

Wayne Council of PTOs
Council Meeting Minutes - WHHS
Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Welcome: Fran Cook called the meeting to order at 7:44pm.

Officers' Reports:

- **Recording Secretary:** Kristen DeVries made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the last Council Meeting. Vicky Struyk seconded and the motion carried. Kristen DeVries made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Rosemary Colazzo seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Maria Beilis: No report.
- **Treasurer:** Caroline Mastres distributed copies of the current PTO Council Budget for everyone's review and asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. There were none at this time. During the audit for this year we were written up and given warnings on our books. There will be a mandatory year end treasurers meeting held at GWMS on 6/10/14 at 7:30pm for all treasurers; presidents and vice president's are welcome to attend. The action items for this meeting are that the binders need to be standardized with the same format and all banking will now be done at TD Bank with a goal to move them over by 7/1/14. These accounts will need to have the PTO Councils treasurer on their accounts. This includes all PTO's and Project Graduation accounts. Current Project Graduation need to contact Stephanie Fenske for their closing.
- **Vice Prseident:** Diane Grdodian: No report.
- **Co-President:** Fran Cook: No report.
- **Co-President:** Jackie Prince spoke on the PTO Council year in review:

The PTO Council started the year with a Back to Basics plan. Overall the year has been successful. Our community programs successfully raised funds for scholarships. Thank you to the administration for partnering with us for a great year. Thank you also to Stephanie Fenske and Kristen DeVries for their time on the PTO Council.

The Browse N Shop was wonderfully successful for us and well run by Kathy Jones Smith. The Browse N Shop will be closing 6/12/14. Thank you also to Tori Trentacost for running CCW. This is a big program that runs well. With these programs we were able to raise \$30k which will be given as scholarships divided between WHHS and WVHS. Last year we had raised \$32k.

We also would like to thank all of the outgoing PTO Presidents/Co-Presidents: Lisa Silva(APT), Debbie Jozak (Lafayette), Therese Potter (Packanack), Stephanie Conklin (Pines Lake), Ellen Fitzsimmons (Pines Lake), Deb Califf (Randall Carter), Linda Marchesini (AWMS), Joyce Morandi (WHHS), Rosemary Colazzo (WVHS), and Cecelia Feeley (WSPA). Dr. Gonzalez would like to say thank you. We hate to see you go and we wish you the best for next year. And we would like to thank the community for their assistance throughout the year.

With Wayne Day approaching on 6/8/14 volunteers are still needed with 1-2 people per hour time slot. We will be sending out a signup sheet. Karen Marron is also asking that each PTO send in five photos of their school community ASAP and a basket of SpiritWear to be raffle off by 6/4/14.

We would like to thank the WSPA for their great work providing tremendous presentations. It has been great work done this year headed by Cecelia Feeley. The SEPAG are in need of parent volunteers. They meet six times a year with Special Services to work on items of interest district wide. Please contact the WSPA if you are interested.

Lastly we would like to thank Janine DelVecchio for all your years as a PTO volunteer. You have been a great mentor and friend to many. We will miss you and wish you all the best in your move to Florida.

Special Report: Charlie Ahearn – Wayne Police

- The Wayne Police Department asked Officer Ahearn to speak with the PTO to create a dialog regarding the drug issues we are facing in town.
- On 6/3/14 there will be a drug forum and asked to please try and attend and encourage others to attend also. There will be new speakers from a variety of sources to present to everyone.
- #1 issue today is parents enabling their kids. Treat each situation specifically geared towards solving the problem. Kids will make mistakes. We see that at the transition into 6th grade to be aware of changes and technology. This forum is for parents/guardians only.
- He also spoke about the Domestic Violence response Team/Passaic County Chapter is looking for new members. They are on call 24/7/365 and take about 20/25 calls per year. They are looking at the fall for training. Claudia attended the meeting and she has been with the response team for 11 years. You are listening and offering resources for those who reach out. Safety first and is very gratifying. Flyers are available tonight if anyone is interested.

Committee Reports:

- **BOE Report** – Laura Stinziano:
 - The Budget was passed at a 1.89% increase. We worked hard to keep it down and we are going forward with technology upgrades and a full day kindergarten study.

- The superintendent personnel search has begun. The Board has met several times and has conducted interviews with more this weekend. An interim search will begin if there is no candidate. Please feel free to call (973-768-0991) or email with any suggestions.
- The outgoing PTO presidents will be acknowledged at the June BOE meeting. We'd like to see everyone there. Thank you all for your time and dedication. We appreciate all you do.
- **Food Bank** - Eileen Albanese:
 - Thank you for all the donations received and to all the nurses, teachers, students and parents for their assistance. We have been able to help 120 families in need this year.
 - The WEA has made a generous donation of 288 reusable bags that were greatly appreciated.
 - A big thank you to the WHHS custodial staff for their work and dedication.
 - Sue Kresge will be taking over the Food Bank for the upcoming school year.
- **Project Graduation** - Janine DelVecchio:
 - All is going well. Project Graduation attendance is at 70% at WVHS and 50% at WHHS.
 - Asks that the PTO going forward assist with getting the word out for a better turnout.
- **Wayne Alliance**- Maria Beilis:
 - We are working on getting a flyer out for the school winners for the basket at the Alliance Basketball Benefit.
 - Wayne Alliance holds meetings the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Health Office at 12noon. Lunch is provided. Please join us.
- **Wayne Special Parents Association (WSPA)** – Cecelia Feeley:
 - The WSPA Officers for next year are:
 Mariangela Mejia - Co-President
 Lisa Minervini - Co-President
 Sharon Abraham - Recording Secretary
 Lisa DeGrandpre - Treasurer
 - The positions of vice president and corresponding secretary are open if any one is interested.
 - We are working on a upcoming event with AMC on 6/21 for How To Train Your Dragon. More details to follow.
 - The YMCA is holding a A Night To Remember on 5/30 from 7-9pm. It is for grades K-8.They will have age appropriate activities, a quiet room and tshirts.

