

**Washington High School PTA
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2016**

President Jane Hutchins called meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The meeting began with a **program** from Mariann Ryan from the **Workplace Learning Connection** who presented information about job shadowing and internship opportunities for WHS students.

Executive Committee Reports

Secretary: Boettger submitted the November 2016 minutes for approval. Dee LaGrange moved to approve, seconded by Dina Dusek. Minutes approved.

Treasurer: Lijun Chadima submitted Treasurer's report.

Principal's Report: Dr. Carlos Grant thanked the PTA for their assistance with the academic assembly. See addendum #1 for further report.

Counseling Update: Dean Blanchard presented. See addendum #2 for details.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Blue Chip: Kate Hogg reported they are still collecting blue chip donations and yellow membership cards. She plans to have a decorated drop box available for tonight's meeting to collect donations.

Hospitality: Charu Chawla asked those who could, to stay and help load the holiday cookie boxes for teachers.

Cookie Sales: The December sale is this Friday and is supposed to be our last. However since we have already counted on Cookie Sales contributing to the budget revenue, the PTA feels we have grounds to continue the sales through this year.

Grounds: Gina Kleman submitted a report. See addendum #3

Warrior Pantry: Jenny Woods reported 1st Ave Hy-Vee has given WHS a line of credit as we had to take the 3,333.00 grant in one lump sum but did not want to spend it all at once. Fridge/Freezer scheduled to arrive Mon 12/19. Shoutout to Carrie Tinkham's LA9 class; they have adopted pantry as their service project. Also thankful for Quaker for contributing instant oatmeal, syrup, and pancake mix. Pantry distributed 24 boxes in November and is planning to do larger boxes for the December distribution due to the long break.

Reflections: Teresa Wake reported that entries are due Jan 25.

Legislative: Lori Lane reminded us to keep our eye on the future and well-being of public education in lieu of the newly named Secretary of Education.

College Connection: Lori Lane announced that this year's connection is Tuesday 12/20. She could use some more volunteers. It is from 10-1 in the Band Room. So far, 23 schools plan to be represented.

Warrior Closet: It was announced that the new co-chairs for this committee are Mary McEniry and Lesley Fleming

Old Business & New Business: were tabled so that we could adjourn and work on the cookie boxes.

Reminder: The WHS Leadership Search Process meeting is tonight at 5:30 p.m. in the IMC. Notes from this meeting will be posted along with these minutes, in the shared PTA google folder.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Submitted by Jen Boettger, PTA Secretary

Addendum #1: Principal Update

Addendum #2: Counseling Update

We started doing junior conferences on December 5th. The interest has been high and we are having conferences daily. We believe it is the best way of getting on top of post-secondary planning.

To date, our office has processed 194+ college transcripts. It has been announced that if an application must be received at a college by January 1st, the request should have been submitted to our office by last Friday, the 9th. Any requests that are turned in after that date are likely to be sent after the winter break.

We have set the dates for class registration for the 2016-2017 school year. We will register juniors for their senior year in US History classes on February 7th, 8th, and 9th. Parents can give input through the individual junior conferences. We will register freshmen for their sophomore year in Language Arts classes on January 24th, 25th, and 26th. Parents can be informed of the choices in advance at the freshman educational planning session in the auditorium on January 23rd, at 6:00 PM. We will register the sophomores for their junior year, in Language Arts classes, on January 31, February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. An opportunity for sophomore parents to gather information would be the 5:30 PM session in the cafeteria on January 31st. After students register on-line for classes there will be a window of time for parents to access their students' selections and to make changes or seek information.

As a reminder, parents of seniors may now file the FAFSA for the 2017-2018 school year. 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. The expectation is that the FAFSA will be submitted electronically. The counseling page links to the FAFSA web site. Beware of scam web sites. The correct site will end in **.gov**. Seniors interested in finding scholarships need to be searching and applying throughout the year. There are a few scholarships available to juniors. The best sources of these are the daily announcements and the counselor's web site.

PSAT scores are now available to students online. Paper score reports should be arriving soon. Once we have them, they will be passed out after school. Students should be listening to the announcements to hear when the results will be distributed. We remind students that due to the high level of ability for the average test taker of the PSAT, the norms will usually cause a student to drop in percentile score from what they customarily get on other standardized tests.

We continue to encourage parents to build self advocacy skills in their children. It is a life skill that will be necessary in college and life beyond that. We welcome the opportunity to assist your students face to face which is how we get to know each of your students better.

2016 has been yet another year where we fully appreciate the PTA. The quality of support that comes from Washington's PTA is awesome. I have never asked for assistance that was not given in the best and most timely way possible. My department is very thankful for you.

Happy Holidays! The Counseling Department extends to you its best wishes.

Addendum #3: Grounds Committee Report

Students did a great job spreading compost and mulch on the beds last month, in spite of dropping temperatures! One of Carrie Tinkham's learning project teams, "The Other Side of the Fence" ran with the idea by setting up all the contacts and drop-offs. Several classes of Earth Science and APES helped as well as volunteers from INERACT, Adastra, Student Senate, and Ms. Derrick's special ed classes. Thanks to Kate for loading and unloading her vehicle with a billion things for the project, and to Ms. Derrick for sharing her know-how and organizing students.

Thank you also to the PTA members who donated granola bars, and brought tools.

"The Other Side of the Fence" is interested in helping with the spring Earth DAY project as well. They wanted to start a garden, but are currently considering other options.

I was proud to be a Warrior that day-they did great.