

DRAFT MINUTES

**Creative Arts Parents Association (CAPA)
Meeting Minutes: December 6, 2012
WHS Library**

Board Members present: Claire Sehringer and Ann Greenawalt, Co-Chairs; Karin Halperin, Treasurer; Cindy Lewis, Secretary; Kathryn Welter and Kirsten Robinson, Members at Large.

Faculty present: Susan Memoli (WHS Fine Arts Department Head), Pat Tutwiler (WHS Principal)

Others present: Heather Pineault, Nancy Wind, Cathy Radmer, Linda Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Co-Chair Claire Sehringer.

Our special guest was Principal Pat Tutwiler, invited to discuss the WHS Fine Arts requirements.

Meeting minutes are as follows:

1. We engaged in a general discussion about how to publicize information about the WHS Fine Arts offerings and accomplishments to the broader Wayland community. Ideas included:
 - a. Publishing facts and sound bites on-line or via flyers.
 - b. Editorial in Town Crier.
2. Principal Tutwiler contributed the following information:
 - a. The Fine Arts ("FA") department hasn't experienced much in the way of actual cuts to their operating budget in recent years.
 - b. FA is treated the same as other core curriculum programs/departments.
 - c. Principal Tutwiler is the one who makes recommendations to the Superintendent regarding any proposed cuts to programs/departments or curriculum.
 - d. Recently, FA has broadened their offerings at WHS, with courses such as guitar, piano, lyrics and licks, improv, digital photography, script to screen, and the return of metal works.
 - e. There was a wait list for Art I this year (for freshmen). As a result, WHS enlarged classes to ~22 students and added a section. (Susan Memoli contributing.)
 - f. Level of student participation year to year is about the same overall, although there's a slight increase in the number of boys participating in communication studies.
 - g. Chorus has about the same level of student participation overall, offerings have been re-configured. (Susan Memoli contributing.)
 - h. Brainstorming by teachers leads to creative additional offerings such as 'script to screen.'
 - i. Students and parents don't complain about the FA requirements, generally.
3. CAPA meeting attendees asked Principal Tutwiler the following questions:
 - a. Can students take summer course(s) to fulfill the WHS FA requirements? Answer: no, because summer courses are not offered at the schools in Wayland.
 - b. Does participation in the WHS musical count towards fulfilling the WHS FA requirements? Answer: no, though points can be earned towards qualifying for the FA jacket. Susan Memoli added that students need to complete courses offered in the WHS curriculum, and that the FA requirement is for more than simply performance skills.
 - c. Does participation in a cappella count towards the FA requirement? Answer: no, for similar reasons as for the school musical. The a cappella groups are clubs and not a class. (They used to be graded/offered for credit some time back, but no longer.)

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4. The Fine Arts discussion evolved into a separate discussion about participation in the WHS a cappella groups and the requirement that students enroll in a WHS music class as a prerequisite to yearly participation (any performing ensemble qualifies; needs to be part of WHS curriculum). Additional discussion points:
 - a. WHS doesn't consider a cappella as an elective (for school credit/part of curriculum).
 - b. Equity is a consideration for not offering course credit for a cappella. As meetings include evening rehearsals and weekend events, WHS can't guarantee equal access to all students (per Pat Tutwiler).
 - c. Ensemble experience is an important prerequisite and we want to encourage students to continue to take additional music classes; to encourage continual growth (per Susan Memoli).
 - d. It is customary to pair chorus and a cappella; but WHS doesn't require this.
 - e. No budget is currently available to make a cappella part of the curriculum (as an elective).
 - f. There was a suggestion to expand the number of a cappella groups at WHS. Ms. Caroll receives a stipend for mentoring a cappella groups, but mentoring more than three would be difficult to do.
 - g. Some parents wondered if WHS could consider changing the prerequisite for a cappella participation, as it eliminates some students who cannot fit an extra music class into their schedule, even though they might have the time to participate in a cappella.
 - i. Ideas for reform of prerequisite includes: not requiring music course in same year as participation in a cappella, but making it a general prerequisite for students to have experience and/or course work over several (previous) years; adding another a cappella group (though would need to be parent mentored).
5. There was also brief discussion about Ken Robinson and his philosophy on the importance of incorporating Fine Arts education into core curriculum models (watched video at during November CAPA meeting). General consensus was positive and worthy of additional reflection in the future.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:25 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, at 7:30 pm.