

Walnut Hills High School (Parent) Association
April 28, 2021 via Zoom

Voting Directors: Davis Griffin, Sally O’Callaghan, Pete Riddle, Ro Clark, Nikki Hollis, Debbie Elliott, Julie Smyth, Sean Kelley, Jason Berman, Catherine Gavin

Non-Voting Auxiliary Members: Amanda Adkins, Angela Robinson, Peg Reed, Olivia Ballard, Judy Neff, Lucinda Hurst

Ex Officio Members: John Chambers, Sam Gerwe-Perkins

Interested Others:

Julie Vernon, Kelly Leanza, Shawn, Evonne Morales

Principal’s report:

- Since we’ve returned to in-person learning, there are close to 2,100 kids in the school (more than anticipated)
 - Challenge for lunch in inclement weather
 - Employees from CPS and First Student helping to set up and supervise lunch has been a huge help
 - Student flow through the building is good
- In-person instruction going very well. Students have adjusted and are behaving well
 - Kids seem to appreciate the in-person educational opportunity
- Concurrent learning model – feedback is that it is better than Google meets technology (current model is better received than previous platform)
- 101 student inducted into the cum laude society
- First distinguished scholar identified. Twenty students were eligible to apply. Committee made a decision yesterday (no disclosure as the student hasn’t been notified yet)
- Enrollment for next year
 - The school board gave a waiver for the entrance exam scores (typically a minimum of 65 on reading or math, with a composite of 140 for students to be eligible). This year, 50 on either reading or math with a composite of 110 is required for entrance
 - Grace given because of remote learning
 - 357 students registered for 7th grade next year; 40-50 more may come based on late testing
 - 8th grade will be ~415 students
 - No high school registrations accepted this year. 12 students within the district are on waitlist for 9th grade; 7 for 10th grade; 2 for the 11th grade; and 1 rising senior. Admitting on a space available basis. Those on the waitlist will be notified in July. Total enrollment will be ~2,800.
- A 2nd cafeteria and 12-15 classrooms may be added with anticipated space enhancements
- Quarantine

- Requirements are define per CPS at the district level and public health department (10 day requirement)
 - Must have a negative COVID test to return to school when any absence due to illness is called in
- Schedule options for next year
 - Traditional bell schedule or block schedule – depends on the COVID situation
- Janet Fine will not be replaced. Three candidates (all new hires to district without a experience in the treasurer’s job). \$750-850,000 is taken in each year at WHHS and an experienced person filling the permanent person is needed. Tamella Paul is the acting treasurer (a district veteran) and all transactions are being handled as per usual
- Summer Scholars
 - Is for enrichment
 - Is running concurrently with remedial summer school
 - Most core subject areas will be covered

Amanda Atkins Updates:

- 19MAY2021 = Staff appreciation day
 - We usually do lunch and small gifts
 - We want to recognize teachers and staff (238 people in total). Administration is getting a separate gift
 - Reaching out to students and parents for emails or handwritten notes so they can show appreciation to staff
 - Gift card and chocolate baskets will be provided, as well. We can authorize an amount per person (\$25 per person is about \$6000)
 - Will send an email out to vote on this
- Everyone should let Amanda know if they wish to maintain their (parent association/class liaison) roles for next year
- No May meeting scheduled

Updates from each area/grade level

12th Grade:

- Prom held
- Spirit week - 17-21MAY
- Graduation - 27MAY
- Yard signs- checking with teacher liaison

11th grade:

- Disappointed that they couldn’t do a Junior Prom
- Many are campaigning for next year to maintain their leadership roles

10th grade:

- Hygiene drive complete
- MOD pizza (tonight) and Chipotle fundraiser on 04MAY
- Trying to determine if they can host some sort of in-person event (tbd)

9th grade:

- No FROSH

7th/8th grade:

- No updates

Finance:

- \$25,000 check sent to Athletics and Music. This is \$10,000 less than typical year. One more college counselor payment is due as well as funding for staff appreciation week
- Working budget for next year modeled after 2019-2020
 - Will be tweaked in the fall
 - Walnutfest will help support the budget next year
 - Librarians – book share program. District is hoping to support this program district wide
- Is a staff appreciation activity planned every year? Yes, it is usually a lunch. We've done minor things (e.g. raffles). It has specifically limited to teachers in past. More inclusive this year.
- WHIP and athletics going down \$6,000 each in proposed budget for the upcoming year. If we aim higher with fundraising, we may be able to fund more in these areas.

Theatre:

- Finished production of To the Meadow and Back Again. Can still be streamed. Check it out
- Junior High Musical, FROZEN, is coming up on May 6th, 7th, and 8th at 7:00 p.m.
- Live show request denied, but a petition was raised to challenge this; inconsistency in Fine Arts and sports support and requirements has been problematic
 - Parents did speak to this at most recent CPS board meeting
 - A link to the petition regarding decline of live show is in the slides

WHIP:

- Looking at the possibility of a yearend outdoor concert

LSDMC:

- No update since last meeting except 1st year of distinguished scholar determined

ILT:

- Schedules discussed without consensus. Started with 8 schedules. Now down to three options; four lunches are needed because of current space constraints, Decision expected 12May

LOE:

- Donations at about \$91,000

- Parking spot raffle for highest donors
- Need help with 7th grade emails for constant contact

Website Update:

- Still working hard to develop this - goal is to put a more updated and user friendly website in place for WHHS
 - Specific website requirements have been requested from the CPS
 - Once the details have been received the Website committee will re-convene and will report back with a plan to move forward
 - Written succession plan for Website updating is in process

WalnutFest:

- Not happening this year; parking passes used for incentive for LOE donations
- In person get together planned for 2022

**Motion to approve the financials
and meeting minutes:**

- Emails coming to approve financials and the minutes from last month