

Anderson High School PTSA: General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2009

President Marc Erck called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. There was a quorum present of 14 people at the meeting. The minutes from the August 20, 2009 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Terri Orton)

- Grocery card sales totaled \$1200 since July, 2009.
- The monthly report was presented (see attached). There was no discussion.

President's Report (Marc Erck)

- Thanked Julie Cowan and Ann Howard for their hard work planning a successful Trojan Spirit Fest.
- Additionally, expressed thanks to the custodial staff for their hard work on the night of Spirit Fest, and particularly for the speed with which they cleaned up after the event.
- Noted that with such an early Homecoming Game and Dance this year, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness Committee will have less time to disseminate information to students and parents.

Principal's Address (Donna Houser)

- Expressed appreciation for all of the efforts for Spirit Fest. Smaller booster clubs were particularly excited about the opportunity to raise funds at this event.
- Reported on the start of the school year:
 - The first days of school have gone smoothly.
 - Passing periods will be increased to 5 minutes.
 - Enrollment is currently 2026 students.
 - Teachers appear to like the longer instructional periods.
 - A new geometry section has been added.
- The cafeteria appears to be much more efficient this year thanks to new plans instituted by the new cafeteria manager.
- B lunch has been eliminated at the request of teachers who found teaching a split class difficult.
- Since the last lunch period of the day occurs so late in the day, students are encouraged to bring a snack to eat during the 2nd period of the day, and teachers have been instructed to allow students time for their snacks. If any classes do not allow time for the snack, please report it to Mrs. Houser.
- Construction on the band hall and science rooms is expected to commence by the end of September. Although the construction schedule has been designed to cause as few disruptions as possible, art, band, and orchestra may be displaced in the next school year.
- Anderson won an award from the Texas Business and Education Coalition. Only 13 schools were chosen for this award, and only 5 of those were comprehensive high schools. This award was based on data tracked over a 3 year period.
- Anderson's appeal to be academically recognized was denied, as our Dropout Prevention Specialist was hired too late. This new staff member has already begun remedies to the issues that prevented us from being academically recognized.
- Inappropriate class t-shirts were banned, and students have been reminded of behavioral expectations for the Homecoming Dance.

Officers' Reports

- 3rd VP (Cheri Crozier)
 - We have just begun receiving teachers' PTSA memberships.
 - As of 9/6/09, the following amounts have been collected:
 - \$10,845: membership dues
 - \$21,449: Trojan Excellence Fund
 - \$5,666: directory orders (totaling about 700 directories)
 - \$9,067: Hospitality donations
 - Thanks to Robin Nutt, Janet Watson, Susan Friedrich, and Jeane Barenston for their work tallying membership forms and donations.

Committee Reports

- Alcohol and Drug Awareness (Lisa Dow)
 - The committee is working on a new name and logo with help from committee members and students.
 - An alcohol awareness education component will be included in the Advisory curriculum prior to Homecoming.
 - The committee is working with Coach Romero, the film teacher, on a film fest that will address alcohol and drug awareness.
 - Short films will be submitted and voted on by students.

- This has been done successfully at Westlake, and Austin High is working to incorporate a similar program.
 - The committee is meeting with similar committee as McCallum and Austin High to discuss the possibility of a collaborative event.
 - The committee is pleased that Officer Roddy has been attending meetings, and would like to have a few students participated as well.
- Book Sales (Tammy Pokorny)
 - 2009 sales were less than those in 2008.
 - Not many books were sold at Spirit Fest. Sales could probably be boosted by selling books at Back-to-School night instead of Spirit Fest.
 - Thanks to:
 - Mr. Uhler – almost 100% of students in his classes order their novels from the PTSA.
 - The custodial staff for all their help transporting books.
- CAC (Evelyn Andrews)
 - The Navy turned down Anderson's request for a new ROTC program, as there is no money in their budget for new programs. When funding is available, Anderson is at the top of the list to be funded.
 - Students interested in the Navy ROTC program have been going to Travis for training.
 - Parents are invited to CAC meetings. There is a public comment period at the beginning of the meeting, and then they may stay and listen to the proceedings of the meeting.
- Grocery Cards (Cindy Martin)
 - New inquiries for grocery cards continue to come in.
 - An audit will be completed by the end of September in time for a new chair to begin with this committee.
 - President Erck expressed the PTSA's thanks to Cindy for her work on this committee.
- Trojan Spirit Fest (Julie Cowan)
 - The Spirit Fest had to be moved indoors because of the rain. Many thanks to all of the booster clubs participating for their flexibility!
 - Financially, the PTSA did not make money this year on the event. This was due in part to initial purchases that will not need to be repeated for future events.
 - The Best Decorated Booth was awarded to the choir for their Karaoke booth and duck pond.
- Website (Robert Frazier)
 - Anderson is working with the Doss webmaster to perhaps create a user group for schools in Wordpress.
 - Anderson may want to consider purchasing software that allows for donations to be collected via the website. This has been used very successfully at Doss Elementary.
 - More items from the Trojan Times e-newsletter will be linked to information on the Anderson PTSA website. This should consolidate the e-newsletter. In addition, the format of the e-newsletter will be changed, and the sign-up process will be more automated.

New Business

- Karen Flanigan, an Anderson mom and dietician, brought up concerns about the late lunch period:
 - A 2:00 lunch is too late for high school students, and sends a message to children that regularly spaced meals are not important. In addition, she believes that students who receive proper nutrition on a timely schedule perform better in school.
 - Karen has discussed this with Vince Torres, on the school board, who has requested research to back up her concerns.
 - She would also like for there to be more microwaves in the cafeteria for student use. The PTSA indicated that this was something they could explore further.
 - President Erck suggested that these concerns be presented to the CAC, which might be in a better position to directly address them. Karen stated she planned to do this.

Old Business

- Mr. Uhler's previous request for monies to help the Speech and Debate club pay for judges was discussed. He was referred to the Trojan Excellence Fund committee. Alternate ways of financially supporting extra-curricular efforts at Anderson were discussed: Austin High and Doss Elementary have established funds at the Austin Community Foundation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Annette Juba, 2009-10 Secretary