

**Washington High School PTA
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2017**

President Jane Hutchins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Ghosh spoke passionately to the group about his reflection on yesterday's student assembly and his concern about the support for public education and the morale of the WHS community.

Mr. Rod Dooley, interim director of HR, gave the membership an update on the principal search. Application volume is less than hoped and he will be meeting with the search firm regarding this. The firm agrees the apps are not as robust as they should be. Ms. Mary Maske, deputy superintendent, also gave an update on the Activities Director search. She is positive the selected candidate will be an advocate for WHS activities, will be active in the community and the school and maintain our rich traditions. She also remarked how the candidate will give equitable access between athletics and fine arts and will build struggling programs back up. Communication and collaboration were all criteria developed from stakeholder input. 20 applicants were screened found 4 highly qualified candidates and interviewed on 2/13. WHS had excellent, well balanced representation team of 11 people. They will recommend one candidate to Dr. Buck and then he will take it to the board of directors. She feels we will have a very strong activities director and is excited for WHS.

PROGRAM: Brian McGrath shared what he has learned about research on sleep and the teenage brain as well as what he learned the Iowa City school district and other area districts are doing after adjusting their schedules. He disclaimed that he is not professing to be an expert nor is he pushing an agenda. He is simply sharing knowledge of the research he did on his own about studies that show this might be something worth considering in our school district. He found from other districts that the greatest interest in this came from the elementary schools. The main obstacle at the high school level was extracurricular activities. A later day pushes activities later. High schools were the most resistant to change. What he gathered is that it would need to be taken up by the school board as a task force. In his opinion, next steps are to ferment the idea of exploring this and raise it as an issue. He welcomes anyone interested to join him in exploring this further. Hogg commented that MN schools have done this and wondered about their outcomes. Grant asked Buck if this is something that is already on the facilities committee. Buck said not at this time. School improvement advisory committee would be the way to start this process if we get traction across the PTAs. High schools in IC are at 8:50-3:45 like our current elementary schedule. Hutchins asked McGrath if he'd be willing to present at other PTAs to see if there is other interest. If interested contact, Brian McGrath or PTA president, Jane Hutchins.

Executive Committee Report:

Secretary – Jen Boettger submitted the January minutes (with corrections) for approval. Kate Hogg made a motion to approve, seconded by Becky Lindwall. Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Lijun Chadima submitted Treasurer's report.

Principal and Counseling Reports: This month's principal and counseling updates are separate PDF documents provided in the meeting materials. Members can find this report in the shared folder.

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee – Lijun Chadima Audit committee members, Lijun Chadima, Dennis McDermott, Becky Lindwall and Heather Friedman met January 22 and completed the audit of the PTA financials.

Volunteer Coordinator – Kate Hogg Asked that we be sure to turn in your volunteer hours. Every minute helps – even PTA Meeting attendance.

Cookie Sales – Charu Chawla thanked everyone for their assistance with the latest cookie sale.

Hospitality – Julia Weston/Charu Chawla Teacher appreciation will be the next hospitality event. More info to come.

Reflections – Teresa Wake Four entries sent off in January in the categories of photography, music composition, visual arts and literature. Probably won't know about advancing to nationals until April.

Display Cases – email report from Peggy Green, "The Sports trophy cases were cleaned in January by the student senate to prepare for the Hall of Fame presentations. The Performing Arts and Main Office cases were cleaned by myself and Sashi Soloman on February 3 to prepare for the State Speech competition and Mo Show.. There will not be any more cleaning events until Summer of 2017. We'll need to find a replacement PTA committee lead for next year."

Legislative – email report from Lori Lane, “Public school enrollment in the state of Iowa has increased each year for the past five years, with 2,700 additional students in 2016 alone. Gov. Branstad had proposed a 2% education increase but the legislature approved a 1.11% increase and he signed it. This means a general fund expense to the state of Iowa of \$3.2 billion next year. This does not meet the cost of living increase, which exceeds 3%, as it has not for a number of years. What this translates to is one of two options for Iowa school districts: reduce faculty, and/or reduce (or eliminate) cost of living increases for faculty. At the national level, we have a new Secretary of Education who has a long and detailed history of support for school choice. School choice is an issue which has pros and cons, but it is particularly devastating to rural districts, of which Iowa has many. Rather than take these actions as mandates, please take the time NOW to contact your legislators at the state and federal level regarding your opinions on recent action. It is never too early or late to share your feelings with the people who have been elected to represent you. And do not forget that the second in the local spring series of legislative forums will occur Saturday, February 18, 10 am at Mercy Hospital. Free, continental breakfast provided, dress casual and be informed.”

Post Prom – Melissa Kiliper-Ernst Email and letter have gone out to ask for support and \$100 coming from City PTA.

Warrior Closet – Mary McEniry & Lesley Fleming Seeking formal wear for prom. Belts backpacks and hoodies still needed.

Warrior Pantry – Jenny Woods Pantry started off with 20 and are now up to 33 kids getting distributions. Shout out to Kris Wright who has been delivering 18 of 33 boxes. Going to try the two bag distribution in February (16th and 23rd) with smaller bags that they can stash in backpacks – easier to carry as the boxes are pretty heavy. Experimenting with the smaller bags in February but they plan to have a nice sized box in March for spring break. Dr. Grant has informed the staff how to access the form that the kids need to have on file. Getting those forms has been a deterrent. Lots of kids volunteering to box and bag.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Jen Boettger
PTA Secretary