

West High PTSA Board Meeting
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, March 3, 2009
West High Conference Room

Members present: Katharine Adams, Mike Boots, Carla Goeransson, Wendy Gould, Robert Harris, Dana Hyams, Jeff Landry, Colleen Leibert, Ann McCamant, Mary Peterburs, Tracie Pierce, Celia Rozen, Michele Schuh, Dayle Sherba, Rick Stone, Barb Verrier, Paul Verrier.

Introductions/Call to Order: 5:36 p.m. by President Jeff Landry.

Quorum:

A quorum of board members was present.

Approval of Agenda:

Decision: Tracie Pierce moved to approve the agenda as presented. Celia Rozen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the meeting held February 10th were distributed.

Decision: Tracie Pierce moved to approve the minutes as presented. Carla Goeransson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Parent Concerns:

Mike Boots used this opportunity to inform the PTSA that the West Alumni had funded We the People the remaining \$8,000 for their trip and helped the cheerleaders with \$1,500 for their uniforms at the Alumni membership meeting of 3/26

Reports:

Principal's report: Rick Stone expressed his pride to be at West. A flag ceremony, held that day in honor of the West flag going into space, was being televised at 5,6, and 10 the day of the PTSA meeting. Bill Oelefin's mom and dad came to the ceremony and they still have West pride. ROTC provided funds for the space flag replica to fly at a 3rd West flagpole, joining the U.S. and Alaska flags, and the Eagle's Cache provided the shadow box for the indoor display. Our West teams recently earned 4 GPA awards: JROTC, ski boys, ski girls, and DDF. Rick emphasized we are excelling in athletics and in academics. Our new soccer coach from North Carolina is starting out fresh, untainted by Alaska "politics," and was sought after by other area schools. In response to problems mentioned at prior meetings, 1) the silverfish problem is being handled by an assistant principal and ASD maintenance, and 2) safety and snow removal for the front stairs are getting increased attention. There was a lot going on the night of the PTSA meeting, including Region IV basketball and the Native Musicale. The Romig/West Center of Community Project has met with many school interest groups (athletics, technical, etc.) and plans are expected before the end of the calendar year. Two student representatives were called to Rick's office to participate during the upcoming charettes and a public meeting is planned for 3/19.

Questions for the principal:

Q. You know there's more than just silverfish in the Eagle's Cache....(Michele Schuh)

A. The mice will be reported to ASD maintenance.

Q. Is CreditUnionOne still planning on an ATM in the concessions space? (Wendy Gould)

A. Rick still needs a game plan from all parties. After basketball, in April, a plan will be worked out. There's still time and CU1 is very flexible. Rick knows JROTC has their coffee shop there. Maybe a workable solution will be to get a portable stand.

Q. What's up with the student store. They are selling the same items as the Eagle's Cache and creating a competitive situation. E.C volunteers are disappointed. What is the student store working towards in terms of helping West? (Michele Schuh)

A. The student store has been around for about 5 years, but took a 1 year hiatus, so it appears to be new, but isn't. It is run by the Business Professionals of America (BPA) youth group. They use a cart in the foyer. Their proceeds are used for travel and they are currently going to Nationals and have been very successful at Nationals in the past.

Comment from Michele Schuh: The Eagle's Cache earns funds that are available to anyone that applies, while the student store is earning targeted funds. It is affecting the E.C. earnings. Can they perhaps sell different items? Colleen Leibert suggested the BPA sell breakfast items while the Eagle's Cache sell lunch items.

Treasurer's report:

Tracie Pierce distributed a balance sheet as of 3/2/09, showing an unreconciled balance of \$3,041.29. Our CPA, Don Rulien, was currently preparing the PTSA tax return via Form 990. Tracie has not yet heard from Don and the form will need to be signed by last year's officers.

