

Woodrow Wilson Senior High School, Washington, D.C.

PTSA General Meeting

September 11th, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Held at the Library of Woodrow Wilson High School

Executive Board Members present:

Columbus Spruell, Co-President

Mary Giffin, Co-President

Jude Landis, Co-Treasurer

Susan Carter, VP for Membership

Ellen Leander, Recording Secretary

Toni Hughes, Corresponding Secretary

1) Columbus and Mary opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Columbus and Mary welcomed all. Anyone who needed Spanish language translation was asked to identify themselves.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the victims of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

2) Introducing the New Principal

Angelica Gregory, Student Government President, introduced Ms. Jacqueline Williams, Wilson's new interim principal.

She stated that Ms. Williams first arrived at Wilson in 1998, from 1999 to 2004, she was an assistant principal here, and then from 2004 to 2006, she was acting principal at eastern High School.

3) Ms. Williams:

"You can't hide that Tiger Pride."

Ms. Williams welcomed all to the first PTSA meeting of the year. She gave the following facts about herself:

-has worked for DCPS for 30 years

-started at Shaw

-then at Sousa JHS

-prefers to work with high schoolers

-has gone back and forth between Eastern High and Wilson

-she will retire when she leaves Wilson

She stated she is "here to serve you."

Her direct phone number is 202-282-0440.

Ms Williams: "I stepped up to the plate when Dr. Tarason retired. I kept my class of 2008, for which I was assistant principal.

I have a lot of support.

Tell me how I can do better. I am here to serve students and faculty."

She said she is looking forward to the homecoming game in October.

She introduced staff.

Ms. Miller: I am the administrator for 10th graders - a very fun bunch. My phone number is 282-0420. The PSAT will be administered to 10th graders. We are now looking forward to DCBAS the baseline for DCCAS.

Streffa Lindsey: I once taught Mr. Dickerson. I am the 9th grade administrator and came from Duke Ellington.

Kenneth Dickerson: I am the 11th grade assistant principal. I went to DCPS. Mr. Martel and Ms. Lindsey were once my teachers.

My goal now is to have an academy of the performing arts. My phone number is 202-282-0486.

Alex Wilson: I am the director of Academic Development. I run the Open Houses.

There are 1528 students this year, including 600 new students. Here is a list of parent advocates that is available as a handout.

Over 55% of students are in academies. There is ongoing admission from within Wilson for the academies, so if your student is not in an academy and would like to be, please encourage them to apply.

Andrea Thompson, Academy director, SciMaTech and the Academy of Finance: Welcome. We are here to support you. My phone number is 202-966-0628, Monday-Friday only. My cell phone number is 202-674-3326. Your child can call me on the weekend.

Mr. Bargeman, coordinator of the 9th grade, and director, AAA Academy: I am also the coordinator of a program to encourage mid-level students to participate in high level classes. My cell phone is 240-305-3165.

Ms. Williams: Mr. Schultz, director of The WISP and HAM academies, cannot be here. He is coaching a soccer game. His phone number is 202-282-0545. He asks that you please consider making a donation to HAM and WISP.

Mr. Jonathan Shea: I have been at Wilson my entire professional career. I love this place. I am in a newly created role, "Director of Student Services." We will help steer you and your children through Wilson and to their goals. Phone number is 202-409-1663. We can help with the paperwork and the counseling process. E-mail is jonathan.shea@dc.gov

Anthony Evans, chair of the computer science department: We now offer 10-12 courses in

computer science. We use performance based learning; learn through the process of doing. We will accept old computers.

For \$50.00 we will give a long term loan to a student of the old computer.

“Success Week” is the first week of school.

We have identified successful students as those whose parents have high expectations for them. Our staff is behind Ms. Williams, all teachers and staff are united as a team.

Mrs. Jodi Moten: I was in the class of 1978 here at Wilson. I am the department chair for health and PE.

Please be involved in your child’s education in health and physical activity. They need it and so do you.

Ms. Gibson, head of the science department: Our new teacher is Ms. Johnson-Brock, formerly of Deal. We are lucky to have her. Our department is here to help you.

Lisa Grimes, 9th grade English teacher: I had kids in the class of ‘03 and ‘05. Helane Cook is chair of the English Department. All the English teachers work together. We focus on literacy and reading scores. You are and your kids are in a great place.

Ms. Payne: I am the head of the world languages department. I had three children of my own graduate from Wilson by 1999. Wilson High offers six languages. We have a language study center from 3:30 to 4:45 Monday through Thursday. The study centers has current students and teachers as tutors. We focus on excellence in teaching and learning. We offer language usually to the fourth level. We have four language teachers that are new to our school. Expect great things from us.

Ms. Shaw: I am an art teacher. You can see a portrait of me, done by one of our students, on the November, 2007 page of the DCPS 2007-2008 calendar. Ms. Huberman is the head of the art department. Many students from Wilson go on to art and design programs after high school. They do well.
Welcome to Wilson.

Mr. Greiner: I am here representing the social sciences.

Mr. Shea: I am speaking on behalf of the ESL department. I love Wilson High School; I love the diversity.

Mr. Shea told about the teachers in the ESL department.

