

2024-2025 WHHS Parent Board Meeting Minutes

2024 September Meeting

September 18, 2024- 7 pm Location: Walnut Hills High School Recital Room

In-person Attendees: Rachel Smith Steinert*, Lady Crockett*, Michelle Kay*, Sylvia Nelson*, Caroline Perez, JR Verkamp, Amy Yap, Emily Siegel, Francesca Rayburn, Sandra Oprea, Veronica Tollefson, Junius Smith, Belal Mohammad, Danielle Morgan, Cheryle Jackson, Hao Cong, Silvia Vaherde, Luis Campos, Karen Zieker, Dawn Kurchak, Ed Paff, Ashley Tolokonsky, Amy Lovelace, Grace Royalty,

On-line Attendees: Jamie Leslie, Diane Obrian, Arsha M, Krista Clark

Staff Attendees: Jessica Smitson, Ashley Morgan, Shanice Steele

Student Attendees: Cadence Okuwobi, Nyla Shahanaraz

Call to Order- 07:01pm

Executive Board Introductions- Lady Crockett (President), Sylvia Nelson (Vice President), Michelle Kay (Treasurer), Rachel Smith-Steinert (Secretary)

President's Update – Lady Crockett

- August meeting minutes were emailed to voting members- Veronica Tollefson motioned to approve the minutes. Amy Yap. Minutes were approved and posted.
- Discussed efficiently timing the meeting to keep it close to an hour. Each update will be limited to 2 minutes.
- Please submit new business requests in advance of the general meeting to be placed on agenda and time will be allotted.
- Bylaws- Subcommittee meeting to revise Bylaws- Sylvia Nelson will bring hard copies of revised changes to next meeting for review.
- SOAR Grants open next week- SOAR grants used to support teacher requests; Discuss with Margo Fisher-Bellman to ensure teachers are aware of process and due dates.
- Yearly Event Calendar being formulated to organize activities
- Parent FAQ- Administration working on compiling a document- Parent Board will also develop a document to place on school website.

Treasurer's Update- Given by Michele Kay

- 2024-25 Proposed Budget & Financial Report- emailed to Board
- Thus far expenses for this year include the New Family Picnic
- Funds coming in soon for Walnut Gatherings and Sneakerball

Legacy of Excellence- JR Verkamp

- Introductions to JR Verkamp and Brian Hamilton, LOE Chairs 2024-25
- Reviewed budget and goals
- Clearly stated goals to fundraising- mission will be to communicate these goals to school community and collaborate with Boosters, Parent organization, and administration to increase fundraising dollars

Walnutfest- Grace Royalty

- Explanation of committee- parties are sponsored by donors and hosts- tickets purchased and 100% of funds go to Walnut Hills
- Upcoming Parties emailed out in Under the Dome:
- New Walnut Gathering for 7th Grade Parents (Class of 2030)
- Three Walnutfest Gatherings left this calendar year- Westside Trivia (9/20), Fusion Feast (10/5), Senior Parent Oktoberfest (10/19)
- 2024-25 Committee Members: Becky Gash, Damn Kurchak, Veronica Tollefson, John Twachtman

Sneakerball- Lady Crockett

- October 5th @ Fuel Collective- Walnut alum DJ Vikas, food, raffles, dancing
- Attire- Dressy with sneakers!
- Needs- more sponsors & raffle items
- Please promote the event
- Total of 180 tickets to be sold

Walnutfest- Grace Royalty

- Friday February 28th, 7-11:00pm @ Rhinegeist Brewery
- Looking for help with subcommittees- marketing, venue and food, silent auction

Athletic Boosters- Athletic Director- Shanice Steele, Athletic Director, gave update

- Dads Gone Nuts- fundraising for new grill; doing a bourbon raffle
- Concessions being run fully by Boosters- looking for volunteers
- Have an on-line schwag shop at the games and at the cafeteria
- Boosters donated \$500 to every team this fall!

Parent Equity Group- Junius Smith

- Community Outing at Fireside Pizza in Walnut Hills- 9/29/24 @ 4-6:00pm
- Described mission of group- equity for all care givers at Walnut and providing pathways for new families
- Ro Clark developing resources to be placed on Walnut Hills website for parents

CLASS UPDATES-

7th/8th Grade- Ed Paff & Ashley Tolokonsky

- September 5, 2024 Junior High Tailgate- major success! Had to pivot to indoors due to weather but it was excellent
- Boogie Bash is next event- October 18, 2024

9th Grade- Vacancy

10th Grade- Vacancy

- Will do a Blood Drive; Huge fundraising year

11th Grade- Missi Kershner

- Homecoming and Prom Fundraising

12th Grade- Suzie Santorelli

- Senior Sunrise- very successful
- Homecoming- looking for Sign Up Genius donations

Hospitality- Katherine Chiong & Amy Yap

- Coffee/Hot beverage Bar; Monday December 16, 2024; Exam Week
- Gold Mugs w/ navy text, school motto on back- ordering thru Spirit Shop
- Staff Appreciation Lunch- May of 2025

Student Council- 2 new Representatives- Cadence Okuwobi, Nyla Shahanaraz Senior and Junior student

- Planning Pep Rallies for Homecoming and Homecoming Court

WINGS- Amy Lovelace

- 12th Night Opening Night! Will have a in-school performance 10/21 for 7th Graders- complete the permission slip
- One Facts Festivals- Great way for 7th and 8th graders to get involved

WHIP-

- Marching Band competition this weekend

Principal Report- Ashley Morgan

- ILT Update- Computer Programming Part 2 class will be offered 2025-26 year
- Elective for Junior High- Exploratory in 4 content areas- i.e. modern languages w/ one quarter in each language
- LSDMC- Procedural meeting- reviewed Bylaws; heard from Susan Shelton on “Brain Health” Wellness and Mental Health support; Partnering with CCHMC for mental health services; 3 options will be available for mental health counselling
- Transition from Powerschool to Focus has hampered communication; continue to work on this issue
- Final Forms- some students are listed in the wrong school, working on to correct this with CPS Headquarters
- Homecoming 9/27- Football game
- Shadowing for prospective students beginning in November
- Yondr Pouch- Goes live September 30th- students will go to homeroom to learn how to use the pouch; discussion ensued on FAQ and medical exemption possibilities; Students can use noise cancelling headphones; Can also use wired headphones w/a computer
- Parent can email their student via their cps email after completing the form

Meeting Adjourned- 8:31pm