

West High PTSA Board Meeting
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, April 7, 2009
West High Conference Room

Members present: Katharine Adams, Joe Alward, Mike Boots, Jim Currarn, Yolanda Fuerer, Carla Goeransson, Wendy Gould, Robert Harris, Dana Hyams, Jeff Landry, Colleen Leibert, Karen Louder-Strobe, Ann McCamant, Mary Peterburs, Tracie Pierce, Celia Rozen, Michele Schuh, Dayle Sherba, Rick Stone, Barb Verrier, Paul Verrier, Kathleen Wilson,
Non-members present: Cody Bryant, Nathan Burnham, Brett Gilland, Sonia Jones, Bonnie Vaughn, Jennifer Vaughn, Colette Moring, Eileen Moring, Mark Wisthoff.

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

Quorum:

A quorum of board members was present.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to accommodate grant requestors who were present or who had brought students with them. The grants were handled first, then unfinished business, then the rest of the new business. [Note: the April 7th minutes are presented in the order of the original agenda.]

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

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the meeting held March 3rd were distributed.

Decision: Tracie Pierce moved to approve the minutes as presented. Karen Louder-Strobe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Parent Concerns:

Tracie Pierce expressed her concern over the lack of a commitment at Romig to offer Russian next year. Rick Stone was asked to take up this issue with Sven Gustafson.

Katharine Adams thanked the board for the swim funds last month and announced that Alumni had provided matching funds.

Reports:

Principal's report: Rick Stone told the group that architects came to the recent West staff meeting and West/Romig design options are posted in the faculty lounge. A meeting planned for 4/20 will present the options to the school board. Rick expressed kudos to West's greatly improved choir program. Rick said he had received numerous e-mails praising the manner in which the choir represented itself at its recent performance and acknowledged that Chris More had really turned the program around. After-school tutoring was scheduled to occur the following week and will be offered to all students, not just those struggling. IB and NHS students were on tap to do the peer tutoring, under the auspices of Debbie Barker. Senior Fun Day is to occur April 30th. Parents of seniors were requested to reinforce the concept of "finishing strong" thereby avoiding pranks. Judy Friar is working with the bird rescue center to perhaps release an eagle by seniors. Rick thanked the PTSA for providing food on HSGQE testing day earlier that week.

Treasurer's report:

Tracie Pierce distributed a document that indicated the balance forward for March was \$3,041.25. Funds available that night (including recent eScrip deposits) totalled \$15,078.23.

Eagle's Cache Committee: Michele Schuh told the group that operations were running well although sales were down from a year ago. Don Rulien has not yet provided a financial statement. They plan to release funding for the grant program to the PTSA, keeping a \$3-4K reserve for next year's start-up funds. Turnover in EC staffing is anticipated. Don and Donna Rulien have a graduating senior. Marge Wisthoff isn't sure she can continue as dry goods buyer.

eScrip Committee: Carla Goeransson reported that she had prepared certificates of appreciation for the participating Carrs stores (Aurora Village, Gambell, and Sears Mall) and these were being framed by Wendy Gould of Far North Framing. Hopefully the awarding of the certificate can be used as a photo opportunity.

Audit Committee: The audit committee plans to meet before the next PTSA meeting on 5/5.

President's report: no president's report occurred.

Unfinished Business

1. Proposed bylaws change

Much conversation at the past several meetings had occurred about the issue of members voting during board meetings. The present board has been unable to come to a mutual agreement about changing the bylaws on the issue. Thirty days notice is required to announce bylaw changes but there were less than thirty days between the April 7th and May 5th meetings. The decision was to let the next elected board grapple with the issue.

2. Newsletter

The newsletter was not addressed.

3. Presentation by West/Romig Center of Community project leaders.

The board agreed that the May membership meeting will have a very full agenda and a presentation will have to be refused.

Action item: Celia Rozen will contact the presenters and explain the situation.

4. Freshman Orientation

Celia Rozen, Karen Louder-Strobe, Carla Goeransson, and Colleen Leibert will staff the PTSA table at the Fair and solicit eScrip and memberships.

New Business

1. Grants: Twelve grant requests were on the agenda, as follows:

1. Chorus – robes	7. Geology – Chugach trip
2. ROTC – tents	8. Library – German/Spanish books
3. Track – timers	9. BPA (Business Pros) – travel
4. Softball – batting cage	10. Cheer – warm up, bags
5. ESL – sled dog ride	11. Senior class – prom caps & t-shirts
6. Chemistry – eyewear	12. Baseball – catcher gear & socks

Those present were given the opportunity to speak first. They spoke in the following order:

BPA (Business Professionals of America): Bonnie Vaughn, BPA advisor, and her students requested funds for travel to their national competition. They have 72 possible topical areas in which to compete and these skills are useful later in life. This is the 4th year the group has traveled and they've always been able to fundraise enough, but not this year. They requested \$1,654.

