

Wakefield PTSA Meeting

Monday, May 9, 2022

Minutes

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and was recorded. Interpretation was provided in Spanish and Amharic.

I. Welcome and Introductions: Jenny Sammis, VP

Jenny introduced the board members and thanked the interpreters: Julio for Spanish, and Rahel for Amharic.

II. Acknowledgements & Kudos

- o Teacher & Staff appreciation week and luncheon: Thank you to the Committee Chair, Margaret McGilvray, and her wonderful committee for this event and all the other activities this year. Also a shoutout to the Spanish parents who attended and helped out. Teachers and staff were very appreciative.
- o Plant Sale April 30 (Stephen Duall, Chair); The plant sale is our main fundraiser every year. It raised funds for teacher grants. We raised over \$8,000 this year! We received great community support and generosity. Thanked Dr. Willmore, the PTSA, Judith, Jenny, Beth, the custodial staff that worked on Saturday and all the student volunteers from garden club and cohort that helped from 6am to the end. Thanked Wendy Maitland, Lisa LaBella for their leadership. Special shoutout to Walter Wismeyer who raised and donated 100s of vegetable seedlings to sell during the event. All proceeds went to the PTSA. Thanked Ron Rosenberg, Rosemary O'Neill who handled online preorder process. Big thank you to the plant sale committee and volunteers. Stephen will be leading the plant sale again next year and welcomes new volunteers.
- o Teacher grants – (Jenny Sammis) We gave out grants in November 2021 and March 2022 this year. With our \$5K budget for this year we funded new equipment for geometry, ceramics, speakers, field trips for students who've never taken metro to National Mall, college tours, a Wakefield cookbook and more. We received wonderful thank you notes from the students as well as photos. Johnny Stewart's ESL students put together a cookbook of stories and recipes from their culture which will be available to purchase from Boosters soon.
- o Slides from the presentation can be found at:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15EfM6cxv0qfRO7GmWLptNfL6882hhD5O/view?usp=sharing>

III. Opportunities for Wakefield PTSA members and supporters

- o Are you interested in APS policies on HOMEWORK and on COMMUNICATION OF STUDENT PROGRESS AND GRADES? Want to share your thoughts with APS on the policies before they are adopted? Your opportunity is now. APS is taking public comments on the draft policies until May 15. Click the link below and scroll down to the chart titled "Public Comment on Drafts".
<https://www.apsva.us/engage/policies-for-revision-amendment/#public-comment-on-drafts>
- o Volunteers are needed for the Prom boutique. We could still use a few more hands to help set-up and sell Prom dresses to the students this week. Please consider sharing your time, this is a really fun volunteer opportunity! We did something similar in the fall for Homecoming. We have prom dresses and graduation dresses. Dresses are \$5.00 each, but no one will be turned away. Open every day at lunch and Wed from 6-8pm. Students can bring their parents. There is a small selection of men's items as well. We can still take donations including shoes and purses. Drop off at front office or one of the addresses below:
 - o Wakefield High School (front office)
 - o 4804 23rd St S, 22206
 - o 2433 Fort Scott Drive, 22202
- o Sign Up Here to volunteer: <https://bit.ly/PromBoutique>

- o Call-out for members for nominations committee. Volunteers needed to serve as PTSA officers. Treasurer and Secretary are essential positions we must fill to continue to operate and control our own budget. There are also fun opportunities to head up teacher & staff appreciation events, beef up our fundraising and sponsorships, and manage our communications. We need three volunteers for the nominations committee. Need have one and need two more people for the committee. <https://www.vapta.org/pta-basics/support/nominating-committee-elections>
Sign up to volunteer next year, express interest: <https://forms.gle/Dmg3C5LV2pmppNDY8>
- o If you know that you're interested in a position for next year, you can contact one of the board members and we can put you in contact with the nominations committee.

IV. Business meeting

A. Approval of the Minutes:

A Motion to adopt the minutes of the March 14, 2022 meeting as written was APPROVED. There was no meeting in April

Beth Hicks, Treasurer's Report

- o Plant sale income: took in \$18,000 sales. Seedlings brought in quite a bit of money. Expense was \$8,700 on buying plants so made just over \$9,000!!
- o We've had a few more expenses for meals for teacher appreciation.
- o https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b3X4ARg2_ueyyPqhWf2vWTAK8Y6Se1LN/view?usp=sharing

V. Dr Willmore

1. Thanked the PTSA for providing the staff lunch; very appreciated by staff.
2. About 45 high schools from around the state had students walk out today for a student organized event. We had maybe 250-300 students participate. They went to stadium during the last period and came back in before the end of the day. They were well behaved.
-If your student participated, the parent should email the attendance office to excuse your student.
3. May 30, no school.
4. SOL schedules coming out: On Tues, May 31 will do bulk of SOL testing. Some 11th graders will do the reading test the week before. Morning: first three hours set aside for testing: 8:19 – 11:00am. Non testing students go to the auditorium for asynch work. We have test prep rooms available to help students prepare. There will be two periods of classes during the end of the day. Students will be notified by counselors what they need to take. They will send a list of SOL tests to all students so they know what they are taking. All SOLs used to be required, but now you only take the ones you need for graduation. 9th graders will need to take Math and Biology. They will also need World History if they didn't pass the World Geography SOL. Check with your student's counselor to be sure if your child needs to take the SOL.
5. Final exam schedule will circulate soon. :
Friday, June 10: is normal 1 day but bell schedule will be different
Monday, June 13: begin and end each day with a two-hour final exam block
Tuesday, June 14 is a full day of school with 2 exams
Wednesday, June 15 is an early release day: dismissal 12:30pm
Some teachers do not give a traditional final exam but will have a project or presentation. Every class will have some sort of final activity. If a student has an A average, they can be excused from the final activity. This year, the final exam will count towards students' grades: it can decrease or increase their final grade. Most of the class syllabi list if there will be a final exam.
6. Senior Class Activities
June 1 – Prom Promise presentation: making safe decisions
June 3 – Prom
June 10 – Senior picnic, last day of school

June 16 – Graduation; there will be a 9:00am for rehearsal where students will receive their cap and gown and 5 tickets. They go home after rehearsal. Return to Wakefield at 5:30pm to be bused to Constitution Hall. Graduation starts at 7:30pm. Must have a ticket to attend. Doors open 1 hour early, first come first serve seating. No cell phones allowed for graduating students; they will be taken! It's a large place so plan a meeting spot where to meet your student afterwards. There is a limit on the number of tickets each student receives because of space limitations at Constitution. No parking at the hall. There are nearby garages. No street parking. No live stream this year; it is too expensive .

Senior Events https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d_CugriWc-rBgU1-OWILO3vCYMYxVkp1/view?usp=sharing

VI. Other Announcements

May 17, 7-8pm, there will be an Information Night for Latino Parents. Counselors will talk about events and exams for the end of the year. Everything will all be in Spanish. If you want to help the PTSA next year, contact Cynthia

Cocuessta Cuttier: Cocuttier@gmail.com

She can also add you to the Wakefield WhatsApp Spanish group.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly DeMaret-Tahu, Secretary