

Washburn Parent Council Meeting Notes

September 22, 2016

6:30pm

In attendance: Missy Line, Diana Curtis, Erica Lebens-Englund, Charles Spolyar, Rhonda Dean, Michelle Turpening, Kristine Northrop, Gina Pete, Amy DeBruin, Rhonda Peterson, Beth Price, Abir Ismail, Deanna Diebold, Alison Caputo.

Welcome & Introductions - Who are we and how are we different from the other parent groups?

Parent Council is a community building group. We are parents who collaborate for the betterment of the school community. There is limited fundraising. The Washburn Parent Council is NOT a PTA. Site Council is an advisory to the administration. They are the eyes and ears of the larger community who are on the Site Council for the benefit of all. Sports and the Arts have boosters of their own to benefit their particular causes.

Parent Council Mission statement which was agreed upon using the the fist of five:

1. Build positive and welcoming relationship between parents & school community
2. Support school initiatives & goals:
 - a. Communication (spread the word among families)
 - b. Financial support (fundraisers)
 - c. Service support (volunteers)
 - d. Educational resources (bring in guest speakers on important topics of interest to parents)

The meeting times are monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30-7:30pm following the Site Council meeting that is held 4:30-6pm those same days. We will monitor the meetings to determine if the day and time works. There were many conflicting events tonight that didn't allow many of the parents to show up.

Administration Report by Michelle Terpening– volunteering looks different in high school than elementary or middle school. High school volunteering is connecting with the school. Current enrollment is 1649 students – projection was 1615. Since the increase over projection is not more than 50 students, there is no additional funding for the increased students. The enrollment is steadily growing. 839 in 2010 to 1649 in 2016. The school is advocating for capital funds to help accommodate the growth.

Parent Liason Report by Erica Lebens-Englund –

Family Engagement Challenge: parent engagement pertaining to academics. Many parents are involved with sports and the arts and other events. All of these are important but this challenge puts a focus on the academics. 10 hours of time spent on academics for conferences, engagements with teachers, welcome back night, curriculum night, etc. Once the card is completed for 10 hours, there is a super secret reward that will be given to the parent.

Newsletter: Some emails are still in the process of being updated and they will be updated soon. If you aren't already on the email list, you can sign up on the Washburn website <http://washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/index> or <http://tinyurl.com/washburnmplsnews>

Homecoming Dance: need volunteers for **Fri Sept 30th 3:30-5pm and 5-6:30pm and Sat Oct 1st 9-10:30am or 10:30-Noon** to decorate the gym. The school dance is organized by Student Council and the student ticket fees cover the cost. Sign Up Genius link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4ea9a62ca3f94-homecoming>

Committee Updates –

Picture Day went well. Retakes coming up on 10/10.

Online Family Directory: Online directory is up and running. Sign up at <http://join.myschoolanywhere.com> and use the code **WashburnMpls**. The Washburn Foundation approved a mini-grant of \$500 to launch the online directory for this year. It is expected to cost \$500-\$600 based on the number of students and families in the high school. Future funding will need to come out of the Parent Council funds. This online system is used by many of the Minneapolis schools in the area. There is an app that can be installed on your phone for easy access to the info. Spread the word so more families sign up!

Barnes & Noble Book Fair: Co-chaired by Tristen Lindemann & Karen Reisch since 2010. **The chairs are looking for someone to take over the planning as they both have seniors this year.** Money raised is given to media center in the form of B&N gift cards to purchase needed books. Activities include publicizing the event via social media & to feeder schools and coordinating student performers the day of the event. National Honor Society students assist with gift wrap and the book table but to need parents for supervision. The event is scheduled for **December 3rd**. Contact Tristen (taolindemann@comcast.net) or Karen (crosbysam@comcast.net) if you are interested in helping

Battle of the Bands: This is a joint event with Ramsey Middle School. Student bands compete at Whisky Junction. **The committee is looking for a few volunteers.** There would be one in-person planning meeting yet this fall. After that the time commitment is mainly via email and some behind the scenes tasks as well as working the event. It is a really fun event and a great community builder. The event is scheduled for **Sunday April 23, 2017**. Contact Beth Gyllstrom (bethgyllstrom@yahoo.com) if you are interested in helping.

Plant Sale: Co-chaired by Alison Caputo & Chris Rigert. The proceeds for the plant sale go towards the Senior Party. The plant sale is in May but orders for the plants are placed in March. Will continue to work with Wagners this year. Volunteers are needed. Marketing is a weakness and would love to get some assistance with this. Many of the man hours are needed unloading the truck the night before the sale. Reach out to Alison (alisoncaputo@gmail.com) or Chris (chris.rigert@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Senior Party: Non Senior parents generally run the Sr. Party. It is at a venue with a variety of activities. The kids are generally done at 2:30am. This event will need volunteers as they get closer to the date.

Fun Fest: This event did not have a chair to keep it going. If anyone is interested in creating a similar event, please reach out to Missy, Diana or Erica to talk about your idea.

Recommendation is to have the events and dates listed on our handouts for meetings and on the website.

Financial Update – Bank balance is approx. \$2,700. Spent \$500 in landscaping this year. Only real source of funding for the general Parent Council account was Battle of the Bands. There are 2 other checking accounts – one for the plant and poinsettia sales and the other one is for the Senior Party.

Speaker Topics – Two years ago the topics were associated with chemical dependency and last year was mental health. Missy Line has a few people who could speak to sex education and/or healthy relationships. The relationship speaker would be geared more towards intimate relationships vs friendships. Other ideas that were brought up were mental health, healthy body image and social media safety. The speakers would likely be evening events where students could attend but it could be set up to provide parents a toolkit to talk to their kids.

The group was asked to think about the various topics and help come up with ideas for the presentation. The discussion will continue at our next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday Oct 27th at 6:30-7:30pm.

Washburn Event Volunteer Opportunities

Event	Chair / Coordinator	Event Date
Picture Day		Friday, Sept 2, 2016
Homecoming Dance	Erica Lebens-Englund	Saturday, Oct 1, 2016
Picture Retake Day		Monday, Oct 10, 2016
Teacher Appreciation - Fall	Erica Lebens-Englund	Tuesday Oct 18, 2016
Give to the Max Day		Thursday Nov 17, 2016
Barnes & Noble Book Fair	Tristen Lindemann & Karen Reisch	Saturday, Dec 3, 2016
Poinsettia Sale	Terri Nelson	
Teacher Appreciation - Spring	Erica Lebens-Englund	Friday, Feb 17, 2017
Battle of the Bands	Beth Gyllstrom	Sunday, Apr 23, 2017
Plant Sale	Alison Caputo & Chris Rigert	
Senior Party	Helene Gauthier & Tina Ham-Peterson	Wednesday Jun 7, 2017

School Event Greeters/Helpers		
Fall Conference Greeters		Tuesday Oct 18, 2016
8 th Grade Open House		Tuesday Dec 6, 2016
Prospective Student Tours		
Spring Conference Greeters		Friday, Feb 17, 2017
8 th Grade Registration Night		Thursday April 27, 2017