Mr. Alex Wilson: Wilson High is part of the EXCEerator program:
<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/UnitedStates/Education/TransformingHighSchools/Announcements/Announce-060831.htm>, run by the Gates Foundation and the College Board. Our coach is Shawna Brown. The PSAT is now free at Wilson. The best predictor of college success is the rigor the high school program. Our goal is to increase the graduation rate and Advanced Placement participation.

Ms. Williams: You just can't hide that tiger pride.

4) Updates.

Angelica Gregory, Student Government Association President: Here are our SGA plans. Our number one goal is community service. We also want more social gatherings and to increase school spirit.

Mary Froning, LSRT chair: The LSRT (Local School Restructuring Team) is a multi disciplinary group which represents all facets of Wilson. Michelle Rhee, chancellor of schools, has asked the LSRT for an "at a glance" of the school plan. This one page plan will be posted on Wilson's web site. I can be reached at maryFroning@compuserve.com.

Jack Kozcela, from the Wilson Management Company: Our goal is to bring resources to Wilson. We negotiated agreements to take over the facilities management at Wilson and we hired John Howe. My phone number is 202-244-1062, and my e-mail is jack@kozcela.net. The board of the management company will have elections soon, please consider participating.

John Howe, facilities manager of Wilson via the Wilson Management Company: I report to Jack and the Board; I also report to Ms. Williams. We have rebuilt the football field, put on a new roof, reconditioned the gym floor and locker rooms, and knocked down the old pool building. Woodrow Wilson has almost 3,000 square feet and 165 staff and faculty. You can reach me at john.howe@dc.gov, or phone 703-725-6980.

We are not responsible for the students, but for their environment. Our goal is to air condition each classroom, with my office as the last to get air conditioning. Teachers and classrooms come first.

Columbus Spruell of the Principal Selection Committee and Co-President, PTSA: In terms of principal selection, We are acting as stewards on your behalf in the principal selection process. On September 20th, our committee will be meeting. We want to do a national search. Right now we are team building and establishing a process and rapport with downtown in order to facilitate the process. Some of the principal panel committee members are here tonight.

5) PTSA Goals and Activities

Columbus Spruell: Regarding the PTSA, the PTSA newsletter will come with the mid-term advisory notices.

At this time, the PTSA executive board members briefly introduced themselves and named their PTSA responsibilities.

Mary Giffin, PTSA co-president: The main roles of the PTSA are communication and funding. Wilson draws from the largest area in DC, geographically. We have students from all wards. We have different ways to communicate, the newsletter and the web site, and recorded calls home from the principal.

We provide small grants to teachers.

We know you have competing fund-raising demands within Wilson, such as sports, academies,

and clubs. The PTSA funds things that support the kids directly. Examples of funding include:

- staff for the library after school program last year
- students performances such as the musical
- the debate team championship trip
- banners for the school
- renovation of the music room
- buzzers for the It's Academic team
- support for the College Bureau

October 17th is the next PTSA meeting.

Please support the PTSA.

Columbus Spruell: If we are to succeed as a team, we have to participate as a team. We need your time, labor, and resources. Many parents experienced in volunteering will be leaving at the end of this year.

Our goal is to increase participation and especially minority participation and African-American participation.

Susan Carter, PTSA membership chair: We need funds and your participation at at least one event. Volunteer, enjoy the comradery of volunteering - and network!

Escrip and Giant Bonus Bucks program chair: Go online and register for these programs or drop off the form with the PTSA. For e-scrip, you do have to sign up credit cards.

Toni Hughes, PTSA newsletter chair: I am looking for help with the newsletter. My phone number is 202-236-0069.

Marcio Duffles, PTSA VP of fund-raising: my e-mail is mduffles@gmail.com. Please help us write to get grant money for Wilson.

Columbus Spruell: Whatever you can do, please help the PTSA.

I would like to announce the appointment of Jude Landis as co-treasurer. And now Jude will discuss the PTSA budget with you.

Jude Landis, PTSA co-treasurer: We need a vote to approve the PTSA budget. (See attached budget)

Last year we had \$30,000 in reserves. This year we have \$18,000 in reserves. This budget shows income and expenses.

The PTSA serves you, this is your budget. This shows last years actual vs, this year's proposed. The budget uses net income method to show results of fund-raisers.

Question from a parent: Does AAA academy get any money from PTSA?

Jude Landis: No, but you can give to the academy through the Sally Foster fund-raiser.

At this point, there was a lot of discussion from the parents regarding the details of the proposed budget. Some budget items had been cut, and some items had been absorbed into other items, and were simply being called different things. Some items had been eliminated, such as the after school program and some costs of mailing the newsletter, as these had been taken over by the schools administrators. Other items, such as hospitality, had to be cut due to lack of adequate funding. However, funding could be restored if fund-raising goals are exceeded. Parents expressed a wish to review the executive board's decision making on the budget more carefully. One parent mentioned he was not comfortable approving the budget now, with all these questions outstanding, and everyone needing to go home.

Mary Froning: I motion to adopt the budget with the proviso that it can be amended or changed after further discussion with the PTSA.

The motion was seconded.

Mary Giffin: We will add a discussion of the budget to the agenda for the next meeting. All in favor of adopting the budget with the proviso that it can be amended, say Aye. All opposed, say Nay.

Approximately three individuals were opposed to the motion; all the rest said "Aye."

6) Meeting Adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Leander