

PTSO MINUTES

Ardrey Kell High School

February 10, 2020 / Meeting called to order by Chris Bucher at 6:02PM

In Attendance

L. Bowden, J. Kaplan, C. Bucher, Q (S). Shen, M. Caplice, S. Hepworth, S. Bereis, J. Gyoerkoe, Ms. Brand, A. Jackson, J. Jackson, P. Zakow, G. Bly-Biggs, N. Termin, E. Milliken, J. Wade, T. Edmunds, L. Nisely, K. Mayfield, N. Laumann, L. Fischer, A. Canafax, G. Greene

Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting, January 13, 2020. They were previously posted in draft form via link on the PTSO website. Hard copies to share made available to attendees by secretary. A motion to approve the minutes as written raised by Laura B; Jen K. seconded the motion. The approved minutes will be posted to the PTSO website.

President's Report

Chris B welcomed members of the AK Band Booster Club in attendance tonight. Efforts to coordinate with other parent booster organizations continue.

- Other efforts to promote PTSO continue as well, representatives attended the latest "Sweets with Switzer" event as well as the Rising Ninth Grade presentations at CH and JMR Middle Schools.
 - Chris has direct communication with the Student Council and this has assisted with allowing the students to manage expenses, promote their initiatives.
 - The PTSO is assisting the Student Council this week by providing adult parent volunteers at lunch times to assist with Valentine's Day candy gram sales and tee shirt sales celebrating Black History Month. Attendees encouraged to see Chris if interested in helping.
 - The Student Council is about to kick off a Hunger Drive initiative with Second Harvest. Multiple schools having a kick-off event tonight (Feb 10) and there is a social media component as the students are performing skits. The PTSO webmaster Jen K. offered to post promotional information.
 - There is an upcoming City Barbeque fundraiser to benefit the PTSO on February 19, 2020- lunch and dinner! Ms. Brand to inquire about adding this to the morning announcements and to share with the staff. All participants need to scan the bar code at time of check out. Paper copies available for attendees, code also available on the PTSO website www.akptso.weebly.com
 - Chris has asked all those volunteers currently holding formal roles within the PTSO to inform her if they wish to continue next year. She requests this information by the end of the month. Open roles will then be identified.
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Treasurer's Report

Suzanne B. provided copies of the current monthly income statement to attendees and had the following to report:

- There a few outstanding receipts from January, 2020. Any volunteer with outstanding receipts asked to submit them promptly.

- The Spectrum charge to the PTSO account was disputed, denied by the company and ultimately credited back to the account after Suzanne appealed the denial.
- The Capital Campaign continues to slow, but did receive approximately \$650 in January.
- No IRS update for the 2018 filing issue, but still within the 60 day window from their last written correspondence.

Principal's Report

Dean of Students Ms. Brand had the following to report:

- Several expressions of thanks shared with the PTSO- for attending the Rising 9th Grader Nights, for the staff party in February and from the Student Council for ongoing support.
- Ms. Brand stated that a ConnectEd is possible to broadcast the BBQ fundraiser information.
- Unfortunately, the SLT student survey results not available as planned due to an issue with Ms. Morgan's computer. Working on a resolution.
- Two funding requests from faculty:
 1. Mr. Gabbard attended tonight requesting assistance from the PTSO for an upcoming trip to the 2020 International Thespian Festival in Indiana. Ardrey Kell was selected as one of only 11 schools in the country invited to perform on the Main Stage. They will share their production of PUFFS. Discussion followed regarding the need for receipt driven expenses and it was suggested that the PTSO consider sponsoring a hotel stay at the estimated cost of \$2000. Per Mr. Gabbard, the PTSO would be acknowledged in the festival program for the show. He also stated that an encore performance of the show at AK is planned. **The PTSO will fund the request.**
 2. Ms. Brand made a request on behalf of Mr. Adair and Ms. Edge who would like to attend the College Board conference "A Dream Deferred: The Future of African American Education" in Chicago March 11-13, 2020. The cost would be approximately \$2400 total for travel expenses and will allow the team to attend multiple concurrent sessions. They wish to bring back best practices to AK. A discussion followed to allow question/answers. **The PTSO will fund the request.** (Ms. Hamilton was identified at the contact person to coordinate funding with.)
- Group discussion as a result of the above requests included more brainstorming on how to use details about such funding requests in the promotion of the PTSO Capital Campaign. Attendee asked regarding the \$50,000 goal and how that came to be; set after last year's \$46,000 total achieved. Suggestion made to post formal AK name/accounts used in corporate matching to make that process easier for employees who wish to support the PTSO with matching gifts. Identified concern that there are multiple AK not-for-profit groups and there may be some confusion.

Committee Reports

Communications (Megan C.)

- Summarized some feedback/questions from "Sweets with Switzer" last month.
 - 1- Yes, parents and/or students may confirm if they are members of the PTSO. It is not a public list but can be checked upon request via email (AKHSPTSO@gmail.com)

- 2- There was a great deal of parental interest in SAT prep. The PTSO could potentially sponsor classes by confirming the space and by contracting directly with the instructor. Follow up needed with potential contact.
- 3- There was interest in assistance for new parents and/or parents moving through a high school year for the first time with a child. Brainstorming followed and ideas included printing the AK navigational guide; possible "buddy parent" program to match parents of different class levels; "Junior Night" is upcoming- is there an opportunity for parental help there?; dedicated booths at events to encourage parents to seek help/engage with other parents; panel discussions/dinners; a parent component to the incoming freshman "Knight Camp"; a suggestion from the AK Band- they have a specific "rookie" email address that is manned by an experienced parent. (New parents are able to use the email for all sorts of questions!)

- Megan to draft the additional ConnectEd regarding the Capital Campaign and encouraging the students to speak with parents/guardians about membership (with phone Fridays as a reward.) However, the timing may need to be delayed now in the spirit of not competing with the student driven Hunger Drive collection for Second Harvest.

Website (Jen K.)

- Will post information regarding the PTSO Senior Scholarship. Discussion regarding need for students to go to Student Services for the application materials.

Fundraising (Jackie C./Chris B)

- Corporate matching gifts being monitored.
- Acknowledgement letters/receipts for all individual donations made by December 31, 2019 have been sent via email. Subsequent donations made in 2020 will be acknowledged on an ongoing basis.

Hospitality (Angel C.)

- Libretto's Pizza provided excellent food at a great discount for our AK teachers- please support them as community members.
- The "Mr. AK" crown and food for the panel of judges has been arranged.
- The next hospitality event needing volunteers will be March 4. A sign-up to be put out soon. March Madness theme.

Harris Teeter/Publix

- 300+ families uploaded into the system by Ms. Brand- resulting in many accounts successfully linked.

Student Leadership Team (SLT)

- The College and Career Fair was very successful -over 1,000 people in attendance.

Monthly Cakes (Sophia C.)

- Catherine (Co-chair) to deliver next week for the month of February.

Winterfest/Springfest- (Kim M)-No update this month.

Open Forum

- No further questions/discussion at this time.

Monthly Teacher Recognition

- Individual thank you cards to teachers collected from meeting attendees, previously distributed by Committee Chair Jackie G. They will be distributed to staff by Ms. Brand in the morning. New attendees made aware that this is an opportunity to thank an individual staff member.
- A card written to Band teacher Mr. Shives was chosen by lottery. He will receive an additional gift from the PTSO. Congratulations and thank you!

Next Meeting

March 9, 2020- 6pm in the AK Media Center

Meeting adjourned at 7:01PM by Chris B.