

PTSO MINUTES

Ardrey Kell High School

January 19, 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and CMS school closures, this meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom.

Laura Bowden, PTSO Assistant Treasurer facilitated the meeting with PTSO President Angel Canafax present throughout. Attendees had the option to join with or without video. All attendees were muted upon joining but had the individual option to unmute and participate in any discussion.

Other attendees included but may not be limited to (due to generic screen names and some partial attendance): Mrs. Jaime Brooks, J. Kaplan, K. Stovall, J. Lang, D. Besselieu, A. Archdeacon, S. Dumas, R. Brand, M. Bee, T. Edmunds, J. Gyoerkoe, Liubym G. L. Fletcher, S. Hepworth, S. Armbruster, S. Dorsey, J. Collazo, J. Murphy, V. Kuarsing, Celeste H., K. Meekins, Nancy , B. Wilkinson, L. Richards

Meeting Called to order at 1803.

Treasurer's Report

Report provided in advance by Tori C. (PTSO Treasurer) and presented by Laura B.

- Recent expenses include the enhanced Zoom platform fees for the AK PTSO as well as an account for Principal Brooks
- Total Capital Campaign funds discussed; short of goal but expenses also less this year
- Discussion among attendees included reminder that the \$10,000 in scholarship expenses come late in the year as well as end-of-year asks from the school. There is no limit to carryover funds for upcoming school year; this current year began with carryover from last year.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Brooks reported:

- Request for community's support regarding presuming positive intent. While ideas and approaches may vary, Mrs. Brooks believes that everyone working to do their very best for kids.
- Regarding teachers and returning back to school: it will be difficult if many are in isolation/quarantine and not available for building support. AK staff includes some teachers at high risk should they contract COVID-19.
- Athletics have been paused but the AK students finishing their Volleyball and Cross Country seasons will be allowed to participate in championship events, per Superintendent Wilson's decision change.

- Regarding Inauguration Day:
 - Mrs. Brooks describes many requests regarding changes to allow those that wish to view the events to do so. Mrs. Brooks is not permitted to make the day completely asynchronous.
 - Describes the options as lose-lose because stakeholders are so divided.
 - She has given teachers permission to flip the synchronous vs asynchronous periods of a class to maximize viewing time. The daily lunch period also falls during the ceremony.
 - Assures attendees that all lesson plans regarding politics must be unbiased.
 - If parents choose to allow students to participate in viewing Inauguration proceedings then she assures no penalty to students if assignments are submitted the following day.
- SLT: Provided context regarding recent community concerns discussed at last SLT meeting.
 - Reported a fear in the community that students would not be able to lead Black History Month activities.
 - History-Knights Building Knights tasked with creating promotional video to highlight BHM events. High quality video produced but it was played on morning announcements without context. Video contained some violent images from the past year involving BLM protests.
 - Mrs. Brooks received concerned inquiries from the community and as a result there was significant concern that BHM events would be affected.
 - Mrs. Brooks hears all voices. It was unintended that the video may have seemed to be promoting violence.
 - AK does not support any political organization but does support Black Students. She has worked with students and Assistant Principal Dr. Burnette; working towards the showing the video again but with context provided and clear messaging. There will be lessons for homeroom. She reminds attendees that anyone may support Equity for All no matter their political affiliation.
- Professional Development: Course opportunity for staff regarding how to engage students in civil discourse. Will be requesting an asynchronous day so that staff may attend during weekday hours.
- AK Diversity Survey: There has been pushback from the community about the recent Diversity survey rolled out to families. The Parent Committee had requested such a survey and it has taken months to prepare and find the proper platform. There may have been an opportunity to provide expanded context and information prior to the roll-out; to be forthcoming.

President's Report

- Report given by Angel C. - all attendees welcomes and thanked for their participation.
- Given the increased interest in Zoom format, will plan to increase these opportunities for the remainder of the year.

Committee Reports

Communications (Jessica C.)

- No significant updates, just continuing to promote PTSO activities.
- Ms. Brand thanked Communications for their promotion of the upcoming 1st Generation College Night Presentation by AK

Facebook- no update

Fundraising (Jackie G.)

- Capital Campaign contributions stand at approximately \$22,000.
- Corporate matching checks processing; not all sites are fully integrated but a focus on maximizing as many matching gifts as possible.
- Letters/Tax receipts have been sent out for 2020 donations- donors may contact PTSO is they are in need of receipts.

Harris Teeter/Publix Committee: (Julia M.)

- Currently have 700 accounts linked to support AKPTSO; most recent text blast very successful
- Multi-use signs promotional signs obtained for car line, future events. Julia has an invoice for the cost of the signs- to submit to Treasurer Tori C.

Hospitality (Jennifer Lang)

- No activity this month; requested that Mrs. Brooks communicate to committee when teachers and staff return to the building. Will try and plan event(s) at that time.

Teacher Recognition (Jackie G.)

- In lieu of typical card making for teacher recognition, Jackie invited everyone on the call to email their thanks and teacher nomination to the AKHSPTSO@gmail.com by 9am the next morning.
- Emails will then be forwarded to individual teachers and the names will be randomized for the monthly drawing
- Discussion- support for idea as well as Mrs. Brooks' announcement about the AK Teacher Of the Year – Congratulations Mr. Brondstad; also congratulating finalists Ms. Cerbone and Ms. Gallagher.
- ***Update since the meeting: Ms. Louis was chosen as the month's recipient of a gift card***

Picture Day (Karla S.)

- Senior pictures are done for the yearbook; due to the time left in the year the underclassmen will have the opportunity to submit selfies for the yearbook.

- Group discussion and brainstorm for ideas to increase participation. PTSO commits to funding \$5 gift card for winning homeroom and \$25 gift card for any teacher who has 100% participation. Mrs. Brooks details a prize of step away time (from homeroom) for a week. Details to follow on AK website.

SLT (Laura B.)

- Mrs. Brooks previously shared much of the meeting content, see above.
- Recognition that the SLT group is small and there is work in progress to help positive messaging reach both parents and students of the larger school community.
- PTSO brainstorm ideas included a video resource promoting PPI (Presumed Positive Intent) that could be posted to the AK website, or Facebook. Also encouraged further parent nights via Zoom, having panelists available to answer questions via chat feature; a Student –Principal school meeting.

Student Council (Alden A. and Savannah D.)

- Student Council is actively working on the annual Student Hunger Drive initiative, looking at the possibility of a virtual celebration of “Mr. Ardrey Kell” and the West Kell initiative- likely a virtual book study this year.
- Drive by activities on pause due to the stay-at-home request from local government
- Grade level initiatives include “percent nights” at local eateries (fundraiser activities for classes to receive a percentage of the profits) and reaching out to AK feeder schools via video (historically SC reps would go to schools in person to present information about AK)

Website (Jen K.)

- Encouraged requests for updates as needed.
- PTSO Scholarship information to be obtained and posted on website

Miscellaneous /Open discussion

- First Generation College Night (January 28) Sponsored by AK- question regarding target audience-----Ms. Brand states that the program is aimed at students and families with no prior experience with attending college BUT assures all parents that everyone is welcome to join the meeting. The event will also be recorded and posted to Student Services site after the live event.
- Suggestion to involve the AK Drama Community to produce content related to PPI messaging.

Next Meeting- TBD (See PTSO Website for upcoming dates)

Meeting adjourned at 1904.