



AHS PTO GENERAL BOARD MEETING

February 2, 2016

Members present: see attached

Called to order 2:50 p.m.

Thank you to Lisa Fernandez of “Oh So Sweet” for providing the cookies.

GUEST SPEAKERS

PTO and Dads Club have provided funds for Chromebooks and Google training, and requested that teachers quantify how they are utilizing in the classroom.

Mr. Nafrada (biology): Using the Chromebooks to create a Hybrid Mastery Science Classroom.

- Next generation science standards
- Progress Mastery so students can work at own pace; kids can get credit where they excel; students are responsible for their own learning.
- Class is about 85% paperless, they still use lab books and notebooks.
- Instead of traditional lectures, the classroom incorporates teacher-led seminars and students are invited to question, explain, and help other students. Google is used to look up info as students progress.
- Some challenges. Ensuring access for all students; the learning curve to convert to this way of teaching; because it's new it has been very time-intensive; parents need to understand and support.
- Bio AP students **Jeremy Bernick** and **Austin Padilla** spoke: students like being able to work at own pace; it's great to have all info in one place (Google drive) which helps transition between school and home.

Mrs. Assali (world history): Using Chromebooks in class and at teacher in-services and tech lunches.

- Chromebooks provide flexibility in the classroom; students can work simultaneously on the same project.
- Also being used for the “20% Project” where students are given 20% of their week to work on a project they are passionate about (must relate to solving a problem for themselves or others.)

Miss Tichio (Sciences): Using books almost daily for various activities.

- Feels it makes kids more productive; also allows teacher to see who is doing what part of a group project; also using for the 20% Project.
- Google Classrooms integrates everything and is also accessible on phones; everything is in one place.

Mr. Huffman (librarian): Chromebooks superior to laptops for school use; faster because they have no operating system; because nothing saves to the computer itself, they don't get bogged down.

- Paradigm shift from teaching information to teaching skills, so students can find info for themselves; allows learning to be customized.
- SWAT (Students Working Actively with Technology) is a program where library TAs are trained to fix technology around the campus; this has been a big help for teachers.

The teachers addressed concerns that students are staring at screens all day. They assured parents the kids are still interacting and collaborating; still doing hands-on labs in science classes; still doing group projects. Chromebooks are enhancing these things by improving communications and allowing students to work simultaneously on papers and projects, thereby getting more done in less time.

REVIEW OF MINUTES from last meeting

Motion by Michelle Himmelberg to approve the minutes; seconded by Deb Stamets; approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Nathan Slater

- Advanced Ed Accreditation is coming up
- Next week students will take the state mandated civics test.
- Sports news—we have 4 teams going to State
- Course registration for next year is on-going
- School Improvement Plan is moving ahead: SWAT is part of this; there has been an 11% increase in THRIVES attendance.

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Amanda and Lori

- Google training: Dads Club is funding 10 teachers and 2 staff; they have agreed to share training with others through tech lunches and in-services.
- PTO just approved the purchase of Chromebooks for the LRC Dept; Dads Club will pay half.
- We are encouraging teachers to do AP training; this benefits teachers in all levels of classes.
- PTO is supporting rewards for THRIVES attendance; drawing just took place for the first 20 winners; there will be one more cycle of rewards; it seems to be helping attendance.
- Sr. Gabriel is giving free Spanish lessons to parents during evening sessions; PTO is supporting by purchasing supplies, etc.

BOARD REPORTS

Treasurer – Deb Stamets

Balance sheets and income statements on table for all to review (see attached); Auction is coming up which will add to our balances.

Current funding projects:

- Batteries and tires for golf carts
- Spanish workbooks and novels for English classes
- Chromebooks for LRC
- Microscopes for Science Dept.

- Ongoing teacher appreciation

Communications – Kathy Sandler

This is the first day of integrating Google docs with PTO presentation; PTO plans to utilize Google next year; board members will need training. Communications stats as follows:

- Eblast has 1,250 active contacts, 40% open rate
- Website averages 1000 views, 300 of which are unique
- Donation letters were sent out Jan 31

Membership – Lezlie Richardson and Tracey Wasson

Mostly complete for the year; worked with Kathy to get donation letters out; those who haven't joined can still do so.

Project Grad—Eleanor Beger

Advertising Art class is working on t-shirt designs, to be unveiled at Mentalist show this Friday night (the show benefits Project Grad.)

Tax Credit – Beth Johnson (not present)

About \$20,000 was contributed to general fund; not sure yet how much was designated for special areas; donations accepted until April 15 this year.

Auction—Lezlie Richardson

- Moving along—already have \$22,000 in sponsorships (thank you, Susan Spier)
- This year for the first time we will be hiring a company to handle check-in/out.
- We are actively seeking donations of items and services
- Encourage all to attend and spread the word
- Kathy has set up registration form so tickets can be purchased online

Community – Amy Owens (left prior to report)

Next hike is Tuesday at Fat Man's pass; lunch at the Farm.

SPC Update—Francesca Thomas (not present)

- Possible Technology bond on ballot next fall; goal is for all students to be future-ready.
- Also looking at a Construction bond to rebuild older elementary schools.
- Interim Superintendent Dr. Denise Birdwell spoke; we are hoping to get her back to AHS soon; her first visit was only a few days after she was appointed.
- Legislative Update: some education bills are coming up; watch eblast for more info.

Dad's Club Update—Lori Arndt

The Buck & Rider fundraiser raised approx. \$10,000.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2016/17 Executive Slate:** Still looking to fill some key positions (treasurer, pres-elect, vp communications, fundraising.) Also one spot on site council.
- We will be having our financial records audited by outside source to ensure they are in order.
- THRIVES speaker series is returning this Thursday.
- Tech Team Training, Feb 19 & 26: Parents can come for Google training and webcasts.
- AFS Reps are in back if anyone is interested in the exchange student program.

Next Meeting: April 5, 9am

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.