes to transportation/bus schedules. Will not affect Frost and WTW students, but elementary school start times will change by as much as 30 minutes. Has added savings to the budget. Dale also announced girls' gymnastics program has been saved for 2009–10. None of the high schools lost a guidance counselor. Also discussed disciplinary proceedings. Addressed media's coverage of the suicide of Fairfax County high school student facing expulsion because of zero tolerance policy (drugs). Some queried whether policy should be reviewed after another student, who turned in drugs someone else had given her, was expelled.

B. Announcement—Jeff Yost was nominated for FCPS New Principal of the Year. Appreciation held May 7. Comments from those who nominated Mr. Yost read aloud.

C. Personal—Thanked all PTSA members for support throughout the years.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Cavalier Cruise—Annie Schwartz—Karen Gritis needs volunteers for May 19 to help with mailing. Meet in cafeteria A.

B. Hospitality—Chris Mavity—Teacher appreciation lunch held April 30 worked out quite well. Consider scheduling before SOL exams again next year. Thank you notes passed for members' review.

C. Directory—Sandy Hoch—After remaining steady for several years, printing costs will increase from \$1.79 to possibly \$1.93. Look at reducing print run or increasing sale price. To keep sale price to \$5, Jeff Yost will consider covering print cost. Will revisit issue in light of PTSA budget and reduced fund-raising income.

Student attendee from Leadership Class said the class would likely be willing to offer another “Pig Out” (held in fall) in the spring as a WTW fund-raiser.

D. Academic Committee—Wendy Hecker—Third-quarter awards were held April 21, with students’ achievements acknowledged and gift cards distributed. Need to purchase cards for the fall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. Catherine Potter introduced Barry R. Korb and Stephen A. Lingle of Lighthouse Financial Planning, LLC (www.lighthousefp.com), who spoke to interested PTSA members after the meeting.

Next regular meeting: June 9, 7:00 p.m., Library.