Administrative Reports:

Directors/ Administrators

- **Dr. Gonzalez – Superintendent**
 - There will be another Community Drug Forum that we will be partnering with the mayor and police department.
 - Wayne Day is approaching and a great time for communitywide spirit. We are working to make a great set up.
 - The budget process proceeded and we are in a good place today. There was a balance and were able to continue with our programs and provide improvements to support supplemental programs.
 - Dr. Gonzalez thanked us for his time here. The PTO set the bar high and are efficient advocates for all.
 - Next year with the PARCC implementation we are confident that it will be seamless and successful.
 - In August the district with Wayne Police Department and others will conduct a multi-agency security drill in some of our schools. We do not know which schools but will let everyone know once the details are made available. They may also be looking for participants for the drill.
- A question was asked why no one was notified of the bomb scare that occurred at WVHS. Dr. Gonzalez responded that the district with the Wayne Police Department work together to ensure safety first for the students. There was no imminent threat and the students were returned to class after all was secured.
- A question was asked if there is a standard policy of notification of alternate busing during a flood as it has been in the past. Dr. Gonzalez responded that parents need to check with the building principal.
- **Michael Ben-David – Director of Secondary Education**
 - There has been a course audit and computer enrichment classes have changed to the 21st skills. We have reviewed the HS course offerings on what to keep, add or delete. We are looking to offer more career driven courses with grant monies.
 - The HS and MS are PARCC ready.
- A question was asked if the 8th grade trip is going to be cancelled. Michal Ben David answered that at this time there is no cancellation of the 8th grade trips.
- A question was asked of what happened with the middle school changes of changing to an 8 period day. Michael Ben David Answered that at this time there will be no change. Mrs. Palmieri did add that there were some course changes to middle school science.
- A question was asked if midterms and finals were being eliminated at the high school level. Michael Ben David answered that this is correct. In order to have more instructional time and the PARCC being administered twice per school year it was in the best interest to eliminate the exams. This will affect entrance into college being the PARCC Assessment are far more rigorous than the exams.
- It was stated by a parent that there was an instance of a student asking for a letter of recommendation from a teacher and the teachers response was no; not until I have a contract. Michael Ben David stated that the teachers and staff are dedicated and that a lot of teachers are writing letters of recommendation.
- **Diane Pandolfi – Director of Elementary Education**
 - It has been a challenging year but we all have embraced it and have worked through.
 - Dr. Gonzalez was instrumental at the elementary level and we need to continue with what was started.
 - There will be an elementary newsletter in June with the year in review.
- **Kerrian Palmieri – WEA Representative**

- This has been an incredible year with unprecedented charges. We would like to thank everyone for their effort.
- The WEA was proud to support the Culinary Fairs at WHHS and WVHS, the Wayne Alliance and the Food Pantry.
- There are WEA newsletters available tonight.

Department Reports

- **Health Services** – No Report
- **Transportation** – No Report
- **Technology** – No Report
- **Building Services** – No Report
- **Special Services** – No Report

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

The Nomination Committee announced the slate of officers for the Wayne Council of PTOs for 2014-2015 school year as follows:

Co-Presidents:	Fran Cook and Jackie Prince
Vice President:	Diane Grdodian
Treasurer:	Caroline Mastres
Assistant Treasurer:	Maureen Machado
Recording Secretary:	position open
Corresponding Secretary:	Maria Bellis

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was accepted and the officers were installed.

A motion to adjourn made by Vicky Struyk. Linda Marchesini seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Attendance:

Kristen DeVries	Council
Caroline Mastres	Council
Jackie Prince	Council
Fran Cook	Council
Diane Grdodian	Council
Vicky Struyk	GWMS
Kerrian Palmieri	GWMS/WEA
Jennifer Nemetz	APT/SCMS
Diane Pandolfi	Dir of Elem Ed
Joyce Morandi	WHHS
Eileen Albanese	BOE
Charlie Ahearn	WPD
Claudia Monello	Wayne DVRT
Laura Stinziano	BOE
Linda Marchesini	AWMS
Debbie Jozak	Lafayette
Maureen Machado	RC
Susan Kresge	SCMS
Janine DelVecchio	WHHS
Cecilia Feeley	WSPA