

# MINUTES

## WHPA minutes

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*Date / time* 11/7/19 | 7:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Marcella Addison, LS VP

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### In Attendance

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Marcella Addison (2), Kevin Kornecki (12), Youme Sajous (4/6), Jen Schildge (12), Naeemah Sheperd Hill (7), Roshanna Bracy (K), Catiline Thiesen (7/11), Kerry O'Neill (5th), Carly Hamlette (5), Shakti Jha (6), Sandy Cortese (9), Yuri Lee (9), Dimitri Brzoscko (10), ShellyAnn July (4), Kim Racine (9), Bill Jenkins, Jun Yao (8/12), Bindu Dalal (8), Vinod Jain (2), Anisha Mulji (12)

VIA CONFERENCE CALL: Tamiko Evans (4), Natanya Wachtel-Jones (K/9)

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### Old Business

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Fall Fair: the WHPA Executive Board met recently and conducted SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threat) analysis if Fall Fair.

**Strengths:** volunteer organization, communications regarding FF, Firetruck, income as budgeted on track, baskets excellent and iPhone 11 raffle well received.

**Weaknesses:** 50/50 revenue down, Sponsorships down, over all income down by \$3,000

**Opportunities:** would like in increase appearance of our community helpers since fire truck was such a huge hit (maybe bring in an ambulance and a police car and the folks who use them?)

**“Threats”:** Fall is a busy time of year and folks have lots of commitments. We would like to increase our communications about the event in our community outside of school

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### Head of School Report (on behalf of all Divisions)

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The school just finished hosting the NJAIS Accreditation team (something that is done every 5 years or so). The school needs meet 67 specific criteria to pass and Corinna Crafton led the school-wide effort to be ready for their visit. According to the oral report delivered to Faculty & Staff by the Accreditation Team, they were especially impressed by the teaching the team observed noting that teachers are explore, earnest and the students responsive learners. They also were very impressed our rich cultural tapestry and community. Once the written report has be received Andy Webster will communicate about the results.

Upper School Fall Student-Athletes and their team have had a terrific season and have been wonderfully supported by their fellow students across all three divisions (Go Rams!).

The Middle School put on a fabulous production of *Frozen, Jr.* Congratulations to the cast and crew on a very fine job!

Trunk or Treat (hosted by our Student Ambassadors with the help of the Admissions Department) was a big success on Halloween. The Admissions Department also recently hosted a very well attended Admissions Information session last Saturday with the support of our Student Ambassadors.

Opportunities for Global Studies are abundant in the Upper School. In lieu of the China trip this year Global Scholars visited China Town recently. Trips to travel abroad for Upper School students have been offered in Spain (over spring break) and Peru for spring of 2020. These trips are important for our Global Scholars as well as great opportunities for all Upper School students. There is still room for the Spanish exchange trip and the Peru trip was so popular that there will be two trips to two different parts of Peru (both with the World Leadership School). Additionally our school continues to develop a strong relationship with InterFaith Rise. The Middle School also offers service-learning opportunities.

Faculty at W+H continues to engage in continuing development opportunities. Chinese language teachers at W+H hosted teachers from China who came to study education practices here in the US. The in-service day was a big success with many teachers sharing their knowledge with their colleagues. The state-wide College Counselors Workshop was also held at W+H this month.

Finally, the first annual Ram Run is scheduled to be held on Nov 8.

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## WHPA Board Reports

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**Communications Team:** (Marge Majkowski, Jen Schildge & Kevin Kornecki) At the recent WHPA Executive Committee Meeting the board voted to add back in monthly meetings on the following dates: 2/6, 4/2 and 5/13 at 7pm. Additionally, the Newsletter will continue to be published on a regular basis. Marcella encouraged parents to attend or listen to WHPA meetings whenever possible.

**Volunteer Coordinators:** (Roshanna Bracy & Catiline Thiesen) Efforts to reach and work with as many parents as possible have been going very well. The Volunteer Coordinators aim to support the Division VPs in their efforts and aim to “leave no parent behind.” Fall Fair was a ton of fun. Please feel free to reach out at any time and keep eyes open for communications about upcoming volunteer opportunities in the near future — notably the Lower School Holiday Boutique and the Barnes & Noble BookFair, both in early December. The VCs also welcome your ideas and suggestions to keep parents in all divisions engaged.

**Upper School VP:** (Marci Bowman) The Homecoming dance (first on a decade) was a huge success. The Booster club will sponsor another after the Winter Break. US Fall Athletes have had a terrific season. Winter athletes need to make sure they update their health information ASAP. The recent visit from the Traveling Farm was warmly welcomed as the first trimester comes to a close. *The Tenants*, an original play and script on which cast members have collaborated with playwright Kyra Tantaio will be presented on Friday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. in the Berry Performing Arts Center. This has been a unique and wonderful experience for the players and it would be great if they could perform to a full house! Please consider attending.

**Middle School VP:** (Youme Sajous) The first dance of the year and concurrent parent reception will be held tomorrow night (11/8/19). Winter sports begin 11/13 and the trimester ends 11/22.

**Lower School VP:** (Marcella Addison) 11/21 Coffee 7 Conversation - great opportunity to learn about different topics. Next week (11/17) will cover ERBs. 11/26 is the Friendship Luncheon - excellent opportunity to meet new friends. 12/3&4 Holiday Boutique.

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## Budget

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The budget for Fall Fair was discussed by Shelly-Ann July, PTA Treasurer. Final accounting indicated that profits came in approximately \$2,400 over budget, but at the same time was down about \$3,000 from last year's earnings. Basket raffle sales increased while sponsorships and 50/50 raffle income were both lower than in the previous year.

We remain on target for our 2019/2020 budget.

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## New Business

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- Ram Run 11/8/19 3:15 pm
- Upper School Parent Reception, Oakwood Room 11/22/19 7:30-9 pm
- Barnes & Noble in Clark 12/7 & 12/8. Be alert for Save the Date and volunteer opportunities. There will be student performances, book signings, and other festivities during those two days.
- Winter Concerts: Upper School 12/5, Middle School 12/12, Lower School 12/20
- Teacher Mini Grants Application Process for 2020/21 SY – email to be sent out next week. Deadline 1/31/20

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## Announcements

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The Wardlaw+Hartridge Upper School is pleased to present *The Tenants*, an original play and script on which cast members have collaborated with playwright Kyra Tantaio.

The 1.5 hour play is about a group of teenage friends who come upon what looks like an abandoned house. The friends come up with three very different scenarios for possibilities of who could possibly live there.

This show is very different from the traditional plays that high schools usually present. The script was written specifically for our student actors! After the students had a chance to read through the original draft of the play, the playwright, Kyra Tantaio, met with our student actors to get their ideas on how to develop the characters and the story. Kyra then took those ideas and reworked much of the script based on what they had discussed. She then came back later on in the rehearsal process to help them to develop their characters as they brought them to life on stage.

**Parent Alert:** There is one place where they curse ["Xxxx happens"] and one scene is a frat party, but otherwise it should be appropriate for ages 10 and up.

**Performances will be held on Friday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 16 at 3 p.m. in the Berry Performing Arts Center**

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## Next Meeting

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January 9 | 8:30 am, Oakwood Room - College Student Panel discussion

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:10 p.m. and was passed unanimously.