

AHS PTSO meeting minutes

Sept. 15, 2016

Attendees: Kim Goclowski, Lynn Estra, Maggie Barkin, Eileen Babbitz, Dunga Anumola, Derong Gu, Wendy Frieden, Karen Keating, Amy Chen, Howard Ding, Alex Wyner, Hayley Grand, Jacob Okolo, Kelsey McCormack, Alekya Menta, Peter Downhour, Emily Criscuolo, Sara Jadbabaie, Himay Dharaw, Neha Sudhir, Ken Clark, Julia Nadelmann, Adriana Torena, Nancy Nadelmann, Sheila McCrevan, Niru Kachru, Pennell Hamilton, Debbie Laydon, Patti McKeon, Anna Mahon, Cara McConnell

Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Kim Goclowski. Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves. Student reps attended from the following clubs and organizations: Ultimate Frisbee, Student council, Debate team, Model UN, Science Research, JSA and Unified Theater.

Principal's report given by Mrs. Mahon: School is off to a great start. First day of school about community focus. The students heard from 3 Amity alumni: Actor Nick Novicki, Army Ranger Kristin Greist and Leslie Barrett. Back to school nights for parents was a huge success. One Book One Amity ("Boy Who Harnessed the Wind") also a great success with much community support. Our school community was faced with 2 difficult situations: 1 student unexpectedly lost a father and 1 teacher had a house fire with tremendous damage to his home. PTSO gave gift cards to both families for food and clothing.

Faculty Rep report given by Cara McConnell: Great beginning to the school year. Teachers talked to their students about why they teach and what keeps them motivated. Their professional development day prior to the start of the school year was a great success. The professional development (PD) was for everyone including custodians, administrators, secretaries and teachers. PD was all about building relationships, building community and being inclusive.

Student Government report given by Jacob Okolo: Each class council is filled. They are looking for increased attendance.

PTO received funding requests from the following groups/clubs:

Emily Criscuolo from Science Research: Request for \$500 for publication fee. She and another student are trying to get their research published.

Kelsey McCormack from Model UN: requested \$500 to help offset costs for attending conferences.

Julia Nadelmann from Debate team: Request for \$500 to help defray transportation costs to go to debates.

Howard Ding and Alex Wyner from Ultimate Frisbee: Request \$500 to buy new Frisbees and subsidize funding for team shorts and tournament entry fees.

Sara Jadbabaie from JSA – Request \$500 to help with bus fees and convention fees.

Meghan Laden and Mrs. Barkin from Unified Theater: Request \$500 to help with costs associated with training seminar.

Co-Presidents report given by Kim Goclowski: PTO supported Link Crew Lunch. Club Day is 9/30. We want clubs to be aware that they can request funds from us. PTSO has openings for the following committees: membership, graduation balloons, senior breakfast and Adopt A Family. Adopt A Family will be chaired by Anna Mahon (Orange), Eileen Babbitz (Bethany) and Lynn Estra and Nancy Nadelmann (Woodbridge). Lynn Estra and Kim Goclowski will meet with Superintendent Dumais every other month along with the middle school PTO presidents for round table discussions.

Treasurer's report by Pennell Hamilton: Much discussion regarding budget for this year. 2 different scenarios presented. We cannot spend down too much of the fund balance or else we will not have a cushion for future years. Requests from above student groups tabled for now until we pass a budget for this year. All requests deferred until next PTSO meeting. Additionally, funding request form will be revised to include a cut off date for funding requests. Pennell will revise budgets based on our discussions/concerns and will present a new budget at next meeting. Overall, our revenues have decreased especially revenue from balloon sales. Also, membership revenue has also decreased. It was proposed that for the future, each chairperson for each event present a summary of income and expenses for that particular event.

Given that all funding requests from students tonight were tabled until next meeting, we understand that the students from SRP have a deadline for getting their research published. Therefore it was voted and approved to give Science Research \$200 for their funding request.

Directory Report given by Wendy Freiden: Wendy will be working with Stephanie Kilburn, new employee at Amity who handles Power School. October 1 is the deadline for entries into the directory.

Board of Education liason : report by Sheila McCreven. Amity is refinancing old bonds. There will be a referendum so that we can do more work around the school. Public hearing about all of this is Sept. 26.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Estra

