

# Project Graduation Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2024

- **WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS**

- **President:** Dawn DeVito (*position will be vacant in June*)
- **Vice President:** Susan Lopresti
- **Treasurer:** Patti Faustino (*position will be vacant in June*)
- **Secretary/License Coordinator:** Tina Conti
- **Senior Advisor/Staff Liaison:** Candace Mroz

**All of the members of the executive board are present.**

**Dawn did the welcome and intros. President and Treasurer are open next year. Please reach out if interested.**

- **WHAT IS PROJECT GRADUATION?**

**Started in 1995 to give the graduating class a safe event the night of graduation. They go to Dave and Busters in Philly for an all-night event. They have a DJ, Games, Food and a bounce house to entertain them all night. It costs us about \$50k so we raise money to pay for the event.**

- **MEETINGS:** Our meetings are held on the first WEDNESDAY of each month
  - **2024/2025 MEETING DATES:** October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th, January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th and June 4th
  - Public meetings may potentially be canceled from time to time, and in the event that this happens, a written update will be provided to the public in lieu of the canceled meeting. Canceled meetings will not be rescheduled.
- **VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are a crucial. You do not have to have a current senior to be able to volunteer, attend meetings, participate in fundraisers or pretty much anything having to do with Project Graduation. We work all year around to keep this tradition alive for our students.

**We always need volunteers. Could be small like selling something at a table or larger like tux collections.**

- **EXECUTIVE BOARD SEATS:** When the 2024/2025 school year ends, we will be losing our President + Treasurer at the very least; these seats will need to be filled. If you are interested in possibly filling these positions, meeting attendance and shadowing throughout the 2024/2025 school year is a must!

- **WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW**

**Most of what we do requires licensing. This takes a lot of time so we are now doing them all at once.**

- **BOSCOV'S SHOPPING PASSES:** Now thru 10/18, you can get a Boscov's Shopping Pass for a \$5 donation. Pass gives you 25% off your purchases on one day only – October 22, 2024. With the purchase of a pass, you also get to scan a QR code to enter to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card!

**Moving slow but no work for us.**

- **BLENDED JOE ONLINE FUNDRAISER:** Running 9/16 thru 10/4 – TWO more days!! Links can be found on our Facebook, Instagram and Webpage on the district website. Also available in Parent Square.
- **SENIOR TRIP RAFFLE:** 2025 Trip Value is \$1,960. You can enter to win the full cost of this trip, for \$25 per chance. Raffle tix will be capped at 500 and will be on sale through February 18<sup>th</sup> OR when we reach the cap of 500 chances. This is open to ALL GRADE levels, not just the Class of 2025!!

One student from any grade will win this. Could be in k-12. If you already paid for the trip your money will be reimbursed. We are also donating 10% of all sales to the Wish Fund which helps sends students who can't afford it.

- **AMAZON GIFT CARD RAFFLE:** \$500 Amazon Gift Card, chances will be sold thru the date of the drawing, which is Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>...just in time for that Black Friday Shopping!

- **MONTHLY DINE + DONATE NIGHTS**

- **SEPTEMBER:** Jersey Mike's – We made \$350 – THANK YOU to everyone who went!

This is a big event! The kids love Mr. Anderson making sandwiches.

- **OCTOBER:** Sweet Talk Café – Friday 10/11 thru Sunday 10/13, see ad for times for each day

Local family, giving us the entire weekend is huge.

- **NOVEMBER:** PJ Whelihan's – November 12<sup>th</sup>, ALL DAY
- **DECEMBER:** Chick-fil-A (Turnersville) – December 9<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm
- **JANUARY:** Merryman's Pub (Pitman) – January 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-10pm

This is also a TWP family!

- **FUNDRAISERS for 2024/2025**

- **BOSCOV'S SHOPPING PASSES, BLENDED JOE, SENIOR TRIP RAFFLE + AMAZON GIFT CARD RAFFLE,** as mentioned under "what's happening now"

- **CLASS OF 2025 MINNIE EARS FUNDRAISER:** We partnered with Pop Creative Designs to bring you this super fun opportunity. Go on your senior trip in style with WTHS Class of 2025 Minnie Ears! You will make your purchases directly through Pop Creative Designs' website and your Class of 2025 ears will be shipped directly to you at home! Sale will run November 18<sup>th</sup> thru November 29<sup>th</sup>, for a delivery guaranteed before Christmas of 2024.

