

**Wellesley High School**  
**PTSO Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 10:00am-11:30am**

**Regular Meeting Attendees**

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

Administrative, Faculty & Community Attendees: John Malone, Collin Shattuck, Drew Kelton, Sarah Matloff, Sharon Grey, Meg Walendin, Brian Reddy, Tim Eagan, Thom Henes, Nora Wilkins, Louisa Morrison, Michael LaCava

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

**Welcome**

- Meridith welcomed everyone to the meeting and handouts were provided. A video recording will be available on the PTSO website at [www.whsptso.org/meeting-calendar](http://www.whsptso.org/meeting-calendar).

**PTSO Business**

- It was noted more than 10 non-executive board members were in attendance. Amanda Turner made a motion to approve the PTSO Regular Meeting Minutes from 10/27, 11/29, and 12/13, 2023; Joelle Reidy seconded. The minutes were voted on and approved.
- Kristen presented a brief summary of the FY24 budget vs actuals. It was noted that 80% of the targeted \$65,000 in annual donations has been collected.

**WHS Leadership Update, Jamie Chisum**

- We are beginning to prepare 8th graders and families for next year. 8th grade parent night is tonight (7pm in the auditorium; the meeting will be recorded).
- Q3 is underway and we are officially in the second half of the school year.
- Evolutions students will present Midstone projects on Jan 29. The public is welcome.
- Course selection is the focus of the Jan and Feb PTSO regular meeting. Thank you to our department heads and teachers for taking the time to present.
- We encourage students to take at least one elective class in which they are really interested.

**Course Selection Overview and Department Presentations**

Overview from School Counseling: Meg Walendin

- The [2024/2025 Program of Study](#) is now available. Counselors reviewed the information with 9th graders and will meet with 10th graders on Feb 7.
- Immediately after Feb break, teachers will meet with students 1:1 about placement recommendations. If you would like to override a rec, please complete an override form.
- All course selections and override forms are due on March 15. All placements will be made after March 15 (no benefit to early submission). As usual, preference will be given to seniors.
- The [2024/2025 course selection timeline](#) is available on the WHS counseling website.

### Visual Arts: Brian Reddy

- Mr. Reddy reviewed the courses, clubs, and travel available within Visual Arts.
- A question was asked about the requirement(s) for intensive classes. A: Students must complete prerequisite classes and submit a teacher letter of recommendation.
- Intensive courses (honors level) are factored into a student's GPA. All other classes count for credit only.

### World Languages: Tim Eagan (department head)

- WHS offers French, German, Latin, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish.
- WHS language classes are proficiency oriented and the vast majority are mixed level. You can see the differences between ACP and honors level classes in the [Program of Study](#).
- Students always have the opportunity to adjust levels in the fall (they have until Oct 1).
- Mandarin AP will be offered in 2024/2025, as long as there are 10+ students enrolled.
- 10th and 12th graders can earn a "seal of biliteracy" in any language (including those not offered at WHS). The seal is an internationally recognized and standardized measure of proficiency. Some colleges/universities recognize the seal for credit and/or placement.

### Evolutions: Thom Henes

- Mr. Henes gave an overview of the Evolutions program and shared a video.
- 2024/2025 will be the 10th year of the Evolutions program, which is a one-year experiential/active learning program available to juniors & seniors. Evolutions is a project based program that gives students honors-level credit in English, Science, Social Studies, and Art.
- Students complete 4-5 teacher-driven projects per year and 2 student-driven projects.
- There will be a family information night in early March for interested students/families.
- Evolutions can take up to 50 students (if more apply, students will be selected by lottery).

### Science & Technology: Nora Wilkins (department head) and Louisa Morrison (Chem/Bio teacher)

- A handout of science/tech course offerings was provided. It was noted that students can change levels from year to year (e.g. ACP in 9th grade and Honors in 10th).
- In 9th grade, it is recommended that Physics honors students also take honors math.
- Starting junior year, students can take more than one science. If students take two sciences, be mindful to balance schedules since both will have 7:30am labs.
- Prior to taking an AP science course, it is recommended that students take the honors level course (it is possible to go from ACP to AP but it is a challenging jump).
- There is a high demand for Intro to Engineering; interested students should sign up knowing it may take more than one year to get in.

### Performing Arts: Michael LaCava (director for the district)

- Mr. LaCava reviewed the music offerings (music theory/aural skills, songwriting, rock band, chorus, band, orchestra), and Drama/Dance offerings (acting, technical theater/design, dance)
- Only honors level performing arts classes count towards a student's GPA
- After school programs include dance, musicals/plays, a capella, rock band, and instruction.

**Adjourned 11:34am**

**Respectfully submitted,**

Amanda Turner, PTSO Secretary