

WHEA Governing Board Minutes
May 20, 2015 2:30 PM at Campus

Andi Pawasarat-Losalio called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM and established a quorum.

University; Nina Buchanan
Community: David Griffin, John Edwards, Ethan Olins
Student: Kaia Bondera
Parent: Evert Hussey (HS), Andi Pawasarat-Losalio (MS)
Support Staff: Kanani Leanio
Staff: Ama Saunders (HS), Cheryl Cotten (MS)
Ex officio: Heather Nakakura, Curtis Muraoka

Guests

Lisa & Ray Echavez, PTO
Liana White, HS Teacher
Deb Chinery, HS Teacher
Una Burns, HS Teacher
Kathy Penwell, SSC
Ben Duke, HS Teacher
Anne Bailey, Parent
Stephen & Pamela Hicks, Parents
Don Chinery, Community
Jenny Leech, Parent
Jory Leech, Alumni
Linda Hussey, Parent
Elissa Hussey, Student
Danielle Hathaway, Alumni

- Announcements: Robotics Competition Update. Graduation 5:30 pm May 29 on campus.
- April 15, 2015 Minutes

Action: Buchanan moved to accept the April 15, 2015 minutes as corrected. Edwards second. Minutes unanimously accepted.

- Treasury report and financial reports. Heather presented the July 2014 - June 2015 Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual statement. WHEA has received the third increment of per pupil funds from the state that is not yet shown in this report. There is a budget overage in the category of Travel/Lodging/Transportation by \$139. We have increased the number of school vehicles to four and are over \$2347 on vehicle repair and maintenance. We should be getting through this year without going over

the budget. Balance sheet as of June 30, 2015 does not reflect the third increment of funding. Nakakura then presented next year's preliminary, draft budget. Allotment per-pupil has gone up a little. Impact aid payment is not yet clear. Additionally we expect money from the state for collective bargaining raises. Operating reserve for campus rent \$309,000 for the year. In this budget, we don't have a comfortable margin (\$18,380.26) because of the need to pay down our loan as reflected as rent.

Action: Evert moved to accept the financial report as presented. Kanani second.

Evert moved to approve, Kanani second. The report was unanimously accepted.

Discussion/Action on Committee Reports:

- I. Long-Term Funding & Financing Goals: Nina Buchanan, Chair Heather Nakakura, Co-Chair. No discussion at this time. The committee will meet June 17th at 1 pm before the regularly scheduled GB meeting
- II. Compliance and POPA: Kanani Leanio, Chair - We have submitted all the information requested by the Commission on time.
- III. Public Relations: Valerie Delahaye-Ippolito, Chair No update

- Old Business

1. Discussion Director survey request- Teacher's request - Nakakura will distribute a proposed survey to the GB and teachers. They are asked to review the survey and make suggestions for improvement before it is implemented.

- New Business

1. Director Report

- a. The WHEA Robotic's Team received a Judges Award for the 3-D hand created by the WHEA Team. They were one of 700 teams that were in competition.
- b. Next year's budget - There are still too many unknowns to adopt the budget at this time.
- c. School construction update - Because we are paying interest on the entire amount of the USDA loan of \$1.5, it will be used to complete construction of several buildings and create a play court. The work should be completed before the start of next school year.
- d. Co-Director Report:

So far 290 students are enrolled for next year. There are still many students on the waiting list, most for the middle school.

Recent Awards: **Robotics was selected as great example of student choice by ____.** Heather Nakakura received a Circle of Excellence award from the Hawaii Charter School Network. The WHEA school design received the Kukulu Hale, a realtor award.

WHEA has received a contract/engagement letter from Carbonaro to conduct the 2015 WHEA audit.

Action: Cotton moved Edwards seconded that we sign the letter of engagement for the auditor. The motion unanimously passed.

2. Discussion review & planning for long-term funding. June 17th 1 pm

3. Discussion/Action future board member openings. We need to recruit members to fill a university representative vacancy created when Brie Day leaves. Buchanan will let the WH campus know that we have an opening for a university rep on the GB. Evert will become a community representative because his daughter is graduating on May 29, 2015. We will also need to fill the student representative vacancy created when the current rep graduates. Kanani will send messages to students letting them know that there is an opening of the GB for a student rep. Andi Pawasarat-Losalio will continue on the GB as a HS parent rep. We will need to fill the vacancy for HS Parent.

Comments from Guests during the open meeting:

Liana White: Complaint to be dealt with in Executive Session

Pamela Hicks: What has happened with the graduation speaker?

