

PSTO Minutes November 10, 2009

(Approved Jan. 12, 2010)

President Jacki Brennan called the meeting to order. Introductions.

Minutes from October meeting approved.

Featured Student Organization: *West Side Story* advisor Sara Whittaker and staff members Kerri Sorrell, Saranya Subramanian, and Leah Murray

- *West Side Story* is a monthly news magazine (7 issues per school year). To be a staff member, students must complete *Introduction to Journalism* class and submit an application.
- Mission is to provide an informative and entertaining source of news and commentary to student audience; as such, the staff strives to include numerous student voices in the magazine.
- Advertising is in review process as part of editorial policy.
- Home-delivery subscriptions available for \$15 per year; fill out form at www.westsidestorypaper.com.
- Magazine has won highest awards bestowed by the Iowa High School Press Association.

Program: Jacque Green, teacher of new Culinary Arts Course

- *Culinary Arts Career Academy* is a course for students interested in the culinary arts; students receive dual credit from Kirkwood Community College and West High Family and Consumer Science Department.
- After the first semester, students earn the Serve Safe certification, recognized by restaurateurs.
- As part of the course, students plan, budget, shop, prepare and serve a meal to the West High faculty.
- Jacque conveyed how enthusiastic she and the students are about this new course; there is an upcoming field trip to Kirkwood planned, as well as job shadowing.
- Thanks to PSTO for the 6 new Kitchenaid mixers.

Program: Doug Herman, teacher of new Biotechnical Engineering Course

- *Biotechnical Engineering* is one of 4 courses currently offered as part of the Project Lead the Way engineering sequence.
- This project-oriented course, incorporating the fields of bio-technology, bio-medical engineering and bio-molecular engineering, enables students to apply and develop knowledge and skills in biology, physics, technology and mathematics.
- This pilot class is open to City High students; next year, the course will move to City High.
- Prerequisite: Biology. Curriculum includes self-assessment.
- Extras include job shadowing and visiting speakers from related professions, e.g. Forensic Science.

Program: West High library: Beth Belding and Jill Hofmockel, librarians

- The library is staffed by 3 librarians (certified teachers with specialties in Library and Information Science) and 5 support staff.
- As part of the goal for the library to be more involved in the teaching aspect of the school, there is an initiative to create liaisons with particular academic departments and for the librarians and teachers to work collaboratively in areas such as curriculum and course design.
- There are 2200 visitors to the library daily, including repeat visitors.
- Finals week study nights were a success; they plan to schedule one study night per trimester.
- There is a new library advisory group forming, made up of students, teachers and parents.
- New technology in the library includes a voice recorder and flip camera; computer upgrade in progress.

Student Senate Representative: Michael Lipman. No report.

Faculty Representative: Brady Shutt. No report.

Administrative Report: Jerry Arganbright

- The front entrance renovation should be completed in the first part of December.

- Enrollment at West High is currently at 1775; next year's projected enrollment is 1850, then 1950 for the 2011/12 school year.
- Pre-ACT test to be held on Friday, November 13.

President: Jacki Brennan

- City High PSTO invites parents and students to a CollegeTalk by Christopher Morpew on November 17.

Vice President: Ellen Segar. No report.

Treasurer: Christy Fehlberg.

- There is a nice amount currently set aside for this year's wish list.

Secretary: Dnae Kinzie. No report.

Volunteer Coordinator: Patty McCarthy

- E-mail request to bake treats for Halloween received good response.

Past President: JoAnn Miller. No report.

Directory: Jennifer Noser.

- A coordinator is needed to produce next year's directory.

Staff Appreciation: Mary Mockitis

- Coordinating teacher breakfast for Friday, November 13; serving help needed.

Hospitality: Tracy Nye. No report.

Fine Arts: Pam Bourjaily. No report.

DPO: Terry O'Donnell Parsons

- Budget Cuts—since 60% of the state budget goes to K-12 education, community colleges and the State Board of Regents, the 10% across-the-board budget cuts ordered by Governor Culver present a hardship for districts statewide. For ICCSD the cut amounts to \$5.6 million; for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year, the cash reserves funded through property tax will be accessed to help with cash-flow. ICCSD will retain its spending authority.
- ICCSD Redistricting--the boundary redistricting committee has 33 members; their first meeting is November 17. The committee will make recommendations to the ICCSD Board in March.

Club West: JoAnn Miller

- Meeting to be held on November 11 at 7:00 pm.
- Club West has been successful recruiting new members this year.
- Northwest Central Junior High needs more parent involvement in Club West.

Landscaping: JoAnn Miller

- Quality Care cleaned up the poison ivy behind the school; they will also trim bushes.
- Mulching and planting will be done in the spring.

Business: Ellen Segar

- PSTO is organizing a parent forum to be held in the first part of 2010. A panel discussion will be held to discuss Teen Stress/Mental Health Issues.
- There is no December PSTO meeting. The January meeting will be on January 12 at 11:30. The February meeting will be held at 5:30pm to accommodate parents unable to attend during the day.

Meeting Adjourned

Attendees: JoAnn Miller, Kent Short, Joy Short, Carolyn Johnson, Molly Abraham, Paulina Muzzin, Sara Whittaker, Kerri Sorrell, Saranya Subramanian, Leah Murray, Lydia Peller, Jill Ross, Barbara DeGroot, Mary Mockitis, Doug Herman, Jacque Green, Beth Belding, Jill Hofmockel, Ellen Segar, Cheryl Richmond, Jacki Brennan, Dnae Kinzie, Jerry Arganbright