

Washington High School PTA
Meeting Minutes
Nov. 8, 2016

President Jane Hutchins called meeting to order at 11:20 following a CRCSD-led presentation/Q&A on the Future of Education. See below.

Executive Committee Reports:

Secretary: Hutchins submitted the October 2016 minutes for approval. Leah Ferring moved to approve, seconded by Dee LaGrange. Minutes approved.

Treasurer: Lijun Chadima submitted Treasurer's report.

Principal's Report: Dr. Carlos Grant said students are involved in a variety of projects including taking dinners to senior citizens, taking a spirit bus to football game at the UNI Dome Nov. 11, and presenting "Grease."

Instructional development continues for teachers.

A lockdown drill will be held Dec. 2 where students practice hiding.

Q&A with Dr. Grant

Counseling Update: Jen Byers presented. See addendum # 1 for details.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Blue Chip: See new business.

Hospitality: Charu Chawla will issue an online sign-up for assembling holiday cookie boxes for teachers.

Cookie Sales: Lijun Chadima reported that Jana Nassif turned in \$296.92 from the October sale. This compares with \$419 last October. Next sale set for December.

Grounds: Gina Kleman reported that there are campus grounds that need to be covered in newspaper and mulch.

Assoc. Principal Darius Ballard suggested she contact ADA STRA, Interact and Student Senate to involve kids for service hours.

Warrior Pantry: Jenny Woods reported the pantry has shelving and non-perishable food, purchased through Hy-Vee using the HACAP grant for \$3,333. The first pantry distribution will be Nov. 22. Pantry received \$550 in additional funding from HACAP through its Red Nose program, funded by Walgreens. Also, the pantry received \$1000 from Farm Credit Services. Student volunteers will assemble the boxes for distribution. The program will be publicized in a variety of ways.

Old Business: Becky Lindwall worked with IJAG to provide lunch to its two guests speakers on Oct. 27. Other guests will receive refreshments on Nov. 17.

New Business: Blue Chip: Kate Hogg is making calls to attract more Blue Chip donations. She is compiling lists of past and potential donors. Currently, PTA has 75 Blue Chip donors. PTA membership is at 120, which is 19 higher than last October. About \$6,000 is needed to meet the \$18,000 Blue Chip budget projection. In 2015-16, the Blue Chip fund made budget in January.

Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Submitted by Becky Lindwall, PTA vice president

Program:

The Future of Education at Wash:

The PTA meeting was prefaced by a two-hour program and question/answer period with CRCSD Superintendent Dr. Brad Buck, Deputy Superintendent Mary Ellen Maske, Instructional Services Director Karla Ries and Associate Superintendent Trace Pickering and John Laverty, president of the school board.

The District shared that it is seeking to implement over a years-long time frame a state education goal (House File 2392) to expand access to technical certifications and/or post-secondary college credits for high school students through concurrent coursework with community colleges. High school students could earn credit at junior colleges/regent schools through such courses.

Prairie, Linn-Mar and Xavier are among the schools in Eastern Iowa that provide concurrent programming through Kirkwood. Jefferson has a strong technical certification program.

Parents expressed concern that the new initiatives would take away from the strong AP curriculum at WHS, which has the highest AP index in the state. Others worry it will lead to tracking students into two-year programs rather than four-year programs at a young age. Also, there is concern that if a high school student gets a poor grade in a concurrent class, it will not only affect their permanent record but also impact scholarship or grant opportunities.

CRCSD officials said the concurrent system would not replace AP. They acknowledged that the number of AP courses would likely decrease. They said the concurrent courses would provide another choice to all students. They cited marketplace demand for technical training and the high percentage of high school graduates who enroll in four-year programs but do not complete their degrees.

Discussions are to continue.

Addendum #1: Counseling Update

COUNSELING UPDATE FOR PTA
NOVEMBER 8, 2016

Our annual Financial Aid Night was held on September 20th, as the 1st date to apply for federal and state financial with the FAFSA was moved to Oct. 1st. A representative from The College Planning Center will gave information on the availability of financial aid and the application process. The College Planning Center will work with families to actually fill in the FAFSA, the required form for federal financial aid. Parents can schedule half hour appointments and will have their FAFSA ready to submit or mail at the end of their appointment. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 877-272-4692. The College Planning Center (www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov) has an office at 1770 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, (located in the new Kirkwood Regional Center). Students can drop in for college planning as well.

Thanksgiving is a great target date for submission of college applications. We have processed 115 applications (up from 67) to 21 different states and for 44 different students to date. We will announce that we would hope any requests for counselor involvement for applications with December 1st deadlines would be turned in by Friday, November 18th. It may seem far in advance but Thanksgiving break will limit our availability for working on those applications.

Warriors' Road to College – See back for more info!

The PSAT was successfully completed at the KTOS Center on October 19th. 183 students took the test. The juniors, 101 in number, will be considered for the National Merit competition. To have any chance of moving forward in that

competition a student's selection index (combination score on all three sub-tests) will need to be at a national rank in the top one or two percent. We would expect those test scores to arrive and be distributed in December.

We are in the process of preparing an invitation for all juniors and their families to call for a Junior Conference appointment. That letter should go out sometime during the week of November 28th through December 2nd, and will ask families to call our secretary at 558-2142 to set up an appointment for some time between December 6th, 2016 and February 28th, 2017. The sessions generally last approximately an hour. This is an opportunity to find out how to go about post secondary planning in a way that is specific to each student's achievements and needs.

Please check out the counseling page, accessed through our school web site (www.crwash.org). It is up-to-date and a great resource for any counseling related information. Please note that there is the occasional scholarship for juniors, so watch for those. The vast majority of scholarships are for seniors.

The ACT is offered in Cedar Rapids on December 10th but not at WHS. It is the most realistic remaining date for seniors to take the ACT for fall, 2017 application consideration. Late registration can continue through November 18th by paying an additional \$27.50. Register on-line at www.actstudent.org .

We are currently in the process of balancing classes for 2nd semester. Students should check their second semester schedules on PowerSchool and request any changes that they would like as soon as possible.

Dean Blanchard, Counseling Chair

WARRIORS' ROAD TO COLLEGE: OCT 31 – NOV 4

- Purpose is to check in with seniors and encourage them to have a plan following graduation
- Events & Initiatives
 - All Week
 - Students & Staff wore college gear
 - Social media initiative using #WarriorsRoadtoCollege
 - Students enter drawing for college prizes
 - Map of Iowa & US for students put stickers on the colleges to which they applied
 - Staff given signs to list their college & major
 - Monday
 - Counselors on announcements
 - Tuesday
 - TED talk in Little Theatre during Warrior Time
 - Wednesday
 - Computer labs open during both lunches
 - Thursday
 - Computer labs open during both lunches
 - Friday
 - Counselors on announcements
 - Draw names of winners for following Monday announcements
- Results
 - 45 students attended TED talk on Tuesday
 - 23 students completed college apps and/or ACT/SAT registration in computer lab or counseling office
 - 25 total transcripts requested
 - This number does not reflect apps to Kirkwood, Iowa, ISU, or UNI as those schools do not need a transcript at the time of application
 - 12 student names drawn for prizes
 - 1 staff name drawn for prize (for posting on social media)