Heather Nakakura explained that the students will make the choice. In past years, each parent had time on the graduation program to talk about their child. However, the students received unequal praise and time.

Danielle Hathaway concurred that the ceremony was unequal. She is sad to think that there are two sentences to sum a student's career.

Heather Nakakura: All students are invited to participate in graduation.

One parent is upset about all of the drama about graduation. The culture of WHEA has changed.

Another parent, Jenny Leech, expressed concern about the changes WHEA has made and no longer recommends WHEA to others.

Pamela Hicks: Last year parents came to the PTO to complain because the personalization was taken out of graduation. The feeling was this is what is going to happen and "get over it."

Stephen Hicks: Why did this not get to the GB before this?

Una Burns: I teach leadership class. We discussed graduation and weren't happy with the decision this year.

Jenny Leech: Why not make graduation longer?

Ama Saunders: This is already a special experience.

Jenny Leech: The petition expressed the frustration of a hundred people.

Ama Saunders: There are other ways to do.

Una Burns: The petition broke my heart. We work as a team. Things that were said were very distressing.

Liana White: All the decisions that are made have been discussed throughout the year. We decided as a staff, not individuals. The petition nailed one person that made a decision. That wasn't true. The same people who are thoughtful and care about your kids.

Heather Nakakura: We try to avoid opening and closing the gate. We end at 8 pm because of the gate.

Pamela Hicks: Is there a graduation committee? Might be worth creating a graduation committee of parents, students and teachers/staff.

Heather Nakakura: We have had someone in charge before but this has been a trying year so the tasks have been assigned to several staff members.

Kaia Bondera: Perhaps there should have quarterly meetings for seniors to plan graduation.

Anne Bailey: My daughter said, "I guess you haven't done a very good job at WHEA if you created this petition." You have been incredibly successful with these kids who are now expressing their opinion. They love every single one of you and are delighted with everything you have taught them.

Jenny Leech: Obviously the petition was successful because it got your attention and helped solve the problem.

Ben Duke: How did you feel about graduation, Jory Leech?

Don Chinery: Speaking as the husband of a teacher I love very much. She puts in so many hours. Sometimes we have to step back and appreciate what the teachers have done.

Jenny Leech: I don't think that the students want more time to talk about themselves. They do want more comments from teachers.

Deb Chinery: I think graduation has been resolved. Mel an alumnus was asked to be graduation speaker.

Pamela Hicks: Is time an issue? Maybe we can solve the gate problem.

Cheryl Cotton: Even if there was a person at the gate, I as a teacher would have been here from 7:30 am till when the last student leaves.

Kathy Penwell: There are a lot of senior citizens and all ages attend. So if the ceremony is made longer, it will be difficult for them to attend the entire graduation.

Jory Leech: WHEA should have more student meetings. Have seniors meet once a quarter, at least!!

Heather Nakakura: Great idea! That is something we can work on.

Una Burns: We try to update the leadership committee on the board agenda.

Liana White: We can announce to students.

Deb Chinery: As a history teacher, I could include it at the beginning of the semester.

Anne Bailey: Thanks for listening. We think you are doing an awesome job.

Next Meeting: June 17th

Executive Session – Kanani motioned to move into Executive Session, second by Cheryl. Unanimously passed.

Executive Session ended at 5:10 pm

Buchanan move to ask Dr. Fox to investigate the complaints and charges that have been made before the GB and come back to the GB with recommendations to resolve these issues no later than our next meeting. Second Cheryl. Passed unanimously.

Hussey moved that teaching contracts for next year be submitted noting that changes might be made pending the outcome of ongoing Board investigations. Edwards second. Unanimously passed.

Edwards moved to resume the Executive at 5:18 pm, Kanani second, unanimously passed.

Edward moved to come out of Executive Session at 5:38 p.m., Kanani second

Buchanan move to ask Dr. Fox to investigate the complaints and charges that have been made before the GB and come back to the GB with recommendations to resolve these issues no later than our next meeting. Second Cheryl. Passed unanimously.

Hussey moved that teaching contracts for next year be submitted noting that changes might be made pending the outcome of ongoing Board investigations. Edwards second. Unanimously passed.

Buchanan moved that the Chair research paid administrative leave and teacher leave, notify GB member and then if appropriate, call for a vote. Edwards second. Unanimously passed.

Adjourned at 5:44 PM.

The WHEA Governing Board may convene in Executive Session to discuss items on this agenda, personnel matters or consult with its legal counsel.