Principal Report: Kurt Barker

- Good to see new faces; great start of school, good feelings all around.
- Two West students, Jake Reese and Allana Doyle, attended the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston over the summer. They watched a hip replacement live and received certificates for attending the congress.
- Preview of this year's Home & School monthly meetings:
  - November – 1:1 Device Initiative
    - Teachers are working an instructional coach for online learning, using SAMR (Substitution, Adaptation, Modification, Redefinition) model for developing online curriculum.
    - Challenge to faculty: To have instruction fundamentally changed positively within 5 years.
  - December – Parent 2 Parent / Communities That Care; flyer will be in weekly email.
  - January – Course selection information will be presented.
  - February – Drug and alcohol awareness and PAYS (survey) data; in general, drug and alcohol use is in a downward trend.
- Sports update: Football team looking for a win; others doing well: volleyball vs Great Valley, golf team wins against East.
- Waiting for School Performance Profile (SPP) data but English Language Arts (ELA) scores highest ever (94.5%); math 85%; biology 82%.
  - The senior class is now the highest achieving class in West history.
- Back-to-School Night, 9/15 6:30 – 8:30: Report to first period class, introduction will be over the PA.
  - Question: What if you have more than one kid at West? What schedule do you follow?
    - Teachers are doing 10-minute overviews. Choose which to see.
- DASD Book Club: “The Gift of Failure” by Jessica Lahey

Approval of 5/12/16 Minutes:

- Minutes were shown to all who attended the 5/12/16 meeting and there were no corrections.
New Business:

- Treasurer's Report – Heidi Walker
  - H&S balance is just under $4800; Helping Hands balance is $1555
  - Overview of main fundraisers: Spirit Wear sales, the Catalyst SAT Bootcamps, and Flower Power (online fundraisers, one fall and one spring)
  - Overview of main expenses: teacher breakfast (first teacher day of the year), four book scholarships (2 per gender from the senior class), staff and teacher appreciation luncheon, desserts for the Holocaust Symposium, donation to the Post Prom Party committee
  - Helping Hands is a separate set of funds holding donations to be used for family disasters, e.g. gift cards for a family whose house burned down.
  - H&S is in good financial condition.

- Home & School Overview and Updates – Eleanore Meals
  - School Board report from Pia DiSanto
    - Curriculum meeting (first Tuesday of the month, 1:30) : looking into book study, getting more books; also, kiln replacement at an elementary school; parents should consider attending to hear the discussions regarding which classes to offer (e.g. AP classes) as well as using positive reinforcement methods for special education.
    - The district is integrating technology into its administrative proceedings, creating a streaming TV channel for board meetings that will be available on Channel 968 on Verizon and Comcast.
    - The SafeStop app is being offered again to track students' buses, useful for seeing whether a bus is running late, etc.; the subscription can be shared with family members, so both parent and child can use it.
    - Parents should consider attending the full school board meetings as the school board will be discussing policies regarding transgender students, bus transportation, and hazing.
  - Overview of Home & School
    - H&S is triangle consisting of the school administration (Mr. Barker), the H&S board members, and the parents and guardians of West students.
    - There is a constant need for volunteers, especially now as perennial parent volunteers are “aging out” of the school.
    - In addition to participating in the fundraisers as described in the Treasurer's Report, parents can also, or instead, volunteer to donate refreshments or help with the Home & School sponsored events. A link to the volunteer sign-up form is on the HSA Website. Typically, a SignUpGenius page is used for requests for refreshment donations or other help.
• Post Prom Party Info & Appeal for Coordinators – Jen McGovern
  ◦ Post Prom is a parent volunteer organization for an alcohol- and drug-free environment overnight on the night of the prom.
  ◦ The Post Prom Party is attended by hundreds of students and they are not “locked in” unless requested on the registration and agreement form that is required for attending the Post Prom.
  ◦ The party itself has typically consisted of photo booths, casino games (for raffle prizes), cash prizes, a DJ, large prizes, and gift cards.
  ◦ The Post Prom committee needs many more volunteers, especially parents of freshmen and sophomores. In particular, volunteers are needed to coordinate the main aspects of the party:
    ▪ Food chair – overseeing food donations, etc.
    ▪ Fundraising chair – sending letters to community businesses which donate funds, food, and prizes for the party; lists of businesses from prior years are kept; arranging the phone bank for calling senior parents as part of the direct marketing approach for donations (pledge letters and reminder letters were used last year).
      • A state grant request for drug/alcohol abuse prevention is made each year, separate from the activity of the fundraising char; last year Post Prom was awarded $6000.
    ▪ Volunteer coordinator – coordinating the SignUpGenius page for having volunteers sign up to help in various areas; coordinating volunteers on the night of the party.
    ▪ Artistic director – designing and carrying out the decorations for the party, which have been elaborate in the past; unless someone volunteers to do the same, the Post Prom committee is considering renting a facility such as the Lionville YMCA instead of having it at the school to avoid the need for decorating.
  ◦ Planning meetings will be held every month.
  ◦ Finally, since this is Jen's last year at West, a chair or at least a co-chair is needed this year to shadow Jen so that knowledge carries over to next year.

• Adjournment – Next Home & School meeting will be on October 13, 2016.

Concluded at 7:40pm

Attendees:

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Gina DiGiacomo of the Brandywine Learning Center about planning and strategies for the SAT and ACT standardized tests.