Cheer: Sonia Jones coaches football and basketball cheer. She said cheer has been struggling for funding and had been in the hole at one point. Their look has not been standardized because they do not have matching warm-ups and gear bags. Everyone just wears and brings what they have. They plan to continue to fundraise and would like to be less of a funding burden in the future. They received \$1,000 from alumni and have been selling spirit blankets. The warm-ups and bags, if funded, will become school property.

At this point, Mike Boots asked Rick about the rotation for providing funding for groups funded via Activities funds. Rick responded that Activities is trying to provide this and they are planning to build cages for storage, rather than using coach's and parent's garages.

Library books, Spanish & German: Jim Curran, West Librarian, would like to add to his world language collection. There are only 5 German books now. Via a state interlibrary cooperation grant, he was able to add Russian and Samoan books. The whole district can benefit from the proposed grant, as other schools can borrow via interlibrary loan from West. Mr. Curran has \$1,600 in matching funds via his budget.

Chemistry goggles: Nate Burnham modeled the current goggles which the students are loathe to wear. They look dorky and they are uncomfortable. They also have hygiene-related issues due to difficulty in cleaning. He also modeled the cool proposed model. He is looking for another use for the older goggles.

Geology field trip: Nate Burnham, who co-teaches Geology I with Mr. Berglund, described the difficulty in teaching geology without going to the landforms. They like to teach the local systems; e.g., Chester Creek, etc. So many of the students they serve have never been to the Chugach and have no experience hiking. They are like inner-city kids. The teachers would like to do a full day field trip using 3 buses and 2 subs. [Note: Rick Stone offered to cover all costs.]

Baseball: Mark Wisthoff, baseball coach, said he needs more catcher's mitts. These only have a useable life of 2 years. He would also like the PTSA to fund the team socks. They have done a fundraising raffle and have their own eScrip. Baseball isn't ASD sponsored and they get no activity office funds.

Track timing system: Joe Alward, assistant coach, reported that 8 schools are required to share the 3 timing systems the ASD purchased this year. There are often 2 track meets on the same day. The current system that West relies on doesn't meet federation guidelines due to its inaccuracy. The new digital systems are in demand and a system ordered now will arrive in time for the 2009-10 x-c running season.

The remaining grant applications did not include a presentation from their group. The other grant applications were considered during the funding discussions.

Celia Rozen distributed a table summarizing all grants awarded in 2007-8 and 2008-9. She asked the board to review the grant categories awarded in 2008-9 in comparison to the grant category targets that had been planned. At that point in time, the comparisons were as follows:

Category	Percentage targeted	Percentage awarded
Teacher/Classroom	30%	4%
School Activities/Boosters	40%	36%
Principal's Discretionary	10%	.5%
Travel	5%	33.5%
Community	15%	36%

The board came up with the following plan for its April grant funds:

Request	Amount	Category	Reason for declining
Library	\$1,600	Teacher/Classroom	
Track	\$1,500	Activities	
Dog Sledding	\$177	Teacher/Classroom	
Chorus	\$3,000	Community	
Chemistry	\$480	Teacher/Classroom	
Baseball	\$1,000	Activities	
BPA	\$600	Travel	

Cheer	\$2,000	Activities	
Senior Class	-		Gave face painting funds earlier
ROTC	-		Gave twice earlier in year
Softball	-		Inadequate information

Decision: Tracie Pierce motioned to fund the library for \$1,600, track for \$1,500, dog sledding for \$177, chorus for \$3,000, chemistry for \$480, baseball for \$1,000, BPA for \$600, and cheer for \$2,000. Karen Louder-Strobe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Funds for HSGQE

Jenny Schauer told Celia Rozen that more breakfast bars were needed as well as \$50 for pizza later in the week.

Decision: Michele Schuh motioned to ratify the \$400 already spent on HSGQE snacks and to authorize additional spending not to exceed \$200. Karen Louder-Strobe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Board Nominations 2009-10

Carla Goeransson and Wendy Gould managed to get a full slate for the open positions on the board for 2009-10, as follows:

Officers:

President: Robert Harris

Vice President, Eagle's Cache: Michele Schuh

Vice President, Leadership: Dayle Sherba

Treasurer: Tracie Pierce

Secretary: Cheri Marston

Committee Chairs:

Escrip Coordinator: Celia Rozen

Grants Coordinator: Dayle Sherba

Open committees include: Teacher Appreciation, Membership

4. Resolution for legislature to accept stimulus funds for education

Decision: Tracie Pierce moved that a resolution should be written to urge the legislature to accept the stimulus funds for education. Karen Louder-Strobe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action item: Celia Rozen will draft the resolution and Jeff Landry will do the final edits. Celia, as secretary, will sign the resolution and e-mail it to legislators, the Acting Mayor, and Carol Comeau.

5. PTSA 2009-10 Goals

It was agreed that the membership can discuss this at the May membership meeting or it can be addressed in the fall by the new board.

Adjournment:

Tracie Pierce motioned to adjourn. Celia Rozen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by: Celia Rozen, Secretary