



## 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.**