Someone asked about a boy option. We are looking into a hat option. Someone suggested shirts but they already get shirts.

- **POWDER PUFF:** We run the concession stand at Powder Puff, sell Air Grams and will be selling tix for our Senior Trip Raffle

This is 11/26, we need people to run the snack stand and sell raffles. We have 2 chairs that do an amazing job, they will put out a sign up genius for donations. Everything is donated for the snack stand. We sell air grams and any raffles we are selling at the time. We sell pizza, hot dogs, candy, drinks etc. We get the hot dogs and pizza donated.

- **DONATION REQUEST LETTERS:** Letters will go out on January 6<sup>th</sup> to local businesses throughout the community, requesting donations. We will be folding letters and stuffing envelopes sometime in November; look out for that date, we'll need some help with this.

In the winter we get a list of local businesses from the town. We send out request letters to them for donations. This year we would like to do it a little differently. We want to meet here in November to get them stuffed and addressed to mail out on 1/6/25.

- **PAMPERED CHEF:** January 6<sup>th</sup> thru January 17<sup>th</sup>/ Virtual Fundraiser / Link will be shared in January

This is an alum parent that will give us 15 or 20% on all orders.

- **DESIGNER BAG BINGO:** No venue secured as of this date, but I have been in contact with our Mayor and our Town Council since June in regard to securing a new location for us and the many other non-profit organizations who are in the same situation. I follow up with them often.

This is HUGE for us. We normally raise between \$18-20k and right now we are trying to find a way to raise this kind of money after losing St. Charles. The place we use must hold a certain license. Most are not willing to do this. IF anyone knows of a place to use, please let us know.

Another option we spoke about was a huge basket auction, a Beef and Beer type event. Tina spoke about this. I attended an event that was a lot of fun and it wasn't limited to women. It was \$25 for the ticket to get in. They provided soda, water, beer and wine, dinner and desserts. They sold tickets for over 100 regular baskets and 20 high roller baskets. There was also a 50/50. It was a lot of fun and seemed to turn a wonderful profit. This would only require licensing on our end. Not the venue. This would be a lot of work getting baskets donated but it would be easier to find a venue.

- **TASTEFULLY SIMPLE:** April 10<sup>th</sup> thru April 21<sup>st</sup> / Virtual Fundraiser / Link will be shared in April

**This yields about \$150-200 last year.**

- **PHILLIES FAMILY NIGHT RAFFLE:** We will raffle off a family night package, including FOUR lower-level Phillies tickets to a spring 2025 game, paid parking, and a \$200 Visa gift card to spend on concessions at the game.

**This is will replace the LV raffle. It did not do well for us last year so we wanted something more geared to giving a family a night out.**

- **TUX RETURN SERVICE: JUNIOR PROM (new this year) and SENIOR PROM**
  - We are looking for volunteers to chair these events. See any member of our board to get more information about what this entails.

- **LAST DANCE – June 2025**

**May 30<sup>th</sup> this year. We have a DJ, photo booth, drinks, food, Rita's and lots of volunteers to set up and clean up.**

- **GRADUATION FLOWERS – June 2025**

**This is amazing! The flowers are gorgeous and its zero work for us. We get 25% of all preorders and 15% of all orders that day. Also, if we refer them to another school, we get \$250 and so does the other school.**

- **STAY CONNECTED WITH US!**

- If you're not already following us on social media, look for our pages on Facebook and Instagram! Both can be found by searching **WTHS Project Graduation**.
- If you need to reach us privately, e-mail us at [wthspg@gmail.com](mailto:wthspg@gmail.com) and we will get back to you.
- You can always check our page on the WTPS website for our updates as well, although those updates are not as "real-time" as our social media accounts.

**Public:**

A member offered a clothing drive to make money. She will send us the info.

Someone suggested a hall on Rt.168 in Blackwood for bingo.