

Wellesley High School
PTSO Regular Meeting - Meeting Minutes
February 15th, 2023 at 9:30am

Meeting Attendees

Executive Board Attendees: Jamie Chisum, Debbie Cutler-Ortiz, Kate Staehly, Kristen Toffer, Brooke Wheelan

Administrative, Faculty and Community Attendees: Toni Carlson, Tim Eagan, John Finneron, Sharon Gray, Dana Plunkett, Michael Reidy, Collin Shattuck

Parent and Guardian Attendees: There was a quorum of over 10 non-executive board members in attendance.

Welcome

Kate welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting is being recorded and handouts are also available. The video recording will be on the PTSO website at

<https://www.whsptso.org/meeting-calendar> as soon as it is processed by WHS TV/Video staff.

PTSO Business

- It was noted that more than 10 non-executive board members were in attendance. Lisa Fico made a motion and Niki Ofenloch seconded the motion to approve the PTSO Regular Meeting Minutes from 1/25. The minutes were voted on and approved.
- Kristen gave a brief budget update. Amazon Smile is going away on 2/20 so please get your final Amazon purchases in before then.

WHS Leadership Update

Jamie mentioned that more than a dozen schools in MA (not including Wellesley at this time) are getting “swatting” calls that include fraudulent threats of violence in schools, which result in schools going into lockdown. He also gave a brief update on the Weymouth basketball incident involving racial slurs and poor behavior from the Wellesley fans. He explained his decision to talk about it publicly and acknowledged there was disagreement over his choice of open, direct communication.

Course Selection Overview and Department Presentations and Q&A

School Counseling, Dana Plunkett - See Recording and Department Homepage

- The Program of Studies is now available on the WHS homepage under *Introduction*.
- Grade level seminar information has been given to all students in Canvas, including the course selection process, i.e. time management, choosing courses, and Powerschool course entry.
- From 3/8 to 3/16, families will have access to Powerschool to see all teacher recommendations; students will also be able to petition to move between levels.
- After 3/16, course placement begins. Course lists for summer planning will be available before the end of June and specific class schedules will be available in late August.

Library and Innovation, Toni Carlson - See Recording and Department Homepage

- The AP Capstone course will begin next year, which includes AP Seminar and AP Research. These AP courses are skills (versus content) based, along the lines of writing a Masters Thesis. Toni answered many questions related to this new course offering.

World Languages, Tim Eagan - *See Recording and Department Homepage*

- French, German, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish are languages on offer and most students enter Level 2 in 9th grade.
- These courses use a proficiency-oriented and standards-based grading system, which is based on the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages.
- Most courses are blended ACP and Honors level credit.

Social Studies, Michael Reidy - *See Recording and Department Homepage*

- Handout - course offering and progression of studies; 2.5-year graduation requirement, one of which has to be U.S. History.
- There is no track in Social Studies, so choosing one course does not limit a student's ability to choose a different course the following year; there are no pre-requisites.
- Student interest in discipline combined with what they are pursuing outside of school should both come into play when choosing courses.
- Teachers are having individual conferences with students and any grades reported in Canvas are being immediately transferred to Powerschool.
- There was discussion around AP U.S. History and the challenging nature of this course.

English, John Finneron – *See Recording and Department Homepage*

- Handout – course offering and progression of studies; 4-year graduation requirement.
- *Media Matters* is the only prerequisite for the student newspaper, *The Bradford*.
- Moving between CP to ACP to Honors is differentiated by pace and volume of work, level of independence, and depth of thinking.

Family and Consumer Science, Collin Shattuck – *See Recording and Department Homepage*

- Courses are all elective-based and very popular; life skills relevant for all students. Child Lab is a fully functional pre-school at an affordable price point.

Adjourned 11:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Wheelan, PTSO Secretary