

Woodrow Wilson High School, Washington, D.C.
PTSA Meeting
April 9, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Held in the Wilson High School Auditorium

Columbus Spruell, Co-President
Mary Giffin, Co-President

Columbus and Mary opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Bargeman welcomes new teachers

Mr. Bargeman introduced the three new teachers. Mr. Mesfin Hailegabriel will teach ESL; Mr. Joe Winpisinger will teach 9th grade social studies. Mr. Bargeman also announced that the CASS system was now fully functional. Students must swipe their ID cards as they enter. Report cards were issues today.

Assistant Principal Miller discussed meeting Annual Yearly Progress

Ms. Miller: DCCAS testing will be in a few weeks. Wilson is on the AYP watch list. Wilson needs to meet “safe harbor” for AYP. If Wilson meets “safe harbor,” Wilson will not be taken over, and measures for reform will be more moderate. My goal is to have everything run smoothly, and have 95% attendance. April 22, 23, 24, and 25th are the testing dates. There will be rewards for attendance. Each class of tenth graders will get raffle tickets, and there will be three winners per class of \$25.00. Home rooms with 100% participation will win a cookout. Teachers whose home rooms have 100% participation will get a \$50 gift certificate.

Jude Landis announces the PTSA Nominating committee

Jude Landis: The PTSA is accepting nominations for PTSA positions for the 2008-2009 school year. The recording secretary position is still open. Outreach to the feeder schools has been done. For information about the nominations contact me.

Mary Froning discusses LSRT nominations

Mary Froning: The LSRT has at least two openings. There will be a meeting on restructuring tomorrow at Bell. The LSRT will answer questions about the broader restructuring proposal. Chancellor Rhee will be coming.

Question: What do other schools restructuring plans look like?

Mary Froning: The other schools did not go to the governance level; one had begun to work with a community partner. Not all the schools have plans.

Phonathon results

Columbus: We exceeded the phonathon goal by \$7,000.00.

Architects' Report on Modernization

Chief Operating Officer John Howe: Grimm+Parker are acting on the education specifications for the new Wilson High. They sat down with the department heads and administrators. Here is Paul Bradshaw, architect for Grimm+Parker.

Paul Bradshaw: Phase one of modernization is the education specifications and concept development for renovating the school.

Last Friday we took teachers from Wilson to schools we had renovated in Virginia.

We want t be excited and energized.

We have a team of five architects as well as outside consultants working on this. We have lots of experience in schools, and have done more than 30 high schools. We have won awards from architects as well as educators. One goal is sustainable design, LEED.

Educational specification is important.

The school should have flexible space. It is historic. It should be cost effective and built to last.

We are working with the academic departments to find out their needs.

We are starting with concept plans and the final ed spec report is due August 1st.

Phase two is the design and implementation.

There is a long list of stakeholders.

The main building has historic significance. The gym addition does not.

We would want to preserve as much as possible.

There will be a collaborative design process. We will meet with students and student leaders. We had an online survey. The greatest percent of responses came from students.

We will redo the mechanical, electrical and plumbing and improve the whole school.

The auditorium is challenged. The acoustics are bad.

We need to improve the entrance.

There is space on the site for 2,000 students.

A parent resource center would be part of the administrative space.

Parent: Would it be better to do the renovation without the students in the building?

Paul Bradshaw: Without students in the building, it could save six months off the total construction time. But, there is a premium for doing phased occupied work.

Parent: Educators are recommending smaller high schools. Will this plan be able to adjust to the smaller high school model?

Paul Bradshaw: We are working our way through schemes of schools within a school, as well as the comprehensive high school model.

We plan to use a lot of glass, so that the space is observable inside and out. If space is observable, you do not need a police mentality.

We can have a black box theater and an auditorium.

We need to be able to arrange the science space.

We have to anticipate new technologies. These may not be in the minds of teachers and staff now. One example is smart boards. Technology is the last thing to be decided.

Parent: Are we talking to the newly renovated McKinley High School to see what works there, and to the renovated Bell Multi cultural?

Parent: There is an education component for the people to know how to use the new space.

Paul Bradshaw: The maintenance staff would need training in the new boilers. They have been keeping the old boiler going since 1935.

There should be space for students to gather, think, and be quiet.

One recommendation for computer labs is a tiered classroom, which is observable from the rear.

The media center would be a focal point of the school, a space to be celebrated.

The PE space would be a community use space as well.

There could be a conference room to be used as a remote learning center.

The food service arrangement might be changed.

The survey was online, there were 204 respondents, 47% of the respondents were students.

Security would be incorporated into the design.

We did Washington and Lee High School's renovation; the attitude of the new building changed the attitude of the students.

A school should be a refuge, it should not feel threatening.

Wilson serves the whole city. How do we create the buy-in for the non-Tenleytown kids?

The Washington-Lee process took three years.

We need more focus from DCPS, and more involvement from the community.

The biggest harm to our process would be not to move forward. We have to get the money in our budget.

1400 students seems to be the size we are aiming for.

Mr. Howe: For more information on the architects and some ideas they have implemented in other high schools, see their web site at <http://www.grimmandparker.com/>.

Meeting adjourned

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Leander

Wilson HS PTSA recording secretary