

PTSO MINUTES

Ardrey Kell High School

March 9, 2020 | Meeting called to order by Chris Bucher at 6:05 PM

In Attendance

G. Greene, L. Bowden, T. Edmunds; J. Collazo, R. Brand, C. Bucher, A. Kennedy, S. Shen, S. Bereis, A. Canafax, J. Kaplan, D. Switzer, V. Wilkinson, K. Meekins, J. Gyoerkoe

President's Report

Chris had the following to report:

- The AK Student Council wrote multiple thank you notes for the PTSO. Available and circulated throughout the meeting.
 - Chris thanked the group for the great response regarding dance ticket sales; all volunteer slots filled quickly.
 - Openings for named PTSO positions next year include **Hospitality, Fundraising, Communications, Picture Day** (may need co-chair) Chris and Angel (future '20-21 President) to meet and brainstorm ideas for filling positions. Likely will involve a Sign-Up Genius.
 - The City Barbeque fundraiser raised approximately \$150. Other fundraising ideas include opportunities for groups at Carowinds, Bank of America Stadium events. They may involve multiple dates and many volunteers, but have the potential to generate a significant amount to money.
 - Due to the COVID-19 virus, the "A Dream Deferred Conference" has been cancelled. The PTSO will pursue a refund.
 - Ms. Morgan requested reimbursement for office plants- school counselors and approved.
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Minutes

The meeting minutes from February's meeting presented. They had previously been posted to the PTSO website in draft form and several copied printed by the secretary, available for review tonight. Angel C. made a motion to approve as written, Jen K. seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report

Suzanne Bereis shared copies of the current and previous income statements. She also reported:

- The North Carolina State sales tax refund totaling \$269 has been filed. (July 2019-December 2019)
 - The IRS has officially cleared the PTSO of any penalty related to last year's tax filing and it is now complete.
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Principal's Report

Mr. Switzer gave the following update:

- The AK counselors provided written feedback for Megan C. (Communications Chair) regarding her parent tip sheet.

- Staffing- all teaching openings have been filled except a recently filled English 9 position- now open again. Ms. Wall to provide long term, stable coverage.
- Enrollment projections by CMS stable. However, Mr. Switzer has data that shows historical increases every fall. He will continue to advocate for our students.
- A “Sweets with Switzer” was held last week. Parents had the opportunity to express any concerns they had.
- Upcoming events at school- Diversity Day. School wide; held on a half-day of instruction. Mr. Switzer reminded parents of the importance of sending kids to school that day. Next year, diversity education opportunities will be included in Monday current events focus. The SLT is developing strategies and suggestions regarding consequences when students are not sensitive to cultural issues.
- Questions from attendees to Mr. Switzer included:

---Do students have enough time to wash hands between classes? (due to the Coronavirus concern) Mr. Switzer answered yes. He strongly believes that students can walk from the far ends of the campus without difficulty and that he has personally observed students NOT washing, even after using the bathroom. He encouraged this discussion at home as well as school.

----When will the PTSO receive the results of the December student survey, as they were not available as expected last meeting? Mr. Switzer will facilitate an electronic distribution to the PTSO.

----Parents have been approached by the media to comment on AK overcrowding. What do you recommend? Mr. Switzer recognizes that it is the parent’s choice to answer or not, but if they would like to refer the reporters to the main office/himself they are welcome to do so. He recently had to ask reporters to leave school property as they were photographing students as they left the campus without permission.

----Parents at the Sweets with Switzer event engaged in discussion about volunteer opportunities for parents at AK; how can we get that operational? Mr. Switzer confirmed that he would welcome volunteers for assisting with the morning parking/drop-off routine. Parents would be provided a reflective vest and wand; 4 volunteers per day would be most helpful, starting with Mon/Wed/Fri; honoring a commitment to volunteer is essential; the PTSO to develop a Sign-Up Genius. Discussion followed that included using an upgraded version of Sign-Up Genius (\$99 cost to PTSO) to enable more features. Mr. Switzer also indicated that volunteers at lunch time would be welcome. Volunteers will have to register as CMS volunteers first, the first level of clearance sufficient.

- Lastly, the Student Council money collected in the food drive to be given to the PTSO to be deposited; then a check will be written to the food bank.

