

WHPA Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2017

Attendees: Jen Schildge, Youme Sajous, Marcie Freed, David Russell, Sarah Faust, Veronica Dugenio, Lisa Cheng, Anisha Mulji, Bill Jenkins, Bindu Dalal, Kevin Kornecki, Vandana Puri, Kerry O'Neill, Yesenia Montague, Marie Desantis, Sophie Mackay, Shirley Niu,

General Business:

Jen welcomed all to the meeting and used a quick holiday ice breaker to get things started. She then reminded all they had received the VP reports, Treasurer's Report and Minutes from the November meeting with the Notice of today's meeting. She asked if anyone needed clarification or had questions regarding anything contained in those documents. There were none and so the reports were approved by consent.

Guests:

Jen welcomed our guests Andy Webster, Bob Bowman and Silvia Davis. Corinna Crafton was unable to attend and Jen stated that Cora had indicated updates were contained within the MS VP report sent out with the meeting notice.

Lower School Head – Silvia Davis:

Current happenings in Lower school include:

- Academics- regarding STEM, kids having fun with engineering and coding, Stem
- Focusing on Kindness Theme, Ethical Conduct, Character traits
 - Non profit: RandomActsofKindness.org
 - Notice changes around the school
- Faculty Training - All LS faculty will be trained in the Responsive Classroom Approach held at Pace University and Philadelphia University. The focus is on Intentionally Creating Community in School.
- Report Cards tonight
- ERBs in the mail

Upper School Head – Dr. Bob Bowman:

Several Service opportunities for students at Food Bank in Hillside

Recently had a Coffee and conversation re: **Stress**- What is too much? US teachers are especially sensitive to stressors academically and socially and are trying to become more aware. Currently conducting a program where teachers shadow a student through all classes for a whole day to really understand what is being asked of students at W+H. The US faculty hope to glean all kinds of information with regard to wellness & mindfulness through this process.

Winter Art Show and Concert this evening in the PAC

Andy Webster - Head of School

The faculty and staff are working to create bridges connecting all divisions. For example in science MS is studying solar power; US students are conducting research with Dr. Zussman regarding genetic mutations in fruit flies (humans share much similar DNA with them). There are also a few new US Elective classes

The Summer service learning program will again be in Belize/Guatemala. This will be the 4th year our students have travelled to the same area. We are building a strong community relationship there. Trip is open to rising Freshman (8th grade grads), Sophomores, and Juniors.

Model UN Program is becoming better and more successful which helps build a Global Interconnection Piece in the US. They have been studying NGOs Non Government Organizations and how communities organize themselves

Andy shared the poem *Universe as a Primal Screen* by Tracy K Smith (poet laureate, the nation's highest honor in that field) and announced she will be a guest of W+H this spring. Details to follow.

IMPORTANT DATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Receptions for the Winter Concerts for the Upper and Middle schools will be held in the PAC lobby. Many thanks to Bill Jenkins for helping make it so and to Nalini Parsram, Marie Desantis, Youme Sajous and Bindu Dalal for decorating inside and out.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

Holiday Boutique:

- Kudos to Tamiko Evans and her team for putting together a lovely shop for the kids. It was clear a tremendous amount of thought and effort had gone into making it a success.
- Feedback and thoughts for next year:
 - Parents noted kids were excited to make purchases for themselves and were cognizant that the focus of the holiday Boutique is the “experience” not necessarily the product.
 - They appreciated grown ups helping shoppers
 - There seemed to be fewer items in past years and pricing seemed a bit higher. Quality of items offered for sale was questioned. Consider a different vendor? The one we have been using for the last several years has changed management and that may have affected this.
 - Kids seem to be coming in with a lot of cash. Consider encouraging parents to “prepay” by credit card or using prepaid vouchers. Need to stress purpose of preview day is for parents to see products so they can drop hints to their kids about purchases or set limits.

International family Fun Night

January 26, 2018. Nalini Parsram, Bindu Dalal & Jen Schildge are co-chairs.

The team had received feedback that parents would like to see more student involvement and fewer “outside” acts. This agreed that would be ideal but is only possible if parents are willing to help coordinate their students, family members and friends to participate.

Bindu, Nalini and Jen encouraged parents to donate food (a sign up genius will be sent out after winter break) and encouraged people to come forward with crafts/ cultural demonstrations. All parents are encouraged to attend and participate. Reminder this tends to be an event that has many different things happening at once so “recital” type performances are probably better suited for the spring recital.

Gala

April 14, 2018.

The gala committee really values the opinion of parents with regard to the Gala - we would really like to increase W+H community participation. A survey has been crafted and will be distributed at WHPA meetings and concerts. Results of the survey will be used as guidance when planning the gala this year and in future years. Please make sure to fill one out!

OTHER

Yesenia spoke about the new format of the WHPA meetings. She stated that by publishing the agenda and sharing reports before each meeting we hope to convey important information AND allot for greater community discussion and attendance at the meetings.

Jen Schildge called meeting to Adjourn
1st Sarah Faust
2nd Bindu Dalal