

Anderson High School PTSA Minutes

August 21, 2008, General Meeting

Call to Order

President Julie Cowan called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. There were sixteen members in attendance. The minutes of the May meeting were approved with the correction of "Like Skills Classes" to "Life Skills Classes," and the deletion of "and silent auction" from the description of the school-wide parent casino night.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Beck)

The PTSA funds include a smaller carry-over than estimated. There has been little activity over the summer with the exception of Trojan Charge donations and expenses. The procedures for accounting for funds received at Back-to-School night were discussed, with the decision that each organization take home their own money on the evening of the event, and prepare a deposit form for the treasurer. The procedure for requesting a change in the budget was discussed, with the recommendation that a specific committee request be included in that committee's report. The executive committee would like one month's notice of requests to change the budget to allow for time to research the request.

President's Report (Julie Cowan)

Julie requested that each Committee Chair submit a Plan of Work, as required for the audit. Julie will send an e-mail reminder and outline for the Plan of Work.

Julie has received an advertisement from an "Alumni Yearbook" company. Anyone who is interested in working on an alumni yearbook for Anderson should contact Julie.

Treasurer forms are available at tonight's meeting and are posted on the PTSA website.

Committees that still need chairs include: AP Proctor and Partners-in-Education.

Julie recommends that parents coming to Anderson during the day park in the teachers' parking lot in the row next to the street.

The school is making an effort to ensure that the front doors are always unlocked when a meeting is scheduled.

Julie thanked all the summer volunteers who worked on the PTSA's hospitality activities, preparing first-day packets, and answered the phones in the office.

Finally, Julie thanked everyone for their involvement in the PTSA.

Principal's Report (Donna Houser)

Donna also thanked everyone for their help getting ready for the start of school

On Back-to-School night, Donna's and Julie's messages will be videotaped and shown in the first-period classes instead of given live in the gym.

There were several staff changes over the summer: Twelve teachers retired from Anderson (two of those moved to the new Eastside Memorial High School); there is a new Assistant Principal, and two new counselors. All of the counselors will be in the cafeteria during lunches in the first week of school to answer student questions.

Anderson will begin using positive behavior incentives this year. Freshmen who are recognized for good behaviors will participate in a "mystery activity" to be determined, and upper classmen will receive incentives for good attendance.

Anderson was 17 students short of receiving "Recognized" status on the TAKS test.

Teachers this summer participated in professional development focusing on the needs of "mid-level" students (for example, increasing the rigor for these students and giving them different assignments from students in their classes who are struggling.

Advisory classes will be different this year: each student will have an advisory period for 30 minutes on Thursdays. For 9th and 10th graders, the advisory class will address the importance of having a good GPA and learning to become a good high school student. Upper classmen will discuss early college start, which has not been utilized much at Anderson.

Donna gave an update on the summer construction at Anderson: the bathrooms should all be ready by the beginning of school; the AC work is complete; the band hall smells better; the Theater Tech class will be taught in a portable until the next set of upgrades are completed. Donna will need a task force to work on the upgrades (new classrooms, etc) included in the most recent bond package.

On September 17, there will be a meeting for all Booster Club Presidents.

Officer's Reports

1st VP (Aileen Bantau): Back-to-School Night Plans

The event will take place on Wednesday, September 3. Parents are invited first to the cafeteria to receive information about clubs at Anderson, and then will report to the classrooms to follow their child(ren)'s schedule(s).

2nd VP (Lisa Sejnowski): Trojan Excellence Fund

No action to report until PTSA membership forms are distributed and returned. As an overview, the Trojan Excellence Fund solicits tax-deductible donations to be used for classroom materials. Funds are solicited on the PTSA one-page registration form. Last year was the best ever for the Trojan Excellence Fund.

3rd VP (Robyn Nutt): Membership

- 33 memberships received at teachers' breakfast (\$330 collected).
- Membership flyers included in 1st day packets.
- Membership form also includes Trojan Excellence Fund, directory orders, and Teacher Appreciation donations.
- Volunteers needed to help at Back-to-School night (sign-up sheet circulated).

Committee Reports (see attached)

Old Business

None

New Business

The membership discussed tax-free days and events for the 2008-2009 school year. It was moved by Cheri' Crozier and seconded by Alicia Doak that Back-to-School night on September 3, 2008, and PTSA Book Sales be designated as tax-free PTSA days/events for the 2008-2009 school year. The motion passed.

The audit report was presented, and Mary reported that item #3 (pertaining to grocery cards) has been cleared.

The proposed school-wide parent casino night was briefly discussed. This would be an event for parents only, probably on a Sunday night in January that would generate funds for all participating school groups. There will be a meeting about the event on August 27th, with more information presented to the PTSA at the September General Meeting.

Announcements

Cheri' Crozier announced that the Football Booster Club has chartered a bus for the Taco Shack Bowl on August 29th to transport parents and accompanying children from Anderson to House Park and back. Bus tickets only will be \$10/person. This is not a fundraiser. For more information, contact Cheri'.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes are respectfully submitted to the Anderson High School PTSA and others attending this meeting by

Annette Juba
Anderson High School PTSA Secretary

_____ Accepted at printed. Date: _____

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alcohol and Drug Awareness (Mike McMinn)

- The Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention Taskforce will be at Back-to-School night.
- In October, a Disease of Addiction program will be presented at Anderson.
- An Alcohol and Drug Awareness event will be held during Homecoming week.
- The last week of October is Red Ribbon week.
- Another Shattered Dreams event will be held at Anderson on April 1-2, 2009.
- Mike alerted parents that there are some drinks that look like energy drinks that are popular today (such as Red Bull and Monster) that are actually alcohol-based. These drinks are called, "Sparks" and "Tilt."