Eagle's Cache Committee: Michele Schuh told the group about the mice spotted in the Eagle's Cache and that traps had been set. The freezer had been repaired. Fighting kids had knocked the microwave over and the Cache is down to one working microwave. Don Rulien was not in favor of requiring 2 signatures for checks. Michele feels there are enough controls in place and this is likely Don's last year to be involved, so requested that any changes wait until new people are on board.

eScrip Committee: Carla Goeransson reported that the 2/15 eScrip deposit was a normal \$778.04 payout. She expects the big deposit from the 10% Back-to-School program on or about March 3rd including a bonus \$1,000 for being a top earning school.

Audit Committee: There is still conflicting information on when the audit is due.

Action item: Celia Rozen will contact the State PTA office.

President's report: Jeff Landry attended a meeting spearheaded by Mimi Beck and Joyce Bamberger about a potential after-school facility in proximity to West. Some options included rented space off-campus and this program being designed into the planned West-Romig Center of Community Project. A questionnaire is being planned as a step forward for the facility.

Jeff mentioned that part of the discussion also considered the after-school facility being used for tutoring at-risk kids. Rick expressed support for the tutoring aspect. Student enjoyed success via grade rescue classes for credit last year. Teachers were paid an addendum for tutoring.

Jeff also talked about using the PTSA as a pass-through for a United Way donation to the Theatre Department. Dave Block has requested the PTSA's help with this.

Action item: Celia Rozen will write a letter to United Way stating our EIN and our willingness to pass these funds along.

Unfinished business

Bylaws committee: Jeff Landry upheld his belief that the bylaws are ambiguous about membership voting privileges and related issues. As he interprets the poorly written bylaws, PTSA members do not have a vote at board meetings. Calls and e-mails to the bylaws chair at State PTA were not helpful. Various views were expressed and many have strong feelings on this issue. There was no general agreement among the bylaw committee members nor the members who attended the March meeting. The full membership can vote on bylaw changes at the May meeting. Until then, the President's interpretation of the bylaws will stand.

Action item: Katharine Adams requested that the bylaws be added to the PTSA website. Celia Rozen will have them posted.

Newsletter:

Deadline is March 20th. Jeff Landry will again write the column for the Screaming Eagle.

Spenard Road changes:

West/Romig Center of Community Project staff are willing to give the PTSA a presentation on the project. The members present thought the general membership meeting on May 5th might be a good time for this.

Freshman Orientation table:

This will be a great eScrip opportunity. So far, volunteers include Karen Louder-Strobe, Colleen Leibert, and Celia Rozen. A few more people would be great.

Appropriate use of the PTSA gmail account:

In light of the many grant applications to consider, this discussion is tabled.

New Business

Grants: Eight grant requests were on the agenda, as follows:

Chorus, Orchestra, ROTC (travel), ROTC (tents), Swimming, Yearbook, Track, Child in Transition/Homeless.

One presentation was made by Dana Hyams from the swim program.

Swim Program – scoreboard.

Dana Hyams informed the group about the urgent need for a scoreboard. Conoco Phillips had donated \$5,093 (3K towards scoreboard, \$2,093 for the computer) and much fundraising effort had gone into raising funds towards the scoreboard. The swim team is requesting half of the remaining funds from the Alumni and the other half from the PTSA.

At this point in the meeting, Celia Rozen, Secretary, had to leave the meeting. Tracie Pierce, Treasurer, took over the meeting notes and the following were the notes that were taken:

Discussion was held regarding the teacher grants. It was noted that the Track grant had not been vetted by the administration.

Decision: Tracie Pierce made the motion, seconded by Michele Schuh that the Chorus, Orchestra, ROTC - tents and Track grants be tabled; the ROTC Banquet grant be funded in the amount of \$1,000, the Swimming/Scoreboard grant be funded in the amount of \$1,295, the Yearbook grant be funded in the amount of \$1,000 and the Child In Transition grant be funded in the amount of \$900.

Adjournment:

Tracie Pierce motioned to adjourn. Carla Goeransson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Celia Rozen, Secretary