

West Potomac PTSA Meeting: December 7, 2015

Call to Order: Sue Capper called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Sue encouraged everyone to attend the budget update at Carl Sandburg on Wednesday evening hosted by Dan Storck and Karen Corbett Sanders.

Principal's Report: In Mr. Case's absence, Ms. Bowdring gave the Principal's Report. Although the month has been short, much has happened. The school recognized rising stars, honor roll and academic award recipients. The college bound athlete presentation will be December 8th at 7:30 in the auditorium. The signs of suicide screening for 9th and 11th graders just occurred. A wellness presentation for 10th and 12th grade students will occur later in the year. Regarding the interior camera proposal, 65 families supported the proposal, one family was undecided because of costs and one family was opposed. Faculty and students supported the proposal. A request for the cameras will be made to the region office. Curriculum Night will be held in January as academic advising for next year begins and there will be no January PTSA meeting. Teachers have been asked not to assign new work over the upcoming holiday break.

Academy Spotlight: Ms. Bowdring introduced her team. The Academy is one of two health/science academies in the County. Students may begin taking classes in the Academy in 10th grade. Core classes are taken at the base high school. Students from 10-12 high schools come to the Academy. Upon graduation, students are career and college ready. Academy teachers must be certified in their fields.

Maria Kappel, Career Experience Specialist, explained that students can start their career path in the Academy. Students can earn certifications to begin health-related jobs or continue their education in their chosen field after graduation. Students also take part in internships and learn resume and interview strategies.

Joy Andrews, Pharmacy Tech Instructor, discussed what her students do after graduation. Some go to Pharmacy school and some work full-time as a pharmacy technician. The pharmacy tech program teaches students to read prescriptions and learn about over-the-counter and prescription medications.

Cliff Hickman, Academy Counselor, spoke about the 3 subschools in the Academy: Human Services (Criminal Justice and Early Childhood Careers), Health Science (Pharmacy Tech, Occupational and Physical Therapy, Medical Assisting, Exploring Health Science, Dental Biotech and Fire/EMS) and Communication and Arts (Music and Computer Tech and Dance).

Joe Franco, Technology instructor, spoke about dual enrollment where students enroll in NOVA and earn college credit. Dual enrollment is done in class and is possible in classes like Basic Technical Drawing.

Donnell Fisher, CTE Department Chair, spoke about the web page design, programming and other courses available in the Academy.

Treasurer's Report: Katie Savage reported that as of November 9th, the PTSA had \$46,282.54 and as of December 7th, \$41,695.60. Printing of the directory cost \$6,500; \$2,500 in ad revenue has been received this month with over \$11,000 in ad revenue received to date. Over \$100 in ESCRIP has been received as Safeway has extended ESCRIP for 1 more year. The PTSA has paid out \$300 for a down

payment for All Night Grad, \$353 for teacher education grants, \$451 from a Burke and Herbert grant for student recognition for a total of \$7,730.91.

Student Report: Emma Kelly reported that the SGA would be addressing during wellness week issues such as binge drinking, tobacco and marijuana use identified in the recent student risky behavior survey. The SGA representatives described their community service projects which ranged from food and toy drives to providing holiday treats to the local police and fire stations and hospital to games and art at Paul Spring Retirement Community.

Faculty/Counselor Update: Ms. Watlington reported that 2nd quarter interims would be distributed in 3rd period on December 17th and would reflect grades as of Friday, December 11th. College Planning Night for Juniors and their parents will be held in the auditorium twice this year on December 16th at 6:30 and on March 15th. Curriculum advising will begin after the winter break with Curriculum Night slated for January 11th (snow date, January 19th). Course selection forms will be distributed January 12th and the school electives fair will be January 13th.

Ms. Indelicato thanked the PTSA for the teacher grants made thus far.

30th Anniversary: Cindy Slone reported that a fundraising letter will be sent out by email as part of the 30th anniversary celebration begun at Homecoming. Donations will be solicited to build an outdoor classroom in the median in front of the school.

CIP/Budget: Cathy Hosek reminded everyone that a community budget meeting will be held at Carl Sandburg on Wednesday of next week with outgoing and incoming school board members Dan Storck and Karen Corbett Sanders.

November Minutes: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the November minutes were unanimously approved.

ANG: Robyn Zevan announced that ANG will be holding Papa John fundraisers every month until May. 20% of the proceeds on those nights will go to ANG. A Stella & Dot fundraiser will be held on Sunday from 1:00 – 4:00, as well as online. 25% of the proceeds will go to ANG.

Closing Announcements: There will be no PTA meeting in January.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Taylor
Recording Secretary