

AHS PTO GENERAL BOARD MEETING

August 25, 2105

Called to order 3:05pm by Amanda McCauley

Introductions: new presidents, Lori Arndt and Amanda McCauley

Goals for the year include enhancing communication lines; this first meeting has been scheduled to include teachers and staff. Several have been asked to speak today, to share the impact that PTO time and funding has had on them and their classes. A student crew is taping the meeting and the video will be posted on the website.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Kim Mayorga—*Language Arts Chair*: Thank you to “copycats” and other volunteers. This has greatly reduced the time teachers spend making copies.

Technology Impact

Katie Assali—*History*: PTO and Dads Club provide important supplies, upgraded furniture and computers

- Class set of Chromebooks funded half by PTO, half by Dads Club. Teachers also received Google training.
- Supports the “20% Project”—students encouraged to spend 20% of their time on something they’re passionate about that will impact/improve the campus and/or community.

Craig Vesling—*Dads Club*: Club efforts have raised approximately \$15,000 per year for technology.

AP Training Impact

9 teachers took their own, unpaid time this past summer.

Mr. Gabriel—*Spanish*: benefit to all teachers, even if not teaching AP classes; using with honors level classes.

Darcy Brodison—*Psychology*: took AVID and AP training over the summer; both very beneficial.

Kelsey Tomlinson—*English/LA*: using training to increase rigor in regular classes.

Jeff King—*History*: training was very useful; also thanks PTO for providing classroom supplies.

Other PTO Support

Michele Gann—*Administrative Assistant*: Emergency kits resupplied over the summer; PTO came up with funds and donated items.

Tricia Ridder—*Nurse*: supplies included new refrigerator to replace one that had broken; volunteer hours help with hearing and vision screening each year.

PJ Morris-Murch—*Cafeteria Manager*: PTO coordinates 50-70 One-Lunch volunteers (5 each day) to keep lunchtime running efficiently.

Skylar Wilcoxson—*student*: One Lunch is really helpful for students for clubs, teacher assistance and other activities.

Nancy DiCarlo—*Guidance Assistant*: (she's the Face of Arcadia!) PTO pays ½ her salary so she can be full-time to support the counselors and provide other admin assistance.

Michelle Himmelberg—*PTO member*: not sure how registration would function without PTO volunteers; PTO coordinated 175 shifts over 6 days, all staffed by volunteers.

Mr. Slater—*Principal*: When everyone works together (parents/teachers/staff) we get increased capacity; important to trust and always assume best intentions; PTO impact at AHS is huge and immensely helpful for teachers.

Lori Arndt: Support PTO!

- Join
- Help at the auction (we need an acquisitions chair)
- Volunteer

BUSINESS PORTION

Approval of minutes from March 2015 meeting: *motion to approve by Michelle Himmelberg, 2nd by Francesca Thomas, approved unanimously.*

Presidents' Report—Lori and Amanda

Special thanks to all who helped with Dads Club Chromebook acquisition over the summer.

Communication Protocol (see attached.) Flowchart shows how to deal with questions and concerns.

Thank you to refreshment committee, Anne Downing and Laurie Richmond; and to Chick-fil-A for donating food and beverages.

Principal's Report – Mr. Slater

Last year... Main focus was Arcadia Learning Commitment

- Across all schools in the learning community.
- Biggest challenge was class size. This year we are staffed 33:1, some classes are larger but only 5 are over 36; 3 could change but students have chosen not to move; average class size is 30.9.

This year... Focus is on Improvements

- Tech Committee developing improvement opportunities.
- Working to improve THRIVES: next 2 weeks attendance will be mandatory; goal is to have something meaningful so all kids stay.
- Improvements to communications; plan is to over communicate.

Please hold questions until the end of the meeting.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report – Deb Stamets

Presentation of annual budget (see attached.) *Motion to approve by Francesca Thomas; 2nd by Lezlie Richardson; approved unanimously.*

Communications—Kathy Sandler

Revamped website over the summer; new logo by student Anika Carlson; incorporating Facebook, Twitter into media; updating all the time. Email info, photos, etc. to Kathy.

Fundraising—Susan Spier and Molly Lauer

- Buy your AHS insulated cup! Selling everywhere (open house night, football games, etc.) Get one free if you join PTO with \$100 contribution.
- Auction date is March 18 at ACC

Membership – Lezlie Richardson and Tracey Wasson

Encourage all to join. Teachers are at 80%! Be aware that all booster club presidents and treasurers—and other officers—must be current PTO members.

SPC/Governing Board—Francesca Thomas

- Calendar: next year is last of 10 year plan; expect to see surveys this year.
- Backpack donations benefitted 800 kids, including some students at AHS, ANLC, Tavan, and Ingleside.
- 3300 kids took summer school classes: 2300+ online, 900+ in class
- Override funded 120 new teacher salaries; class sizes are down and elementary specials are restored.
- Scottsdale Showcase is 9/26; all schools represented.
- AZ Merit: scores not yet published; still not determined if /when they will count for anything. Watch for legislation.
- All governing board meetings are recorded. Go to website to watch videos.

Volunteers—Michelle Himmelberg

- Thank you for help so far; sign up on-line if you haven't.
- Notes about Project Grad: Sue Byron and Eleanor Beger are this year's chairs; last year's committee left a significant amount of money to get them started.

New Business

- Communication Protocol Sheet has already been covered
- Homecoming Parade info on website
- We are bringing back teacher info and highlight pages; each teacher will do one; will be posted on website and in eblast.

Questions for Mr. Slater

- A/C issues in the band room: This is somewhat of a crisis as the temps in the room have been nearly unbearable; a special part is needed that is difficult to source; a temporary fix is in place for tomorrow going forward until the part can be installed. Discussed need to be proactive and possibly order additional parts in case this issue will eventually affect other areas of the school.
- Crowding on the buses: Kids are sitting on the floor. Nathan will bring that up at Dr. Peterson's office hours later tonight.

Upcoming Events

- Parent Open House: August 31
- Dr. Peterson's Arcadia Community office hours: tonight 6 – 8pm
- Homecoming : September 25
- Next PTO meeting: October 20

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30pm.