

School Without Walls High School Home-School Association

General Membership Meeting Notes

December 11, 2014

1. **Melanie Gisler**, HSA President, opened the meeting at 6:35 pm and welcomed parents, teachers, and students.
2. **Associate Principal Update.** Ms. Isaac, Associate Principal, reported that:
 - Midterm exams were next week and provided the exam schedule.
 - Progress reports will be given to students during advisory tomorrow and will be mailed to parents beginning tomorrow.
 - On-line admission application for SWWHS will become available December 15 and the deadline for submitting an application is February 2. The admissions test will be administered February 7 and Interview Day is scheduled for February 21. Admission results will be available March 27.
 - The Holiday Musical Concert is scheduled for December 18 at Betts Theater.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Carol Piwoworski reported that approximately \$40,000 in contributions and \$170 from matching contributions have been raised to date. The HSA has funded items including, Turnitin.com, student planners, coaches stipends, Thanksgiving feast, Model UN, and an accompanist for the holiday concert. She noted that an end of year fundraising appeal would be going out soon.
4. **Attendance Policy.** Kip Smith, SWWHS Registrar, gave a presentation on the DCPS Attendance Policy. SWWHS is an "out of boundary" school which has specific attendance policies. If a SWWHS student has 10 unexcused absences per year or 20 unexcused tardies, the student can be asked to return to their inbounds high school. Unexcused absences include holiday travel. If students are delayed because of delays in the Metro, students can call Mr. Smith to let him know and the tardy will be excused (after Mr. Smith checks the WMATA web site). Students who miss 20 percent of the day will be considered absent for the entire day.

For field trips, teachers give Mr. Smith a list of all students attending the field trip so that they can be marked as excused. When students are absent due to doctor or dentist appointments, the student is required to bring in a note from the doctor/dentist. Doctor's note are required if a student has been absent for 5 consecutive days. Religious holidays and college visits can be excused absences (parents notes are needed).

If parents have any questions, they should call Mr. Smith. If a child has unexcused absences that should be excused, parents should call Mr. Smith.

5. **Sports.** Mr. Smith is also the Athletic Director for SWWHS. Mr. Smith provided an overview of sports at SWWHS. DCPS provides approximately \$16,000 to SWWHS for DCPS sports. SWWHS has several sports that are not funded by DCPS: LaCrosse, Girls Field Hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, Sailing, Crew, and Squash. The HSA provides some funds for those sports. Mr. Smith set up a sports

website this year at: <http://swwsports.olinesports.com/> which provides the dates and times of games, meets, and matches. Sports apparel is also available at this website.

6. **Events Update.**

- School Picnic. Melanie thanked Debra Eichenbaum for her excellent job in coordinating the school picnic. Turnout of families, teachers, and administration was excellent for the picnic.
- Ward Parties. Melanie reported that Ward parties have taken place for Wards 4 and 6. Parties in the remaining Wards are being scheduled. We are still looking for coordinators for Wards 1, 7, and 8. If anyone is interested, they should email Melanie.
- International Night. We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate International Night. It is a school-wide potluck with presentations including from students who have gone on international trips. If anyone is interested, they should email Melanie.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.