Committee Reports

Scholarships

- PTSO Scholarship applications due April 3 to AK counselors.
- Names will be provided to the PTSO Secretary to cross check PTSO membership.
- Committee will read applications and award winners.
- Presentation scheduled at Scholarship Night, late May.
- Checks awarded directly to school of choice.

(Following this update Mr. Switzer reported that all staff donated \$5 at start of year, therefore they are members. Mr. Switzer to check on the status us that money transfer.)

Senior Boards

- Chris B. clarified that these particular boards are not the Senior Boards that involved student oral presentations- they are the bulletin boards/trophy cases transformed to reflect all of the colleges and universities the AK class of 2020 will be attending in the fall.
- Discussion included concern that some HBCU schools were not represented last year.
- Mr. Switzer confirmed that it is the responsibility of all seniors to provide up to date information regarding their higher education plans via Naviance platform.

SpringFest

- Scheduled for May 2. No updates at this time.

Hospitality

- Angel reports March staff meeting supported with dips/chips; desserts. Pictures available for posting.
- April staff meeting cancelled, therefore all funds will roll into May Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Ideas discussed for possible ice cream truck/vendor to come to campus, allowing staff to briefly go outside for a treat.

Fundraising

- No report. Capital Campaign remains open for donations.

Communications

- Megan reports that the AK Parent Navigation guide has been updated online. Hyperlinks updated to reflect CMS website changes, etc.
- Call for more transparency regarding what AK PTSO monies are used for. Jen has mocked up possible visual tool for website. Discussion followed: suggestions that categories be listed with dollars spent. Also, can this replace fundraising page? This information also may be included in "Did You Know" information on AK Facebook page. Questions regarding reformatting Treasurer's report; important not to cause undue workload; website chair role may need assistant; reminder that hard copies of full Treasurer report available at each PTSO meeting.
- Regarding a possible survey to respond to the energy of parent meetings, the interest expressed in programming such as SAT prep, 9th grade parent help, etc. Discussion followed and group decided that a Survey Monkey was appropriate; parents who may be weary of surveys have the choice to participate or not. Goal to place on home page of AK website. Megan to craft survey and send to Mr. Switzer. Also discussed at this time, Mr. Switzer has requested pricing and offering information from SAT prep vendors.
- Regarding the website, Jen K. to look into the cost of upgrading the Weebly
- Regarding support for 9th grade parents, a second information night was held at the same time as tonight's PTSO meeting for current 9th grade parents; Rising 9th grade parents have a meeting scheduled April 27. Mr. Switzer requested attendees to spread the word and encourage friends and neighbors with rising 9th graders to attend. Further discussion for potential offering to be facilitated during Knight Camp.

SLT

- The SLT continues to work on Diversity Day programming and honing the school mission.
- Keisha shared minutes from the last SLT meeting during which there was a presentation "Sources of Strength" and this focused emotional health. This included suggestions for implementation of school peer mentors to address mental health challenges in school. For example, creating roles for

students as greeters at the entrances, creating positive art projects, using music during class change time. This program is not designed to replace any medical or mental health therapy.

- The SLT continues to advocate for increased numbers of school psychologists available to work with students. Currently AK has one.
- During this update, there was a concern raised that families were not aware of a recent suicide involving a student. Some students reporting that they learned of the tragedy via social media, not officially at school. However, AK had responded with a ConnectEd promptly, as many in attendance recalled. Furthermore, discussion regarding finding resources for mental health; group agreed that any references on PTSO sites should simply direct students and parents to the Student Services link on AK website.

Monthly Cakes

- Scheduled to be delivered week of March 16. Sofia questioned the need for more utensils, Mr. Switzer confirmed that AK staff had plenty at this time. Also, group agreed that it was worth the small extra fee for store to cut cake in the professional kitchen/food prep area or staff can cut themselves. No need for PTSO volunteers to do so.

Monthly Teacher Recognition

- Attendees were given blank cards to write a thank-you to a select staff member of their choosing this month. Cards were collected and one name chosen randomly to receive an additional gift card from the PTSO- congratulations and thank you *Rebecca Josey!*
- Discussion regarding the possibility of using stationery with AK logo- Mr. Switzer to assist with this request.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2020

AK Media Center at 6:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM by C. Bucher