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**General Membership Meeting
January 16, 2018
Library, 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Barb Waldmiller. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Barb Waldmiller, Sharon Stemme, Christine Smith, Dave Jagels, Neil Angelotti, Jenny Rudo, Eric Junker, Mahima Malik, Lisa Pelach, Civarath Tum, Chris Wells, Ricardo Avalos, Ramesh Sreeram, Aswamni Vinja, Bettye Cooley, Debbie Ross and Stefanie Ragano.

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 2017 General Membership Meeting were presented. Jenny Rudo motioned to accept the minutes and Eric Junker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: Neil reviewed Treasurer's report-no changes since last month. \$13,314.17 in ANGP and \$23,307.38 in PTSA account.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 1 new faculty member since last month.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: We are looking for three people to serve as our Nominating Committee for this year's PTSA board elections. Please contact Barb if you would be willing to be a part of this important committee. It is not a huge time commitment and is very important. There will be several openings on the board for next year so if you are interested in a board position please reach out. We will also have committee chair positions open-hospitality, reflections, citizenship essay and editor of the Wildcat Weekly. Important upcoming dates-March 1 is Countdown to Graduation night and April 20-22 is Mulch weekend.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Thank you for coming tonight. We are half way through the year and are already working on next year. We hosted curriculum night and have started course selection, staffing and schedule for next year. When planning next year keep in mind that you know your child best so help guide them with their courses. It is important for students to have balance and to be realistic. It helps to have a Plan A as well as a Plan B and a Plan C. Mr. Wolin, our new Director of Student Services, will be our guest speaker and will talk more about course selection and balance.

SPEAKER: Mr. Wolin welcomed everyone. The entire presentation is on the website. Go to website: <https://centrevillehs.fcps.edu/index.html> and click on student services. Once there click on academic advising. There is a course catalog with complete listing of classes for next year.

- The process is about the student
- Student should take what they like and what interests them

- Students should challenge themselves but not overwhelm themselves
- The requirements for the standard and the advanced diploma were reviewed
- Economics and Personal Finance is a mandatory class, many options for this class-you can take AP Macro or Micro in place of the class, you can take it online after school for \$140, you can take over the summer but there is a cost and it is self-directed. Regular summer online classes start at \$680
- The basic course load was presented
- Be sure to consider all the factors when choosing classes: What type of diploma you want, what subjects are of interest, get a strong foundation and challenge yourself with Honors and AP course
- Some classes require prerequisites or applications, information on the website
- AP/Honors-more information on the website on the academics tab
- Things to consider with standard class versus Honors or AP
 - Is this a favorite course
 - Is student willing to do the work
 - Is student comfortable with moving at a quick pace
 - Is student motivated to understand
 - Is student a strong reader and writer
 - Is student willing to do projects and papers
 - Is student willing to do work over the summer
- There are also dual enrollment classes with NOVA-online and at either CVHS or NOVA-can obtain either high school or college credit-check with counselor for more information, These classes will give a 1.0 weight to grade
- Academy courses-most are Chantilly or Fairfax High School-transportation is provided and student must complete application, they are usually one or two credits and many meet the CTE requirement. There will be Open House at Chantilly on 1/23 and Fairfax on 2/6
- Possible new classes next year: Shakespeare Study, Combatting Intolerance, Genetics and Biotech, Spanish for Fluent Speakers, Cyber Security, Advanced PE and STEM
- World Language 4 will now be an honors class with a .5 grade weighting
- Grade scale: weight is .5 for honors classes and 1.0 for AP classes, this does not change the letter grade just effects the GPA
- What do colleges look for:
 - Grades in college prep classes (core courses)-not weighted GPA
 - Grades in all classes
 - Strength of Curriculum
 - Test scores (SAT, ACT)
 - Essay
 - Counselor Recommendation
 - Student Interest
 - Teacher Recommendation
 - Class rank
 - Subject Test Scores
 - Portfolio
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Interview
 - Work experience
 - ❖ The top 4 are the most critical and all the others are tiebreakers
 - ❖ Tiebreakers are what show who you are when you make it past the first four criteria

- Course registration Process:
 - Students talk with current teachers
 - Counselors distribute course selection sheets with teacher recommendations
 - Students fill out forms with parent input and turn into counselors
 - Rising Seniors-done during History classes week of 1/30-2/2
 - Rising Juniors-done during English classes week of 2/12-2/16
 - Rising Sophomores-done during PE classes week of 2/26-3/2
 - Week of May 8th course selections will be mailed home to confirm classes
 - June 8 is deadlines for changes
 - Master schedule will be based on courses selected in March
 - Schedules will be set over the summer and given out in August
- Final thoughts/Things to think about:
 - Balance is critical
 - Challenge is important, students should not be bored
 - Teacher recommendations are a good guide for next year
 - Choose wisely based on student's own needs-don't choose a class because of friends, a teacher, etc.
 - Classes fill so don't wait to make changes
 - Contact counselors if you have questions
 - Visit schools to get a feel for what schools are looking for
 - Kara Stamper in the College and Career office is a great resource

Questions???

Q: Can you take birthdate into consideration for Drivers Education?

A: It is taken into consideration-students are first assigned to PE class based on their schedule and what period they can fit it in based on their other classes, once in a PE class it is sorted by birth order. Next year there will be 3 certified Drivers Education teachers, not one

Q: If you take 5 AP classes can you take a study hall?

A: Yes you can as long as space allows but you should not take 5 AP's so you can have a study hall

Barb thanked our speakers and invited everyone up to see the display and ask questions.

Adjournment 8:18 pm.

The minutes were approved on February 20, 2018. The motion was made by Christine Smith and seconded by Sonya Anyanwu. Sharon Stemme, Recording Secretary