

## WEHS PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7 PM, The Commons, December 9, 2019

**Board Members Attending:** Gina O'Neil, Amy Olsen, Lisa Lostumbo, Lorianne McNamara, Tim Buckingham

**Meeting called to order/Pledge of Allegiance:** Gina O'Neil, Co-President.

**Minutes from October 7, 2019** meeting were approved by Amy Olsen and Lisa Lostumbo.

**Gina O'Neil, Co-President** thanked everyone for attending meeting and introduced guest speaker Superintendent, Dr. Martzloff .

**Guest Speaker, Superintendent Martzloff** reported that the goals for the district include Social Emotional Learning, Technology, Human Resources and non-instructional support operations. A Strategic Survey was done this year, first one since 1995. School safety concerns were brought up by parents regarding the number of SRO's and East's unique floor plan. Dr. Martzloff reported that 1 additional SRO would be added to each high school. Mr. Swatland addressed the capital project plan of improving East's entry/visitor check-in area.

**Gina O'Neil, Co-President** reported: PTSA still in need of a Recording Secretary and a School Store Treasurer. Reviewed upcoming Calendar of Events at East.

**Tim Buckingham, VP of Technology** informed everyone that tickets for the upcoming Chiavetta's BBQ to support Post Prom can be found on our website.

**Lisa Lostumbo, PTSA Council Representative** reported that the Craft Fair was a success. The money earned supports scholarships at the PTSA Council level. Also reported that the Annual Leadership Conference is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> and is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

**Lorianne McNamara, VP of Committees** had nothing new to report.

**Amy Olsen, Treasurer** reviewed budget and noted that we have not been paid for school pictures yet, and we have not yet paid our NYS PTA dues, which are due at the end of January.

**Mr. Swatland, Principal** welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Highlights include: This year is Teri Warner's 50 yr. anniversary with the district. A reception will be held for her from 2-4 pm Tuesday. Bring in a pair of gloves to donate. Mrs. Warner has helped 5 families in the school community with Thanksgiving, and often spends her own money buying winter clothes for those who need it; East has partnered with UB as a focus school for 2-year study. Studying by-stander intervention in bullying and sexual orientation. 97% of students polled said they would intervene if they saw a friend get bullied. Also, looking at eliminating biased language in school; Flavors of East (SDM initiative) is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> in The Commons. This is a way to celebrate cultural diversity thru food; To date, only 1 teacher endowment has been paid; East held Strategic Planning focus groups (parents, students and teachers). Results should be done this week; Treasurer, Amy Olsen, pointed out that our Helping Hands has \$700 budgeted to help those students/families in need.

**Mrs. Charleson-Smith, Vice-Principal** reported: Challenge 2 Change Summit was held in November. Twenty-eight students participated in discussing racial/diversity issues, and challenging situations; Winter Fest is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> ; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation and Curriculum Night is scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup> ; No School for MLK Jr. Day on January 20<sup>th</sup> ; Jan exam schedule should be on WITS before break; Pre-ACT Exam is scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>

**Mrs. DeSantis, Vice-Principal** reported: Career Day was held November 15<sup>th</sup>. 46 different careers were presented. Thanks to our volunteer speakers, PTSA and FBPA volunteers; 4300 canned goods were donated for this year's Canned Food Drive. Event was sponsored by Youth Leadership classes. Helped provide a Thanksgiving meal to over 350 families in WNY; Winter Fest is December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the line starts to form at 5:30 pm.

**School Board Liaison, Dr. Venator** introduced himself and talked about the Strategic Plan focus and the School Safety & Security focus. Also reported that there was a Community Forum on November 2<sup>nd</sup> where safety, restorative justice practices, class size and transportation were discussed. BOE Minutes from November 12<sup>th</sup> were distributed. There was a parent question regarding BOE nominations and how to find people to run. Dr. Venator said that Lynn Carey at District Office puts that information out.

**SEPTSA Representative, Xudong Yang** gave an update on SEPTSA events to date. They are looking for any input from the high schools on how to improve the gifted programs at the high school level.

**Service to Youth** (Gina O'Neil): Hoping to get at least 1 entry in each category (Professional/Staff/Volunteer) from each school. Deadline for submissions is March 2, 2020, Awards Reception in May 2020.

**School Store:** Volunteers still needed. Training will be available for those who need it. A suggestion was made to use student volunteers to run the store on the days it is closed. It was decided that the students would need an adult or an advisor to overlook the handling of the money during their shift.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Please join us for our next meeting on March 2, 2020 at 7 pm in The Commons.**