

## **WESS PA MEETING** **May 24, 2018**

### **Guest Speakers:**

*Jessica Jenkins, Principal*

*Shawn Baumann, Physical Education*

### **Specialty Items**

*Elections – PA Executive Board and SLT*

*Budget*

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- *Next PA Meeting:* 6/12/18
- *Parent Ed Night:* 5/30/18
- *8<sup>th</sup> Grade Regents:* 6/12 – 6/13/18
- *8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation (Passages):* 6/22/18

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6:40 PM: Meeting commences.

- Motion to approve APRIL 2018 PA MINUTES. Minutes approved.

### **Budget (Eric)**

- Discussed a few of the proposed changes for the Budget.
  - Previously we budgeted \$40,000 for Foreign Language Supplement. Now we are replacing that line with a Fine Arts instructor. Jessica will elaborate.
  - Field work/Intensive line – we propose an increase
  - The \$20,000 that was previously budgeted for Fitness Reaction – will now go to Professional Development (a 2-week development/training program for WESS teachers (like a retreat). Includes travel to Boston. Very beneficial for teachers.
  - After school equipment – budgeting a little more
  - Most significant item – Starting in Sept 2018, we begin our high school sports program, which is run by PSAL. However, PSAL will not cover the costs until year 3. That total amount needed is approximately \$90,000/year. The PA Exec Board is proposing that the PA help fund our sports program by splitting it with the school for now. Proposal means PA spends sapproximately \$40,000 - \$45,000/year for 2 years. This will mean budgeting \$20,000 plus another \$20,000 from our surplus. (See Jessica comments below).
  - We will discuss all of these items at our next Exec Board meeting. And then we will present to you our final budget proposal at the June PA mtg.

## **JESSICA JENKINS SPEAKS**

### **1. Our school/Our community**

- I want to let everyone know that I am very cognizant of what's been happening in our district.
- Our school always was, and remains totally committed to inclusivity - we encourage all students from across the district to apply to our school.
- We are constantly looking at how our school can do a better job in reflecting the diversity of our district and community.
- There have been some troubling comments made by community members about the district commitment to diversity. Our work must be about equity and access for all. Our job to make sure we are educating all children, regardless of academic level or socioeconomics.
- We want to start by initiating a roundtable discussion among parents, bringing together a diverse group. That group will include parents who don't necessarily come to the PA meetings. It is always important to keep in mind that we have parents who would like to be here at the PA meetings, but who are not able to attend.
- You will be receiving surveys from me about attendance at this roundtable discussion. I want to be strategic and make sure that we have our whole student body represented.
- Happy to have off line conversations about these tough subjects

### **2. Jessica on Budget Items**

- Fine Arts: We will be hiring a Middle School Arts Teacher and a High School Arts Teacher
- PDP'S (Professional Development Plans): It's really helpful for the PA to help contribute / offset costs of staff professional development, i.e transportation, etc.

### **3. Jessica on High School Sports**

- Shawn, our PE teacher, has experience in large, comprehensive high schools.
- PSAL (Public Schools Athletic League) won't fund us until our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of existence. That is why we have asked the PA to contribute \$40,000 - \$45,000 per year. Once our current 9<sup>th</sup> graders reach junior year, PSAL will start to fund us and we will no longer need a contribution from the PA.
- Teachers get paid approx. \$50/hour. Shawn is hiring coaches who have extensive college and high school experience.

## **UPDATES ON ATHLETIC PROGRAM (Shawn Baumann)**

- Many parents have asked about our facilities, where our teams can practice.
- I had a meeting with the athletic director from Beacon HS (former tenants here). Turns out, he only had about one team practicing in this building. They

were borrowing churches, colleges, which is essentially what we are doing. In general, their teams performed well. We are currently using them as our model.

- Also had a meeting with the Athletic Director of John Jay.
- Reached out to coaches and teachers about what sports they are interested in.
- At some other schools, they have retired teachers do the coaching.
- Sending out a SURVEY to students – REMEMBER – one sport per season. PSAL RULE. THEY WON'T LET YOU PLAY MORE THAN ONE.
- In our first 2 years, we really need to show growth. That is key for PSAL to fund us in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

### **Q & A for SHAWN AND JESSICA**

Q: WHAT ABOUT SWIMMING?

A: Swimming is not offered

Q: ARE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS DIFFERENT?

A: Yes, completely different

Q: What about FOOTBALL?

A: We will not have tackle football.

Q: WHAT IF YOUR KID PLAYS A SPORT THAT IS NOT OFFERED HERE?

A: The important thing is that your child is COMMITTED to the sport he chooses.

Q: DO YOU WANT PARENT VOLUNTEERS?

A: A parent can help with coaching. However, he/she cannot be the coach on record.

Q: WHAT ABOUT CHESS?

A (JESSICA): Chess will be a WESS club, but will be separate from a sports club.

