

# Parent Advisory Council Meeting

## November 13, 2018

### Attendees:

Karen Hudock

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

PAC reps 6<sup>th</sup> grade: no one in attendance

PAC reps 7<sup>th</sup> grade: Heather Olivo

PAC reps 8<sup>th</sup> grade: no one in attendance

PEC Rep: Lauren Small

AO Rep: Stephanie Caesar

### AGENDA

- I. General Updates
- II. Specific Topics Submitted for Discussion
  - a. Halloween celebrations at WAMS
  - b. Robotics Club
- III. Additional Discussion Topics

#### **I. General Updates**

Mrs. Hudock opened the meeting by providing the following general school updates.

First, she reminded all PAC members that the link to the Climate & Culture Parent survey was sent out on Monday. To have the most robust data, all parents are requested to participate and to please complete the survey within 72 hours. A response by end of day Thursday is requested. Please see Monday (11/12) email from Mrs. Howarth for link and additional information.

Second, Mrs. Hudock shared that the WAMS PTO recently funded the painting of staff restrooms. Each year, during Teacher Appreciation Week, the PTO provides the staff with a gift based on current needs. Past gifts have included teacher's lounge microwaves and electric pencil sharpeners for all classrooms. Last April, the staff did not have a specific gift idea, so as a 'surprise' for the staff, the restrooms were brightened over this past long weekend.

#### **II. Topics Submitted for discussion**

##### **a. Making Halloween Fun at WAMS**

An inquiry into the possibility of initiating Halloween activities and/or celebrations at WAMS was submitted. Mrs. Hudock shared that the participation (i.e, costume wearing) for Halloween is probably 50%, at best. Students are given the opportunity to 'celebrate' through the wearing of costumes. However, the majority that take advantage of this appears to be 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Participation falls off in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Thus, no additional time away from instruction is set aside at WAMS for school-wide parades or celebrations.

An alternate suggestion made during the meeting was that perhaps a more community-benefit focus could be taken to enrich the Halloween celebration. Candy collections for Troops or Veterans post-Halloween or on Halloween were suggested. These and other ideas will be considered for next year.

##### **b. Robotics After-School Club**

An inquiry into the possibility of an after-school club for robotics was submitted. Mrs. Hudock

shared that for a club to be initiated, there must first be a staff member willing to set-up and run the club. When the clubs for 2018-19 were proposed, robotics was not one of the initial offerings. However, robotics could potentially be offered in the future as part of the pay-to-play clubs if a staff member is interested in establishing this club AND there is sufficient student interest.

### **III. Additional Discussion Topics**

#### **a. ART Staffing**

Mrs. Hudock reiterated that the search for a permanent Art teacher for WAMS is still underway. As a reminder, Mrs. Allyson Farrell, resigned from her position at WAMS and Mrs. JoEllen Petronzi was hired as the certified art substitute teacher until such time that a full-time replacement can be Board of Education approved.

#### **b. Girl's Restrooms**

A parent observed that some of the items in the girl's restrooms – specifically toilet seats – appear to be worn. Mrs. Hudock investigated and confirmed that the seats are somewhat worn but are clean and in working condition. She did, however, put in a request for replacement items, but shared that since the request is for items that are not broken and just aesthetically not as pleasing, the request may not be approved this school year.

Next PAC Meeting will be December 5. Please send any PAC topics to your grade-level representative.