



WKHS PTO Meeting Minutes February 3, 2021 Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Tracy Plummer, Tamra Haurani, Barb Friedman, Burl Scott, Aric Thomas, Ken Nally, Toya Spencer, Kelli Davis, Jamison Davis, Jo Michael, Michele Franke, Alicia Manning, Amy Fu, Courtney Bode, Nancy, Zach Peterson, Roshi Jamshidi

GUEST SPEAKER: Toya Spencer, Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion for the Worthington School District. She joined the district with 18 years of corporate experience. She is married to Mark Spencer, a Thomas Worthington HS graduate, which she feels has been helpful in the transition to this role due to his experience as a student in the district. Their son, Langston, is a student at Wilson Hill Elementary school.

She served as Global Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Manager at Danaher Corporation, as Vice President/Inclusion Manager at Huntington National Bank and during her 16-year tenure at Abercrombie & Fitch, she managed relationships with minority professional and collegiate organizations.

What she wants DEI to look like in the district: inclusive and equitable classrooms that looks at them from a totality perspective (race, sexual orientation, language, gender, abilities, etc). Need to give each student what they need in the classroom. Through training and professional development, educators and staff will become aware of their biases and how they negatively impact the students and guide them in the hard work of mitigating them. Be aware of all our implicit biases and we all have them. Those won't entirely go away. Everyone can be a DEI champion. Have courageous conversations. This is all how she will be leading in the district.

DEI Updates – to achieve equity and inclusion she uses a threefold process: Head , Heart and Hand . Head - train and educate to increase knowledge; Heart – create safe spaces for conversations and heart connections; Hands – do the work of changing behaviors, policies and processes. From safe spaces to brave places.

She believes building relationships is the big goal at first to understand the culture of each building, and to hear the student voices. She meets with the Principals monthly, has met individually with the WSD Board members, PTAC and PTA DEI Committees – the Elementary staff, reading a book So You Want to Talk About Race, middle school staff – getting feedback and information, and met with the Worthington Alliance of Black Families and Educators.

Data gathering through a multifold approach: the Panorama Social Emotional Learning Survey (SEL), meetings with HS students of color, hosted 2 meetings with educators of color, and wants to perform a thorough equity audit with the goal to be done by December 30.

You can find communications regarding the district's DEI program and activities on the district's DEI webpage – includes definitions of DEI, Dear Worthington IG statement, Discrimination Incident Report Form (discussion about making sure students know that form/process is there for them). Worthington DEI Twitter and she's spoken at various community events.

Did an impact of implicit bias training – classified staff is going through that 450 virtually and some in person classes in June, DEI video in the works too.

Intersectionality – how aspects of diversity cross over – gender, race, - when you think of how you're being impacted by something – is it race? Is it gender? Those intersect. Socio-economic too – need to make sure we are looking at the totality of intersecting factors.

Immediate goals are to finalize the equity audit and begin creating the framework for the DEI strategic plan for the district.

Discussion about how we can make sure our WKHS PTO DEI committee aligns with the district DEI program – PTA/PTO reps will meet with her and have information and collaboration sessions. Julie Payne is spearheading a parent initiative institute for educating – ID topics like micro aggressions, etc. Toya will share her book reads for Black History Month.

General PTO Meeting:

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2021 MEETING MINUTES - Tracy motioned, Aric seconds, all approved

TREASURER REPORT: Burl Scott - Updates/highlights – we are still waiting for about \$5,000 to come in, but we have a good cushion right now. Barb Friedman raised \$130 through the personal sale of homemade masks and those funds will go to help fund the new WKHS PTO Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. \$300 received from the spirit wear sale. We have enough reserve to offer a few more scholarships this year.

FUNDRAISING REPORT: Jo Michael – we are at \$6170 for our funds and the fundraiser will be wrapping up shortly. Chick Fil A and DQ are donating prizes for the winning team. Hoping to do a final push, and will post another reminder on the PTO website and asked for another communication to go out through the school. Aric sent a reminder on the WKHS FB page. The response was really good considering the situation this year in the schools and for families.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Tracy Plummer – Scholarships, P/T Conf dinner (Amy Fu), Senior signs
Amy Fu – Amy is working with Borgata for the teacher dinner. Their choices are either pizza and salad or a pasta dinner with a side salad. There will be gluten free offerings of each for the teachers/staff that need them. She will pick it up Monday at 3:30 pm. and deliver to the school. Tracy motioned for \$650 to be spent for the teacher dinner, Burl seconds, all approved.

