

PTSO MEETING MINUTES

Ardrey Kell High School

October 11, 2021 | Meeting called to order by at 1806 by PTSO President Suzanne Bereis

This meeting conducted in conjunction with a Principal's Chat. Principal Brooks invited all parents to attend the monthly PTSO meeting immediately followed by a Q & A session with her. The meeting was held in the AKHS auditorium to allow social distancing. Refreshments provided by the PTSO.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the previous PTSO meeting held September 13, 2021 were presented for approval by Suzanne.

-Discussion included a date correction required for the last meeting of the 20-21 school year and a name correction for a Board Member

-A motion raised to approve minutes with corrections noted above; second motion raised and minutes approved. Minutes will be archived and available to parents, staff and students via the PTSO website.

President's Report

Suzanne further welcomed all attendees

- Introduced the PTSO Executive Board Officers
- Discussed open position- Hospitality
- Provided brief overview of the PTSO and its mission
- Discussed the Capital Campaign and importance
- Presented two communications requesting partnership with PTSO; one movie screening opportunity and one extracurricular test prep. Both involve direct student involvement so Mrs. Brooks to review.
- The PTSO received a thank you letter from a 2021-21 scholarship winner and that was shared
- Reflections upon the loss of Officer Herrera and a way to help his family shared

Treasurer's Report

Tori Collins unable to attend meeting but shared update, presented by Suzanne. YTD financial statements available to attendees.

- PTSO remains well short of Capital Campaign goal
- A large additional expense has been the need for a third traffic officer

Committee Reports

- **Teacher Recognition (Jackie Gyoerkoe)**

Jackie explained the PTSO tradition for meeting attendees to write a thank you message to an AK faculty or staff member. Cards provided for this activity and will be placed in mail folders for distribution to the staff to read. Prior to this, one card will be randomly selected and a gift card prize awarded to the staff member. **at the conclusion of this meeting, Patricia Thornton was the winner for this month!**

- **Communications (Janine Sabin)** –No update

- **Facebook (Geneva Green)**-No update

- **Fundraising (Lea Fletcher /Jackie Gyoerkoe (corporate matching))**

Continued discussion regarding the importance of Capital Campaign and communications directing families to contribute, raise awareness regarding corporate matching. Other ideas welcome for fundraising.

- **Harris Teeter/Publix (Co Chairs Julia Murphy and Laura Richards)**- No update

All parents encouraged to link their grocery accounts to support the AKHSPTSO

- **Hospitality (Jennifer Lang/Open)**

Announcement by Tracy Edmunds of upcoming staff Hospitality event- November 3 prior to the faculty meeting. Attendees encouraged to look for email coming soon as family donations will make the event successful.

- **Monthly Cakes (Maura O’Sullivan)**

Cakes delivered last week to celebrate recent birthdays among the AK staff. Well received.

- **Picture Day (Karla Stovall/Angela Kennedy)**

Successful events to date. Make-up date October 27, 2021.

- **Scholarships (Angela Kennedy/Tori Collins)**

On track to release application information to seniors after the winter holidays.

- **SLT (Laura Bowden)**

Laura unable to attend last meeting, Mrs. Brooks provided update: Next meeting in October, on agenda for School Improvement Plan includes dress code and tardy policies

- **Student Council (Ms. Jenna Tomlinson-AK Faculty Advisor)**

Alden A. provided update- Sophomore class held a new student event; Junior class Bingo night scheduled for October 29, current activities include Homecoming Pep rallies this week

- **Website (Michele Brown)**- No update

- **Winterfest/Springfest (Melanie Becker)**

Programming to be researched by Mrs. Brooks and feasibility regarding continued pandemic concerns. TBD.

Principal's Report

- Mrs. Jamie Brooks discussed loss of Officer Herrera and how proud she was of the AK student body as they paid respects. She thanked the PTSO volunteers who assisted at school and discussed plans for silicone bracelets as a fundraiser for the Herrera family.
- Current school enrollment- 3,507

- Active discussion for new school relief for AK, Olympic HS will receive relief next year.
- Teacher shortages remain a problem, though better at AK than some other local schools. Reports a math opening posted from July-October with zero applicants. Only 8-10 subs on AK list at this time. Teachers are covering other classrooms and losing planning periods.
- Positive note, some teachers on long term leaves are returning. However, some classes such as math remain quite large. Zoom option not always preferable to large physical class sizes.
- Student cell phone use- continued commitment to help students who may not be able to connect with friends at lunch due to ongoing social distancing guidelines. However, some cell phone activity is negative: most discipline involves phones, fake social media accounts encouraging suicide, Devious Licks stunts a problem such as the student who brought stools from home to vandalize a bathroom (was caught on hallway camera) concern for October challenge to slap a teacher
- Tardies remain a problem, difficult to give grace when students appear late with fresh Starbucks coffee in hand. SLT continues to evaluate policies, goal to not lock students out for full class but to record the tardy in the office and send back to class.
- Dress codes-assistance requested from parents. Note what students are wearing to school and/or discuss with them how they may be changing after leaving home. For example, sports bras alone are not acceptable attire in school.

Next Meeting

Monday, November 8, 2021 at 6PM

Principal Q&A

With the regular PTSO meeting concluded; Mrs. Brooks stayed present on stage to answer questions from parents until approximately 1930 when no further questions identified. Many thanks to the parents in the audience.

Questions/topics raised included traffic safety concerns, bus routes and availability, avenues to become a CMS District substitute; "Knight Time"/SEL, classes with long term subs and when athletic practices are allowed to start.