

Wallingford Public Schools  
 Sheehan PTAC Agenda and Meeting Minutes  
 2017-2018

Note Taker:	Justin Marciano	Date:	Thursday, December 7, 2017
Content Topic:	See Agenda Items	Time:	6:31 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

Members present:	Christina Brozyna, Barry Carim, Tracy Carim, Maura Distante, Rosemary Duthie, Cyndi Frank, Nick Ives, Josh Lambert, Abdelkader Lamhader, Melody Lee, Christine Mansfield, Justin Marciano, Jean Mellor, Lisa Miller, Jason Morosky, Carrie Palange, Peter Weisen
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Agenda Items	Discussion/Decision	Person Responsible
Item #1: Presentation: Scholarship Opportunities for Students	Before Ms. Distante addressed the group, the membership voted to have her presentation on scholarship opportunities filmed and posted to Sheehan Facebook. Using information on the CHET website, Ms. Distante reviewed college costs by region and shared information on the average debt students are currently incurring after graduating from college. She encouraged parents to be smart consumers when looking at schools and emphasized the importance of applying for scholarships. Ms. Distante showed parents how they and their son/daughter can search for scholarships through Naviance as well as through search engines, such as fastweb. She further described how many scholarship applications include an essay, which can be a stumbling block for students. Ms. Distante stressed how she and the other counselors and English teachers are available to assist students with their application and essay. She also explained the role of the school's scholarship committee and presented the "Sheehan" college scholarship application form and where to find it in Naviance. An exit slip was distributed in order to collect feedback from parents on the presentation. A copy of the presentation was also handed out to those in attendance.	Maura Distante, School Counselor
Item #2: Presentation: Access Applied	Ms. McLaughlin introduced herself and explained her role in the school community. She distributed information on Access Applied, a web-based college affordability tool, and demonstrated how to best use the website.	Kim McLaughlin, College & Career Specialist
Item #3: Read and Accept Minutes	After reading the minutes, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Lambert and seconded by Mr. Morosky.	Christine Mansfield, PTAC President
Item #4: Internship Experiences for Students	Ms. McLaughlin presented information on off-campus internships, job shadow opportunities, and mentoring arrangements, all of which are designed for students to learn more about a career of interest. Internships are available to juniors and seniors and are	Kim McLaughlin, College & Career Specialist

	<p>scheduled twice during the school year. Each session typically lasts ten weeks, with students out in the field two days a week for four hours. (Internships take place on the students' own time.) Students completing internships are required to meet with Ms. McLaughlin during advisory to discuss their experience. Job shadow opportunities are available to all students and take place during the school day (for two hours to one school day). Students visit a job site to observe what takes place in that environment. Mentorships are when students are connected with a professional within the students' career interest. Ms. McLaughlin also provided her twitter account: @wpsccc.</p>	
Item #5: System-wide PTAC Update	Ms. Lee shared information on the topics that were discussed at Systemwide PTAC, which included the summer reimagining sessions, the district budget, the use of Watson by middle school math and language arts teachers, and live streaming of meetings. In addition, information was shared about the program for prospective families that was held at Sheehan.	Melody Lee, Sheehan Rep
Item #6: School Awards and Honors	Ms. Duthie provided a list of the awards and honors that students can earn during their high school career. She walked parents through the list of accolades students can earn. Ms. Duthie explained that selection criteria can change and provided the new eligibility GPA for varsity scholar as an example. In addition, she shared that the administration looked into the Community Service Recognition Award provided by the state. It requires that students complete a minimum of 50 hours of community service under the direction of a teacher or administrator as well as ten hours of related classroom instruction. The district administration decided not to pursue this award.	Rosemary Duthie, Principal
Item #7: Other	Mr. Marciano spoke about the presentation by motivational speaker David Flood. His message focused on how students can improve their lives and also have a positive influence on those around them. He talked about character, making right choices, responsibility, integrity, respect, hard work, and compassion.	
Item #8: Door Prize Drawing	Mr. Carim won the door prize -- season pass to Sheehan's winter athletic contests.	Rosemary Duthie, Principal

Next Meeting:	Thursday, February 1, 2018
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