Tracy - Discussion of the creation of more scholarships. Should we create new categories? Aric suggested a non-traditional pathway category, met with agreement. Discussed the merits of other categories also being created vs doubling up on a category already in existence. Tracy will post to the WKHS PTO page and solicit input. We do need to move on this soon so the counselor's website can be updated.

Barb left a message with Emily at Franklin Imaging to see if we can work with them again this year for Senior signs from the PTO, waiting to hear back. Kate Sorenson is willing to design the sign, Barb will forward her the language from last year's design. Want to keep it simple and readable. Tamra will do the routes for the delivery of the signs.

Karina Bliss and Veronica are doing the grad banners that senior families can purchase – they've picked out three designs to offer.

PTAC REPORT: Robin Emami - no report

PRINCIPAL/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT: Aric Thomas / Ken Nally / Zach Peterson / Erica Backhurst
Aric Thomas–

- Social media campaign on the WKHS Wolves Twitter account for Black History Month and daily over the student announcements.
- Vaccines started today for the staff, several went down to get them and it was easy. The nurses in the districts have had them, and then the counselors, custodians, admin, etc. will get them. Strategy is to have those with more face to face contact first.
- Six seniors will get honored this Friday at half time at the basketball game – PACK Leaders, two in each category, will be honored.
- Currently working with our vendor on the boulevard signs. Aluminum and vinyl ones are being considered.
- Would like to ask the PTO to formally invite Slate Hill and Worthingway PTO members to come to the WKHS meetings too. Tracy will reach out.
- Graduation – alternative plans. The restrictions are really big on our reserved venue – only 350 attendees currently allowed, maybe the guidelines will change, but looking at other venue options or in our stadium.
- Student council is doing “Pawsitivity” notes during the lunch periods – had 50 students participate and write a note about good things going on in their lives.

Ken Nally-

- He will be leaving and going to Perry Middle School to be an admin there. Bittersweet, as he's spent a lot of time at Kilbourne - 23 years as a teacher and 16 years in administration. Josh Almanson from McCord will be coming to Kilbourne.
- WKHS will be getting a “Grab and Go” area of our school for the Worthington food pantry available to any student during the school day for healthy snack choices. They grab what they need. It is a sidebar of the counselor area – unmanned. They have a grant thru the state to fund it. They will provide the shelving. PTO could also buy a set of shelves through an opportunity grant if needed.

ACTIVITY CLUB LIAISON REPORT: Barb Friedman – Activity Club will be providing goodie packs for the Pack leaders honored at the game on Friday. Community Cares Committee continues to provide backpacks of

food and items to those identified by the counselors. Activity Club is one of the organizations collecting donations for a food drive to benefit the Worthington Resource Pantry and the Smokey Row Food Pantry. Items may be dropped off on Saturday, February 6 at Brookside from 10-12 a.m. and at Worthington Hills Elementary from 1-3 p.m.

COMMITTEE UPDATES & REPORTS:

Academics: Tamra Haurani – student of the month is this Friday and is virtual

Book Room: n/a

Curriculum Liaison: Rebecca Billingslea

Fundraising: Jo Michael (see above)

Grounds Beautification: Need to recruit a committee for Spring. Tracy will post on the WKHS PTO page after the PTO fundraiser is over.

Hospitality: Alison Heller, Amy Fu, Roshi Jamshidi, Lisa Maxwell (behind the scenes), and Meghan Zink and Kara Bussard for Teacher Appreciation week.

Kilbourne Parent Community Group: Aric -nothing new to report since the last meeting.

Scholarships & Review: Dawn, Tracie, and Tracy chatted – have the process, just need the decision on how many, how much, and dates (due date and determine review date) – see Scholarship discussion above.

Spirit Wear: Amy James, Gigi Elkhannas – 3 more to distribute, will take to the school next week.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: People interested in helping: Robin Emami, Alison Heller, and Jessica De La Cruz. Need some ideas for projects or initiatives. Tracy will attend the next meeting with Toya Spencer.

Phase 2 – Facilities Task Force: in progress – first meeting was on January 27 and Tamra and Tracy attended, the meeting went well. Another meeting is in February.

Looking Ahead: As of now, a Zoom meeting, March 3 at 7 p.m.

Adjournment: 8:35 p.m.