

**Washington High School PTA
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2017**

President Jane Hutchins called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM

The meeting began with a presentation from Stacey Walker and Dr. Mary Wilczynski on the safe, equitable thriving task force findings. A copy of the complete findings can be found here: http://www.cr.k12.ia.us/assets/1/24/S.E.T._Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf

Sarah McCaffrey, with the Natl Resiliency Institute, then presented information about the community screening of the documentary, "Resilience," by Jamie Redford that talks about what happens to childrens' health when they are exposed to adverse childhood experiences. The screening is April 26th at the Paramount Theatre. Doors open at 5:45 pm. It is a free event to the community.

Executive Committee Report:

Secretary – Jen Boettger submitted the March minutes for approval.

Treasurer – Lijun Chadima submitted Treasurer's report.

Counseling Report: See addendum 1 from Mr. Blanchard

Principal Report: See attachment 1 from Dr. Grant

Committee Reports:

Volunteer Coordinator: **Kate Hogg** reported it is Volunteer Thank You Month this month extended congratulations to PTA president, Jane Hutchins for being named building volunteer of the year. Kate has been contacting various departments to get names of those who should receive thank you's. We need to have volunteer disclosure cards filled out prior to volunteer service. We have been a little lax on this process and Kate is putting things in place to get that up to standard practice. Marcia Hughes from the district office puts a spotlight on volunteers who give 50+ hours and informed Kate that senior parent Dawn Stastny will be on the upcoming spotlight.

Membership/Blue Chip: **Kate Hogg** got a couple more donations, but reminded that we are still taking contributions. List by alpha order not gift amount will be in the senior recognition night program.

Hospitality: **Charu Chawla** reported one major event left; Teacher Appreciation Luncheon tentatively May 4. Asking for main dish salads this year.

Old Business: Update on principal search. 4 candidates were interviewed April 10. 3 of the 4 are not of this area and received city-wide tours. One has emerged as a leader in the candidates. The plan is to bring the top 1-2 back for an evening open house kind of forum so that our community can meet and be exposed to the final candidates and provide feedback. April 24 school board meeting will have Dr. Buck bringing forth his recommendation. The goal is to have an announcement April 25.

Teresa Wake mentioned the City PTA Scholarship. It was brought up at the last City PTA meeting the end of March and it is due in May. She expressed that apps from WHS for this scholarship have historically been low.

Brian McGrath shared some new findings on the bell schedule. Based on further research there is a compelling cause to look at it closer. He is now ready to advocate that the board give this consideration. Sleep schedule of kids shifts in adolescence which is in director opposition with the school schedule. Impact of sleep loss includes mental and physical health problems as well as sports and automotive injuries. Supporting research from the American Assoc of Pediatrics, American Medical Assoc, and Center for Disease Control concur. Brian plans to provide info on the topic, gather support on Facebook and request the school board form a task force to move forward. Go to "CR Parents for a Smarter Bell Schedule" public Facebook group to learn more. Join the group to show your support, spread the word and invite others.

New Business: Jane is looking to fill display, post prom, and legislative committee/chairs for 2017-18. If interested contact incoming president, Becky Lindwall. Cookie Sales will be no longer next year. PTA is looking to changing to a different type of committee to replace cookie sales that would still be a way to raise money and for parents to connect with students at school. There will be more discussion of this at the last meeting in May. The final meeting will be at 10 instead of 9 with a lunch of shared salads in Rm 128 at approx. 11:30 where we can invite the office staff.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. Moved by Teresa Wake, seconded by Dennis McDermott.

Jen Boettger
PTA Secretary

Addendum 1 - Counseling Report

There is still time to register for the June 10th ACT test. Regular registration for the test ends May 5th.

Each year we are asked to nominate current sophomores to participate in the Youth for Five Seasons Leadership program. We can nominate just five students this year, and they must be strong enough students that they can be gone from school once a month through January. Announcements were made, along with an e-mail and phone message that went out to the homes of all sophomores. We will have an informational meeting this Thursday, April 13th, during Warrior Time, to talk about the program, hand out applications and go over expectations if a student is selected. Interested students will need to turn their application materials in to the Counseling Office no later than Tuesday, April 25th.

I am still waiting to receive information about The National Council on Youth Leadership. Typically, we are limited to 35 students. They are looking for student leaders and, to be eligible to be nominated, students must have been selected or elected to a leadership position in school, community, and/or religious activities within the last 2 years. Students will sign up in the Counseling Office once we get the information.

AP tests will be given from May 1 through May 12. Be sure your students are at the correct site and on time, as students can not be allowed to enter the testing after directions are initiated. Students with tests in the morning and afternoon of the same day will need a brown bag lunch.

Teacher choice for next year should happen within the next two weeks. Students should be listening to announcements to hear when they can put in their requests. Students that take advantage of this opportunity will usually get the teachers they want. Not every course is open to teacher choice.

Senior Recognition Night is scheduled for Monday, April 24 at 6:30. We have so many wonderful kids and there is nothing better than recognizing their accomplishments.

Sophomores and juniors interested in taking summer online government and/or economics should sign up in the Counseling Office. There will be an informational meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, April 12, for students to learn about the expectations of the classes.

Final transcript requests will be handed out to seniors within the next several weeks. Students should send a final transcript to the college that they have decided to attend. There is no charge for the final transcript.