

Parent Advisory Council Meeting

October 10, 2018

Attendees:

Karen Hudock

PTO Board Members: Heather Brady, Sophia Hu, Barbara McCabe, Tissiana Oliva, Michelle Prejean, Meena Sharma

PAC reps 6th grade: Ashok Kasarla, Sweta Tiwary

PAC reps 7th grade: Anisha Kurian, Heather Olivo

PAC reps 8th grade: Rebecca Mousally, Sona Mukadam

PEC Rep: Karen White

AO Rep: Stephanie Caesar

AGENDA

- I. Opening of School Updates
- II. Introduction to Climate & Culture Initiative at WAMS

Mrs. Hudock opened the meeting by reviewing the overall goals for the PAC.

- First, PAC meetings are for discussing issues / concerns / questions that impact the school (or a large portion of the student population). PAC meetings are not the venue for discussing student/class/teacher-specific concerns.
- Second, Representatives should feel free to bring PAC discussion topics to Mrs. Hudock at any time, not just at the monthly meetings. Please copy PTO Presidents, Meena Sharma and Heather Brady, when sending PAC topics to Mrs. Hudock.

I. Opening of School Updates

Summer construction went very smoothly with the addition of AC for 100 and 200 wing classrooms. As planned, the 300 and 400 wing classrooms will undergo AC installation next summer. Other facility projects under consideration for next summer are: repairing of curtain wall in the back of the school. The BOE is still in conversation about science room renovations for the future.

New camera systems were also installed over the summer. Approximately, 37 cameras are now in use. Additional cameras were installed in the front-of-building drop-off zones and other areas.

Mrs. Hudock also shared that student social and emotional wellness will continue to be a high focus area again this school year. Additionally, she has begun to incorporate staff wellness components into her staff meetings to create a more wholistic approach – balanced focus on student AND staff wellness.

As a reminder, school blasts will now be delivered via Aspen. There is no need to opt-in to school communications. They will be sent to the email on record in Aspen.

WAMS specific communications will continue to come weekly from Mrs. Hudock via the Friday Folder. Additionally, she will publish a quarterly WAMS communication with additional school-related updates.

II. Introduction to Climate & Culture Initiative

Mrs. Hudock provided an overview of the Climate & Culture Initiative that is being kick-off this school year. In partnership with the United Way and the College of St. Elizabeth, WAMS will undertake a 3-year initiative which includes developing a better understand of the WAMS climate and culture, identifying skills that staff need to better work with today's students (and all the stakeholders), creating action steps

for change, and then implementing change. This initiative is being funded by the WAMS PTO for 2018-2019 school year.

Phase 1 is information gathering. ALL students, staff and parents will be asked to participate in a survey. In order to have the best possible representation and data, everyone is asked to share their views via the survey. The survey is expected to be sent in October or November. Additionally, a small group of students, parents and staff will meet monthly for an insights gathering session. More information on this overall initiative will be sent from Mrs. Hudock later in October.

Next PAC Meeting will be November 13. Please send any PAC topics to your grade-level representative.