

Walnut Hills High School (Parent) Association

February 24, 2021 via Zoom

Voting Directors: Davis Griffin, Sally O'Callaghan, Pete Riddle, Tiffiney Helm, Ro Clark, Tiffiney Helm, Nikki Hollis, Monica Mitchell, Debbie Elliott, Julie Smyth, Sean Kelley, Jason Berman, Sarah Hilton, Catherine Gavin, Aidan Adkins

Non-Voting Auxiliary Members: Amanda Adkins, Angela Robinson, Peg Reed, Evonne Morales, Kelly Leanza, Missi Kerschner, Olivia Ballard, Judy Neff, Lucinda Hurst

Ex Officio Members: John Chambers, Sam Gerwe-Perkins

Interested Other: Robert Heinlen, Cass, Damariz Marcias Propst, Marion Cosgrove Rauch, Sandra, Ry Kelley, Amy Wenz, Boyne, Peter Pepiton-Dinsmore, Joe, Mary See Kennedy, Josette Riep, Natalie Reno, Emma Massie, Alex Quintaba, Cathy Reidy, Nico, Jody, David Dawson, Elizabeth Vernon, Tracy Stillwell, Vanessa Scocchera, Sharon Mccafferty, Josh Westerkamp, Julie Vernon, Jilda Vargus, Gillian Sella, Sharon S, Mary, Anna Byars

Principal's report:

- 23 National Merit finalists
- 2/23/2021 ACT testing went well although it was a challenge to maintain social distancing for those who arrived early
- Met with district leadership (including facilities) re: return to school
 - no decisions were made as it was more an opportunity to share ideas
 - Mr. Chambers presented his ideas to safely bring students back to school
 - discussed bringing small groups like 7th graders back so they can familiarize themselves with building; also new students in grades 8-12
- High school principals met with Assistant Superintendent Murphy to discuss in-person activities primarily centered around senior-related activities
- Simultaneously working on plans to return students this year and plans for the 2021-22 school year
- Talk at last school board meeting about Walnut's expansion plan which includes 18 additional classrooms
 - Mr. Chambers was taken aback as no formal conversation between school board and Walnut administration;
 - no discussion about where these 18 classrooms will be; Walnut currently has 27 traveling teachers so if plan is indeed implemented, more teachers will have a designated classroom
 - Mr. Chambers will update Walnut Hills community as he hears news

Questions for Mr. Chambers from the Zoom chat:

- When will the 2021-22 academic year begin?
 - calendar is normally finalized in February; Mr. Chambers is on that committee
 - next year's calendar has been finalized by not approved by Board of Education, however, the earliest the school year will start is mid August

- Are there plans to address overcrowding?
 - Short answer is yes
 - 2021-22 registration – only enrolling students in Grades 7 and 8
 - traditionally 450-475 students in 8th grade then school would get an additional 100 students in 9th grade
 - all grades 9-12 are currently at or around 500; trying to control that by putting a moratorium on enrolling high school students if there's no space

- Ryan Messer was on WLW today and discussed streaming classes. Is this being discussed seriously at the district level?
 - no discussion with school board yet
 - parents made presentation to Walnut LSDMC
 - school board said no when idea was first presented in August
 - it is 100% the board's call

- Plans for summer help for students? How many will this affect? Will you get data after survey is completed?
 - survey was sent by district to families with a March 1 deadline
 - Mr. Chambers said Walnut should receive date about a week after that
 - Walnut will still offer its summer school for those unsuccessful in a class; district will offer opportunities beyond that, for example, for a student who felt like they wanted to improve a poor but still passing grade

Theatre:

- *Songs for a New World* will stream March 4-6; \$10 pass
<https://sites.google.com/view/whhstheatredepartment/tickets?authuser=0>
- Junior High musical will be *Frozen Jr*

Hospitality:

- Filled reusable lunch bags with goodies for the teachers; lunch bags provided by the Alumni Foundation
- Amanda's idea for Teacher/Staff Appreciation - notes from parents/students; Association funds will purchase a gift as well

Website Update:

- Want to bring website into this century; make it more user friendly
- Reaching out to CPS to find out specific requirements
- Association will fund a stipend to library staff to maintain website (still less than what we pay an outside agency now)

ILT:

- Light agenda for February 10 meeting
- Possible bell schedule changes; eliminate split 4th bell; have a designated lunch bell
- 8:00 start time next academic year

LSDMC:

- Group presented to LSDMC about livestream possibilities and the parent survey
- Waiting on direction from district on guidance for senior activities

Parent Equity Group (Judy Neff):

- First Walnut community meeting will be March 9 at 7:00 via Zoom
- Looking for ideas for upcoming meetings

LOE:

- Raised over \$75,000 to date
- Down 13% from this time last year, but close to \$80,000 budgeted for the year
- Less than half the donors of last year
- Will restart initiative in the upcoming weeks

WalnutFest:

- Looking for auction items like orthodontist, plastic surgeon, etc.
- Waiting to see if there will be athletic camps this summer
- Will offer parking spots
- Verdict still out about premium graduation seats

7th/8th grade:

- At some point there will be a tour/orientation for 7th graders; still no date
- Fundraiser at Paxton Ave Chipotle (details to come)

9th grade:

- Waiting on approval from school board for *A Taste of Frosh* fundraiser
 - plan is to hold event outside on Blair Circle
 - food trucks and a mask contest
 - someone in chat asked how social distancing will be enforced; if event is approved, will abide by CPS guidelines

10th grade:

- Mask sale complete
- Hosted another game night
- Holding a hygiene drive for a local organization

11th grade:

- Working with 2 local charities to help with groceries; raised \$400 last month; up to \$1100 now
- Partnered with 10th grade for Black History Month challenge

12th Grade:

- Snapchat takeover – day-in-the-life events
- Filming a virtual tour of Walnut for new students
- Asking seniors to send in videos for a YouTube compilation
- Angela offered this from her daughter's 2020 UNC Chapel Hill graduation - parents made videos for their grads which then appeared on YouTube (it was a surprise!)

Survey:

- Not our role as Parent Association
- It's in the hands of the district who have been helped by a qualified team who created a professional survey
- The survey's release is imminent (you may have seen it by the time you receive these minutes)

Finance:

- We are revising the budget as the year progresses but overall in good shape
- Holding off on disbursements until we get a better handle on the year-end budget
- Planning to disburse Schedule E funds around Spring Break

Motion to approve the financials:

Davis Griffin made the motion

Sean Kelley seconded

Motion approved

Motion to approve the February 3, 2021 meeting minutes:

Sally O'Callaghan made the motion

Catherine Gavin seconded

Motion approved