



AHS PTO GENERAL BOARD MEETING

April 15, 2016

Members present: see attached

Called to order 9:08 a.m.

Thanks to Anne Downing, hospitality chair, for coordinating refreshments at meetings. Note also that the new Starbucks at 56th and Indian School will give AHS and IMS a 10% discount on purchases. Ask for Taylor, the manager.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Today's speakers will be addressing campus safety.

Mrs. Cher Fessenmaier, Assistant Principal

Regarding the graffiti incident that occurred earlier this semester:

- Students were safe at school; protocols are in place with district officials + police and fire departments
- All classrooms contain a clipboard with procedures on evacuation and lockdown situations; PTO over the summer upgraded all classroom safety kits.
- One potential weakness—we have many exits on campus. Parents can help by emphasizing to students (and other parents) that AHS is a closed campus. Students should not be letting others in the back gates.
- Parents should also keep tabs on their teens' social media.
- Community Rep from Phoenix fire dept wants to work with AHS students: plans to go to PE classes to emphasize safe driving and other safety points.
- Working on traffic issues with the city; be aware that parking is not allowed in the fire lane (red curbs)

Comments from audience:

- Regarding graffiti incident: Robo-call the morning after would have put some parents' minds at ease; in general, more communication is better; calls should ideally be from a school administrator; more info might have given a sense of closure to students and parents; also communicate the cost to the school in terms of dollars, time and image.
- Regarding parking/traffic issues: Is it possible to make arrangements with property next door for additional parking and access? Doubtful, as that land has been sold. It seems we have plenty of spots for students; looking into moving the crosswalk on Indian School to the other side of the drive so students only have to cross one street; also looking into using Ed. Center drive to create one-way traffic flow. Hope to have improvements done before classes start in August.
- Regarding general safety: perhaps PTO should consider sponsoring an internet safety program though NotMYKid.

Testing Update: We're at 97-98% completion (state requires 95%). All went smoothly.

Nico B., lead security officer

Have there been more campus fights? No. Fighting often spikes 4th quarter and is the product of spring restlessness, testing schedules. Block scheduling could have contributed. Encourage students to report rumors and be proactive.

Officer Joe, SRO

Joe is retiring at the end of the school year.

REVIEW OF MINUTES from last meeting

Motion by Michelle Himmelberg to approve the minutes; seconded by Heidi Staudenmaier; approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

John Andrews, Assistant Principal (Principal Slater not present)

- Testing is over
- Some incidences of fights, does not seem excessive
- Prom is next Saturday; Senior events are coming up.
- 8 students may qualify for National Merit semi-finalists
- Working now on master schedule for 2016-17; will be hiring a few teachers to replace those retiring

Question from the audience: Is administration aware of HB 2338, which would allow guns on K-12 campuses? It may be too late, but PTO will follow-up with SPC and communicate via e-blast if necessary; parents can contact legislators with concerns.

BOARD REPORTS

Treasurer – Deb Stamets

- Transitioning to next year; auction was super; we are encouraging teachers to spend allocated funds, we are funding summer AP training for several teachers.
- We are in good shape (see attached profit and loss statement and budget.) Note that the Project Fund was built up to cover an expense we expected to incur; it did not, so we are using that to fund projects for the teachers. *Question:* what are “Misc. Expenses”? Things like balloons for 8th grade night, classroom emergency kits, A cups.

Communications – Kathy Sandler

- We have 199 followers on Twitter, 321 Facebook friends, 2000 followers on Arcadia Living web page
- Eblast has 1300-1400 contacts with a 40% open rate; 50% are opening on smartphones; we will be changing eblast over the summer to work better on phones.

Fundraising – Susan Spier and Molly Louer

Thank you to Lezlie Richardon for another terrific auction. Report from Lezlie:

- We hired a company to manage registration and check-out, but the committee still had to do a lot of the work; we probably can't go back to paper at this point; good point to being electronic is we received more reports.
- Susan Spier brought in \$25K in sponsorships
- Lezlie will chair an auction again next year, if people will step up to help; someone needs to shadow as it will be her last year at AHS; also need more committee workers

Membership – Lezlie Richardson and Tracey Wasson

Have decided to use left-over A cups as incentive to join and contribute extra \$\$; will focus on getting younger families to join; publicize that only PTO members will receive a student directory.

Project Grad—Eleanor Beger

- Packets have been mailed
- There is one more grad package for sale (sold during meeting!)
- Committee has done well with fundraisers incl. \$4000 on Mind Freeze event; restaurant nights; uber cards. Have also received \$3500 from Charros and money from the auction.
- Senior Picnic will be on campus this year
- Looking for Junior parents to help with set-up at Cracker Jax.

Community – Amy Owens

Next year will focus more on social events in addition to hiking.

Tax Credit – Beth Johnson (not present)

There will be a detailed report beginning next year; for 2015 we received about \$177K, down from last year (same hold across district and all of state.) Not sure why, possibly people were confused with the extended date.

Volunteers—Michelle Himmelberg

Registration will be August 1 – 5, packet stuffing sometime in July. Watch for e-blast and summer emails for volunteer sign-ups.

NEW BUSINESS

Site Council Vote: One open spot for next 2 school years. Please read statement by candidates (located at all tables) and use provided slips of paper to vote for one person.

2016/17 Executive Slate:

- President – Amanda McCauley
- President-Elect – Kevin DeGroot
- Treasurer – Lori Arndt
- Secretary – Janey Ledyard
- VP Communications (web/social media) – Lisa Binsfeld
- VP Communications (eblast) – OPEN
- VP Community – Amy Owens
- VP Fundraising – Laura Wilber
- VP Membership – Lezlie Richardson and Tracey Wasson
- VP Volunteers – Michelle Himmelberg

Motion by Susan Spier to approve slate as listed on agenda; seconded by Michelle Himmelberg; approved unanimously.

Congrats to new slate and thank you to all retiring board members!

Dr. Birdwell (interim superintendent) will be holding a meeting on April 25. Please come and encourage others to attend. We want a good turn-out. One of the main issues we want her to address is the current

enrollment cap. Dr. Peterson had given us a verbal agreement that open enrollment at AHS would be capped at 1700, but there is no official policy on this. We want her to know this cap is important to us.

Ingleside fundraiser: Bike-in Beer Fest at OHSO this weekend.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.