

Wellesley High School
PTSO General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 27, 2023 at 10:00 am

General Meeting Attendees

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

Administrative, Faculty & Community Attendees: Collin Shattuck, John Malone, Drew Kelton, Will Glynn, Sharon Grey

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

Student Attendees: Eddy Su, Grace Hill, Emily Hinderliter, Asia Foland

PTSO Business

- Melissa Mack and Meridith Edmonds welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Hardcopies of the minutes from the 9/27 General Meeting were circulated. Amanda Turner made a motion to approve the PTSO General Meeting Minutes from 9/27 and Niki Ofenloch seconded the motion. The minutes were voted on and approved.
- The WEF Spelling Bee is on 11/8. The PTSO is looking for participants to join their team. Jill Fischman welcomed any additional teams to also sign up.
- The annual WMS/WHS Boston meeting will take place on Wednesday, 11/29.
- Speaker Chris Herren will be at the WHS this coming Monday, 10/30.
- Acatober is taking place Friday, 11/27 and Saturday, 11/28.
- Kristen Toffer shared a video and thank you notes from a recent day of Latin dance instruction for world language students, funded by a PTSO grant.

American Field Service (AFS) Exchange Program presentation

- WHS parent Jeanne Hoepter and current Indonesian exchange student Virgia Pallangan shared their experience with AFS, a program that has promoted peace through cultural exchange since WWI. Over the years, 44 WHS students have gone abroad through AFS and WHS has hosted 17 AFS students.
- Currently, there is a shortage of AFS host families. If you are interested in becoming a host family, please visit www.afsusa.org or reach out to Jeanne Hoepter.

WHS Leadership Updates: Jamie Chisum

- WHS will welcome speaker Chris Herren on Monday, 10/30. All class blocks will run, however classes will be shortened slightly. This is an optional program for students. In support of the program, there will be extended advisory time on 10/27 and 11/1.
- The morning of Tuesday, 10/31 is the senior Halloween parade.
- Seniors are balancing a lot right now, including early decision college applications, the pressure of Q1 grades, and the early emotions of life after high school. WHS staff and faculty are here to support them; please reach out if your student needs anything.
- Acatober is this weekend and there are orchestra and band concerts also coming up.

- It is budget season for WPS and there is the challenge of declining enrollment. New course proposals for WHS/WMS will be reviewed by the school committee next week.
- There was a question/discussion about the district's five-year strategic plan. The discussion focused on course offerings, specifically AP classes. Jamie explained WHS has been expanding AP offerings and continues to be open to ways of improving course offerings (both AP and non-AP). AP English was approved last year and WHS sent six teachers to AP English training last summer in preparation for a Fall 2024 start.
- The Friday morning student announcements were shared.
- New WHS faculty member Will Glynn stopped by to introduce himself. Will teaches in the math department and leads the wiffle ball club. He previously taught in Framingham.

Junior Class Officer Update: Eddy Su, Grace Hill, Emily Hinderliter, Asia Foland

- Junior class officers shared information about plans for the year, including recent highlights from the Fall BBQ and Back to School night, as well as upcoming programs including class merchandise, the parking raffle, boat cruise, and junior takeover.
- Officers gave insights into what life is like for juniors, including increased academic pressure and homework load, extra-curricular activities, and standardized testing. They are also discovering who they are as young adults, including the freedom that comes with a driver's license, a greater sense of belonging, and new leadership opportunities.
- Finally, the class officers talked about how parents can best support their Juniors:

Resources	Basic Needs	Cheerleader vs. Manager	Listening	Balance
-WHS Guidance Department -Library has printing, charging, makerspace & more -Hundreds of clubs & teams -Extra help labs for every subject	-Make sure to eat 3 meals a day! -Reinforce and model healthy habits (seriously!) -Junior year calls for plenty of sleep -Prioritize well being, academic success will follow	-As your high schooler gets older, their independence will grow, and that's when they need your support over your management -Might mean letting kids mess up	-Sometimes just listening can make a huge difference -Empathy vs. offering solutions	-Helping your child balance academics, sports, extracurriculars, social life, etc. (which means not neglecting one or the other) -Form habits and routines that support mental and physical health

PTSO 2023/2024 Budget Presentation & Vote: Kristen Toffer

- Kristen distributed hardcopies of the PTSO P&L statement. Total income (donations) to date is \$42,162 (approximately 65% of our donation goal of \$65,000). Participation rate is just below 16% of families.
- Kristen reviewed the 11 grants approved to date for the 2023/2024 school year, including a Latin Dance class for world languages and a library grant for a visiting author.
- A question was asked how the principal/asst. principal funds are used. Collin gave the example of using funds to reduce the financial burden of activity fees. It was noted that the distribution of needs based funds is confidential and not shared with the PTSO.

- In accordance with the PTSO bylaws, the [proposed FY2024 PTSO budget](#) was presented at the September general meeting and slated for a vote during the October general meeting. Amy Munroe made a motion to approve the FY2024 PTSO budget and Megan Dyer seconded. All voted in favor of approving the budget; none opposed.

Melissa Mack closed the meeting.

Adjourned 11:07am

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Turner, PTSO Secretary

A recording of this meeting is available on the PTSO website at www.whsptso.org/meeting-calendar.