### **VOTING (Gretchen)**

- We need to get 2 votes done before Jessica leaves
- **FIRST VOTE (Regents Days):**
  - June 12 and 13: A large percentage of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are taking regent exams. We want to treat it as a non-attendance day for 8<sup>th</sup> graders only.
  - MOTION APPROVED
- **SECOND VOTE: NERDY DERBY - (Gretchen/ Andreas)**
  - A creative science project: a race track exploration: covers 2 yrs of science. It starts this year – for the current 7<sup>th</sup> graders
  - We have a surplus (since we overbudgeted) so we have enough to fund it
  - Motion to approve transfer of \$1500 to funding of Nerdy Derby.
  - MOTION APPROVED

## **Q & A FOR JESSICA**

Q: RE REGENT EXAMS: WILL STUDENTS BE FORCED TO STAY UNTIL 70 MINUTES ARE DONE, EVEN IF THEY ARE DONE EARLIER?

A: Families will be provided with this information in a detailed email.

Q: RE THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS YOU MENTIONED EARLIER: IS THERE GOING TO BE A DESIGNATED BOARD? OR WILL THESE JUST BE DISCUSSIONS?

A: I think the parents at the table are going to take the lead on that. Bringing parents together is the start. These conversations can serve as the model for the district.

Q: IF WE CAN, SHOULD WE INVOLVE THE KIDS?

A: YES, absolutely. And believe me, they know a lot.

Q: IS IT TOO LATE TO PLAN AN END-OF-YEAR SOCIAL FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS?

A: We have not planned one b/c we are a 6-12 school. Plus we're also doing John Jay Passage Ceremony to celebrate the completion of Passages. But, it does seem like some parents are interested. Just make sure it's the kids who want this, not the parents!

Q: RE SCHOOL SECURITY: CAN WE GET A BUZZER FOR THE ENTRANCE?

A: Hate to say it, but that is a larger conversation. Changes are on the horizon. Unfortunately, the school cannot decide independently about things like buzzers. It's a DOE decision

----- Jessica leaves

## **\*ELECTIONS FOR WESS PA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- Election Committee leaders Mark Lovci and Yasmin Hopper speak.
- Introduces the other Election Committee members. We've reviewed the bylaws, the guidelines, etc. Gives brief rundown of rules. Elections commence.
- **Position: President or 2 Co-Presidents**
  - o Nominated: Gretchen Skaggs (to run again)
  - o Nominated: Kirsten Oppenheimer (nominated by Gretchen)
  - o Stmt by Gretchen Skaggs & Kirsten Oppenheimer. Positions unopposed.
  - o Motion to approve them as Co-presidents. Motion Approved.
  - o **Elected: Co-President: GRETCHEN SKAGGS (2<sup>nd</sup> term)**
  - o **Elected: Co-President: KIRSTEN OPPENHEIMER (1<sup>st</sup> term)**
- **Office: Vice President (of High Schools)**
  - o Nominated: Eric Shuffler
  - o Nominated: Lorna Puce
  - o Statements by Eric Shuffler and Lorna Puce. Ballots distributed
  - o **Elected: ERIC SHUFFLER**

- **Office: Vice President (of Middle School)**
  - Nominated: Luisa Kroll
  - Nominated: Susan Blank
  - Statements by Susan Blank and Luisa Kroll. Ballots distributed
  - **Elected: LUISA KROLL**
- **Office: Vice President At Large**
  - Nominated: Susan Blank
  - Nominated: Eddie Litton
  - Nominated: Lorna Puce
  - Statements by Susan Blank, Eddie Litton, Lorna Puce. Ballots distributed.
  - **Elected: SUSAN BLANK**
- **Office: Treasurer**
  - Nominated: Patrick Regan
  - Position unopposed. Motion to approve Patrick Regan as Treasurer.
  - Motion approved
  - **Elected: PATRICK REGAN**
- **Office: Assistant Treasurer**
  - Nominated Jill Gabin (not present)
  - Position unopposed. Motion to approve Jill Gabin as Asst. Treasurer.
  - **Elected: JILL GABIN**
- **Office: Recording Secretary**
  - Nominated: Emily Ramsay
  - Statement by Emily Ramsay.
  - Position unopposed. Motion to approve Emily Ramsay as Recording Sec'y
  - **Elected: EMILY RAMSAY**
- **Office: Communications Secretary**
  - Nominated: Karen Cape
  - Statement by Karen Cape.
  - Position unopposed. Motion to approve Karen Cape as Comm. Secretary
  - **Elected: KAREN CAPE**

----- End of PA Executive Board Elections

- **SLT ELECTIONS (1 seat open)**
  - Nominated: Ami Kantawala
  - Nominated: Hannah Pennington
  - Statement by Ami Kantawala and Hannah Pennington. Ballots distributed.
  - **Elected: AMI KANTAWALA**

----- End of SLT Elections

**Treasury Report (Andreas)**

- A quick note: the way we are proposing our budget for 2018-19, we are covered.
- The only revenue line that we did not meet this year is Family Giving. We are still \$2700 short of the target, though there's still money trickling in.

----- Meeting adjourned: 8:20 PM -----

Minutes taken by Emily Ramsay, Recording Secretary, WESS PA