AP Proctor (This position, which coordinates volunteers for spring AP testing, is still open.)

Attendance Office Coordinator (Carolyn Scherrer)

- Volunteers are still needed.

ACPTA Rep (Cheri' Crozier)

- No ACPTA meetings to report on.

Baccalaureate (Cindy Thane & Anne Sterrett)

- No action to report.

Book Sales (Tammy Pokorny)

CAC Rep (Evelyn Andrews)

- No meeting to report on.

Counselor Liaison (Alicia Doak)

- All volunteer slots have been filled.

Directory (Julie Cowan for Ramona Evans)

- Directories are \$8 (and free to teachers who join PTSA).
- A blue directory form must be completed for a student to be included in the directory.

Grocery Cards (Sylvia McMinn)

- Cindy Martin will become the chair of this committee at the end of September.
- \$17,000.00 in cards was purchased in May, and all were sold by the end of the summer.
- The Grocery Card program brought in \$4600.00 last year.

Hospitality/Staff Appreciation (Cheri' Crozier & Kathy Ballee)

- The Hospitality Committee met July 22, 2008 to discuss plans for the year and submitted their plan of work to PTSA President Julie Cowan.
- We were asked to provide deserts this year for the New Teacher Luncheon on August 15, 2008 – we provided 8 dozen cookies and four 9x13 cakes. The following members of the committee were responsible for those:
 - Rosa Schnyer, Jill Frazier, Julie Cowan, Lea Moody, Margaret Reed, Beth Coronado, Darra Dotson, and Cheri' Crozier.
- The Faculty/Staff Welcome Breakfast was held on August 18, 2008 and seemed to be very appreciated. Our breakfast tacos were from Rudy's this year and underwritten in part by Sonia & Dave Swenson. Our total cost this year was \$355.91.
 - The following committee and community members contributed items, food and/or their time to this event: Cathy Reynolds, Jeanne Sasaki, Tereasa Montemayor, Elaine Brown, Diane Newberry, Susan Fredrick, Beth Menke, Julie Cowan, Sue Webb, Ann Howard, Debbie Ford, Pam Sue Brower, Lucy Leatherwood, Mary Elliott, Lea Moody, Anne Sterrett, Stacey Conley, Ronda Roach, Betty Wangler, Kathy Ballee, and Cheri' Crozier.
- The next Hospitality event will take place around the Thanksgiving/Winter holidays.

Newsletter (Julie Cowan for Ida Longoria)

- Julie will send deadline reminders to committee chairs.
- Jennifer Sowinsky will sell ads.
- Submit articles to TrojanNews@yahoo.com
- For other newsletter questions, e-mail Ida directly at BerlingeriGirls@yahoo.com
- The newsletter will not include booster club fundraising items.

Landscaping (Sylvia McMinn)

- Summer improvements include a new sidewalk from the student lot to the corner of Steck and Mesa.

- The committee and Mrs. House would like to move the electronic sign from the front of the school to the corner of Steck and Mesa.
- There are plans to irrigate the lawn from the front of the school to the corner.
- Benches donated by the class of 2008 still need to be installed.
- Anderson's automatic sprinklers were shown on the local news watering at improper times. This was caused by damage to the timers doing the summer construction. Donna will investigate getting the repairs paid for (estimate is \$2000).
- Volunteers will be weeding, planting, and mulching this week.
- The current landscaping budget is \$6000, but Sylvia would like to have it increased to \$8000. She will prepared a proposed budget to be discussed in September or October.

Project Graduation 2009

- Project Graduation is a substance free celebration for graduating seniors which is held on the night of graduation. AHS celebration will be at Austin 300. We do not yet have a graduation date.
- Project Graduation is a nationwide program which began in the state of Maine after a group of students were killed graduation night due to DUI. In order to use the name Project Graduation and to be part of the nationwide effort we must follow the national guidelines. One of the guidelines is that students and families can NOT be charged to attend the Project Graduation party. Thus all money must be raised.
- Our goal is to raise over \$30,000 for Project Graduation celebration. That sounds like a lot of money but if you look at the numbers it is the best deal in town. Typically we have 80% attendance and so with 400 students attending that would be less than \$100 per student.
- This summer we formed a committee to set up a senior yahoo group specifically to use as our primary source of communication with senior parents. Volunteers are calling parents to confirm emails. We used the yahoo group last year and it was a big success. Parents felt informed and we were able to get messages out immediately.
- We will raise money thru sale of pavers, a Fall Mum plant sale, a February dinner and silent auction sale, a spring geranium sale and thru solicitation of personal and business sales. We have flower sales chairs and taco sales chairs in place and will ask for other volunteers thru the yahoo group, back to school night, and at our first meeting in Sept.
- We will have monthly general meetings in addition to small committee meetings throughout the year.
- I believe there a balance from PG2008 for us to begin the year.
- Our officers are Kim Squier and Diana Fairbrother co-chairs and the marvelous Ramona Evans is our treasurer.

Trojan Times (Stacey Conley & Phyllis Woodley)

- The Trojan Times will be sent out every Sunday evening.
- Stacey and Phyllis would like for notices to be submitted to them by Wednesday, but will except items until Friday.

Website (David Elliott)

- David requests that committee chairs check the accuracy of their information on the website.