

**Wellesley High School
PTSO General Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2022 at 9:30am**

Meeting Attendees

Executive Board Attendees: Jamie Chisum (Principal), Debbie Cutler-Ortiz (Co-VP), Meridith Edmonds (Co-President), Kate Staehly (Co-President), Kristen Toffer (Treasurer), Brooke Wheelan (Secretary)

Faculty and Administrative Attendees: John Malone (Assistant to Principal), Drew Kelton (Assistant Principal – Phillips House), Collin Shattuck (Assistant Principal – Perrin House), Nile Fox (WHS METCO Coordinator), Amy Larson (WHS ERP Coordinator)

Parent and Guardian Attendees: There was a quorum of over 20 non-executive board members in attendance.

Guests: Jorge Allen (Interim Director DEI), Karsten Cash (Interim Director of Wellesley METCO), Leida Eizenberg (Wellesley School Committee Chair)

Welcome and PTSO Business - Debbie Cutler-Ortiz, Meridith Edmonds, Kate Staehly, Kristen Toffer, Brooke Wheelan

- Kate and Meridith welcomed everyone to the meeting. Brooke noted we had a quorum in attendance. Meeting minutes from the 9/28 General Meeting were circulated. Nikki Ofenloch made a motion to approve the minutes, Lisa Fico seconded the motion. The minutes were voted on and approved.
- Kristen circulated the proposed PTSO budget for the 2022/23 fiscal year. Ellen Subramaniam made a motion to approve the budget, Jill Fischmann seconded the motion. The budget was voted on and approved.
- To date, 20% of families have participated in the Annual Appeal; the goal is 100%.

WHS Update and Introductions – Jamie Chisum, Jorge Allen, Karsten Cash, Nile Fox

- Faculty active shooter training will take place on 11/2, which is a half day for students. Student safety and evacuation drills will take place on 11/17.
- Intervention day is taking place on most monthly half days except October (Step Up day) and March (Seminar day). 11/2 is the first one, which includes a two-hour block where students can meet with teachers for additional support and catch up on work in school or at home.
- Jamie introduced two new METCO administrators (Nile Fox, Karsten Cash) and the interim DEI director (Jorge Allen). They each shared a brief background about themselves and gave an overview of the program and initiatives they have underway this year.
- There was a discussion around Friends of Wellesley METCO family programming and the need to continue this relationship beyond the elementary school years.
- The next PTSO General Meeting will be in Boston on 11/17 from 6:30 to 8pm at the METCO headquarters (tentative), with the goal of building community bridges.

WHS Clubs Presentation - Collin Shattuck, Amy Larson (ERP Program Coordinator)

- New this year, there are no fees to join a club and students can join any of the 76 clubs being offered. The full list of clubs, including a club description, advisor name, and contact information, is now available online.
- If a student wants to start a club, they first need to find an advisor, either on their own or through publicizing it in the weekly faculty newsletter.
- There are three types of clubs offered at WHS, which include:
 - Unit A Contract Clubs – These clubs run every year by contract and often compete with other area clubs.
 - Enrichment and Recreational Programming (ERP) Clubs – These clubs do not require an attendance commitment. They meet weekly and students can drop in as they have time. There are no tryouts for these clubs. These clubs may vary from year to year.
 - Voluntary Advised Clubs – Many of these clubs are new this year. These clubs may only meet once or twice a month and need to be renewed every year.
- Meridith mentioned that student clubs can apply for grants as well.

Wellesley School Committee Update – Leda Eizenberg and Sharon Gray

The big push this year is the WPS Strategic Plan. Some important notes include:

- They are looking to get formal feedback from the community via focus groups at all grade levels.
- The budget process has begun, which is a 3% guideline increase.
- Much of the strategic investment and programming will be focused on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), which involves meeting every student where they are and getting them to where they need to be.
- The next in-person meeting will be on 11/1 at the Town Hall.
- Questions about School Committee's engagement with Standards-Based Grading (SBC) was discussed and hosting a parent forum is on the near-term agenda.
- There was a robust discussion around how to balance academic rigor, academic volume, and mental health and stress. Many ideas and suggestions were debated, including having department heads calendar out assessments within their department, and to open the conversation with students as a teachable moment in Advisory, among others.
- Other topics discussed as part of the Q&A included: Seminar Day, Powerschool, course numbers on transcripts, and AP courses, among others.

Adjourned 11:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Wheelan
PTSO Secretary