

Woodrow Wilson Senior High School, Washington, D.C.
PTSA Executive Board Meeting
December 12th, 2007
7:00 p.m.
Held at Jefferson Middle School, Washington, D.C.

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
Sarah Whitener, LSRT Liaison
Alex Wilson, teacher representative

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

Introduction and Discussion of Wilson High

Columbus and Mary opened the meeting with an invitation to the approximately 20 attendees to introduce themselves.

Mary: We are here to tell you about Wilson High School. There's a link on www.wilsonhs.org to keep you up to date on the principal selection process. The proposed advertisement to attract candidates, which will go out nationally, is very inviting.

Restructuring is going on due to "No Child Left Behind." Teachers, administrators, and parents are working together to build a better Wilson High School.

Columbus: We have been working with the 9th grade academy. PTSA has had to step in to provide Saturday Academy for those who had not had a math teacher for the early part of the year. Saturday Academy is tutoring.

We are asking how do we get more minority participation in AP classes.

Sarah: We are working on getting more minority participation in AP classes for minorities. Many more children of color are qualified to take AP than actually take AP.

Alex: I have the details - we are making progress in AP participation at Wilson High. The 9th grade can take intensive or regular classes. They can be focused toward the goal of taking Advanced Placement classes.

Parent: My child has special education needs, how can Wilson meet my child's needs?

Alex: Excellence and diversity, special ed fits in with Wilson, which is moving to a more inclusive model.

We are pushing math/language arts into mainstream classes, which will be co-taught by a special ed and a mainstream teacher.

The message we want to give 8th grade parents is that we have an out of boundary option.

Typically out of boundary students get in via the academies.

Every one of our kids is getting ready for college.

To get admitted to Wilson, apply. The application has the same deadline as the lottery. The applications are due February 28th, interviews are in March, the decisions are out April 14th.

Transcript, recommendations, test scores, an interview will be considered.

Parent: What do Jefferson students need to survive at Wilson? How does Wilson communicate with the feeder schools to let the schools know that where the incoming students from that school need help before they come in?

Helane Miller, Wilson High Assistant Principal: Sometimes students have had Spanish One, but they really have not completed the course the way they need to to take Spanish 2 at Wilson.

Sarah: The math department at Wilson is reaching out to Deal Middle School to make sure Deal students come prepared.

Let's emphasize how Wilson can help a student who is behind or struggling. Math Center, Writing Center, Language Arts Lab, etc. There are lots of ways to help students.

Columbus: Parental participation is also key.

Parents need to stay involved with the student and see the reality vs. the perception.

My son went to Hardy, where they spend two years on Algebra, so Hardy kids are strong in Algebra. But Deal does not have the same program, it might be harder to teach, because of the different education background.

Alex: Kids have to leave 9th grade with Algebra, biology.

Columbus: Students must be ready for a challenge. Will they be ready to participate?

Parent: My 11th grader goes to Thurgood Marshall - it is small and very strict.

Parent: How many 9th graders at Wilson?

Alex: About 394 9th graders. Each 9th grader is on a team of 120 kids. Each of the teachers teaches most of the kids on a team. There are 9th grade awards assemblies and 9th grade motivational assemblies.

Here are brochures and deadline dates.

Ms. Miller: The 9th grade Academy works diligently to ease transition. Wilson is large to some students.

We want to form vertical teams, to integrate teaching throughout DCPS.

Wilson is rigorous.

Parent: We have a project we are working on with Jefferson. There is a run down city property near here owned by DCPS. It needs to be cleaned up and converted to a swimming pool.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Leander

Wilson HS PTSA recording secretary