

WHS PTSO General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 10:00 am

Executive Board Attendees

Executive Board Attendees: Jamie Chisum, Meridith Edmonds, Melissa Mack, Joelle Reidy, Megan Dyer, Kristen Toffer, Amanda Turner

Administrative Faculty and Community Attendees: David Lussier, Michelle Foster, John Malone, Meg Walendin, Stephanie Holland, Lauren Anderson, Christine Desrosiers

Parent / Guardian Attendees: There was a quorum of 10+ non-executive board members in attendance

Student Attendees: Emma Sutherland, Alexandra Papavasiliou, Tristan Gardner

PTSO Business

- Melissa Mack welcomed everyone and highlighted upcoming PTSO general meeting dates (www.whsptso.org)
- The PTSO annual fundraiser is currently underway; this is the only PTSO fundraiser for the year.
- Meridith Edmonds shared the General Meeting Minutes from 5/24. Katie Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes and Meridith Edmonds seconded the motion to approve.
- Brief highlights on the Cares program and a reminder to review the PTSO weekly newsletter.
- Michelle Foster is seeking a volunteer rep from WHS to serve on the Green Team. Meetings are every other month; reps can learn about green activities taking place across all Wellesley public schools and share info about WHS green initiatives.
- David Lussier, WPS Superintendent, joined to say hello and thank the PTSO.

WHS Leadership Updates: Jamie Chisum

- First Friday Coffee was on 9/22 (meeting was recorded). Standards based grading was covered—while WHS is no longer using standards-based grading, the school is exploring how to maintain the focus on the learning process (not just about getting the right answer).
- Four faculty joined the meeting for brief introductions: Meg Walendin (interim director of guidance), Stephanie Holland (new K-12 director of METCO); Lauren Anderson (new school psychologist); and Christine Desrosiers (new teacher in the art department and part of the Evolutions team). Thank you to the faculty for taking the time to say hello!

PTSO Budget Review: Kristen Toffer

- In accordance with the PTSO bylaws, the [proposed FY2024 PTSO budget](#) was presented at the September general meeting and will be voted on in October.
- FY23: Income 65,394; Expenses \$65,329.
- PTSO income is generated through the PTSO annual fundraiser. To date, we have raised just over \$20k, with 7.8% of families participating in the annual fundraiser. The majority of expenses go back into school to benefit current students/faculty (very little goes to administrative expenses).
- The PTSO budget funds a number of student, faculty, and family resources, including: student supports (e.g. advisory activities, Challenge Success, Early Risers breakfast, new student clubs, senior projects, etc.), faculty grants (26 were funded last year to support professional development conferences, project materials, etc.), and a speakers series (WHS will host Chris Herren; WEF is bringing Harlan Cohen on October 19).

- Joelle Reidy gave an overview of Challenge Success, a non-profit based in Palo Alto, CA, that provides many student supports and facilitates “fishbowl” discussions. WHS will continue to partner with Challenge Success for the 2023/2024 school year to better understand the student experience (led by Collin Shattuck).
- WEF Spelling Bee will take place on November 8.

Senior Student Officer Update: Emma Sutherland, Alexandra Papavasiliou, Tristan Gardner

- Senior class officers provided an update on upcoming events for 2023/2024—lots of fun throughout the year for Seniors! They also discussed their leadership class, where student leaders across the school have the opportunity to coordinate events, collaborate, and support one another.

Adjourned 11:07am

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Turner, PTSO Secretary