

**Anderson High School PTSA Minutes**  
General Meeting, 23 October 2008

**Call to order**

President Julie Cowan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 13 members in attendance. The minutes of the September meeting were approved, with one correction.

**Treasurer's Report** (Mary Beck)

The sales tax permit has been renewed. PTSA will pay sales tax annually. Some PTSA mail has been coming to Mary already opened. Donna Houser will remind school office staff to check if mail is addressed to PTSA before opening envelopes.

This year, 8 checks written at the Book Fair bounced, and one \$100 bill received was counterfeit. This represents a loss of about \$500 to the PTSA (up considerably from last year's loss due to bounced checks of about \$100). To protect privacy, Mary will keep a list of names of checks that the PTSA will not accept checks from. Mary will also mail a letter to the persons writing bad checks asking them to pay the amount due in cash.

Since bad checks seem to only be written during Book Sales, the membership discussed how to make required novels available to students with financial difficulties. Suggestions included shopping for the books at Half-Price Books, allowing students to use books already owned by the school, asking students to turn in novels they purchased at the end of the school year to be distributed the following year.

**President's Report** (Julie Cowan)

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Lucid (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness) program that will take place on Wed, 29 October. Coaches have been encouraging team members to attend the event, and several teachers are giving extra credit to students who attend.

The AISD UpClose leadership program is accepting applications through 24 October. The program will begin in January 2009.

The proposed Casino Night school-wide fundraiser will not take place, as not enough booster clubs committed to the project.

Bev Kuenast (mom of a sophomore) is very interested in the state-wide discussions of establishing a uniform GPA. The discussion encompasses uniformly weighting pre-AP classes, electives, etc. Raymond Paredes, commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, comes from California, which has such a system, and would like to see it in place here. Currently, universities are going along with the idea, but have not been actively pushing for it. Anderson students have also taken an interest in this issue, are writing a story about the issue for the school newspaper, and want to testify before the school board about the issue.

The general election is on Nov 4, and includes a proposition related to property taxes and teacher salaries.

Happy belated Birthday to Mrs. Houser (Oct 2)!

**Principal's Address** (Donna Houser)

A construction manager has been appointed for the 2008 bond construction projects. He would like to begin meeting with a bond committee in November.

Enrollment is down to 2064, perhaps because NCLB students are returning to their home schools.

Under the new bond construction program, every travelling teacher will get their own, permanent classroom, and there will be space to host an engineering/robotics program at Anderson.

Athletics would like a new weight room, which would allow the the current weight room to revert back to a dance gym. This could be pursued in the proposed 2010 bond package.

The school continues to implement a Positive Behavioral Support program. Ninth and tenth graders receive incentives for prompt attendance. Ninth graders have elected to have a movie and popcorn in the theater as their reward. Gift cards are also being raffled off every 6 weeks.

The CIP Executive Summary is available. The primary focus is on addressing the needs of students who failed the TAKS test.

**Officer's Reports**

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP** (Lisa Sejnowski): Trojan Excellence Fund

- The Trojan Excellence Fund committee met Oct. 1 and approved \$23,802.12 worth of grants to fulfill teacher's requests, with the possibility of another \$700 if we can't get a fridge donated (\$24,502.12 total). The current TEF budget is \$24,500. As indicated on the spreadsheet, these grants are spread across many departments; various academics, some fine arts and athletics, and the library (primarily for "common-use" items).

- Science will receive the largest allotment of funds at \$6000, but it is generally an expensive department to outfit and maintain, as well as it is expanding at Anderson. The committee opted to let the department determine how to disperse \$4000 to best suit their needs, as we couldn't cover it all. They have not let me know the decision yet.
- Another large purchase will be for rolling mirrors for the dance department. This \$2500 is only part of what they asked for, as they think they can draw from some other funding sources. It is contingent on the district coming through with their portion (\$5040), so if this doesn't happen, TEF will reallocate these funds for other grants.
- We received requests totaling \$43,598, so were able to fulfill 56% of them. Many of the requests which were not approved were for classroom equipment such as laptops and LCD projectors that the district is planning to supply over the course of the next few years.
- To date, PTSA has received \$22,705 in contributions from over 300 Anderson families and supporters, with more still coming in. A list of these contributors is being published in the fall PTSA newsletter.
- The TEF committee members are: Julie Cowan, Mary Beck, Michelle Szabo, Sylvia McMinn and Lisa Sejnowski. Thanks to them for helping make these spending decisions.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> VP (Robyn Nutt): Membership**

- Current 2008/2009 PTSA Membership Total - 1631
- Early-Bird submission of 9/29 included 1608 members
  - 1056 Adult; 468 Student; 84 Faculty memberships
- Second submission of 10/15 added 21 new members
  - 12 Adult; 7 Student; 2 Faculty Memberships
- 2 additional new members since 10/15
- Currently >106% of last year's total year-end membership of 1530
- Total income collected via membership forms: \$52,678
  - PTSA memberships: \$13,740
  - Trojan Excellence Fund: \$22,705
  - Directory: \$7007
  - Teacher/Staff Appreciation: \$9226

#### **Committee Reports (see attached)**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

- Members present voted to support the proposed 2009-2010 calendar A that allowed for the first semester to end before the winter break. Anderson teachers were strongly in favor of this proposal. The CAC concurred.

#### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

### **Announcements**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### Alcohol & Drug Awareness (Mike McMinn)

- "Lucid" will be held on 10/29.
- Thank you to Brown Distributing for their \$250 contribution to the program.
- 3 post-Homecoming parties were searched for alcohol.
- One family received anonymous photos of their child consuming alcohol at a party.

##### ACPTA Rep (Cheri' Crozier)

- The next ACPTA meeting is November 13th so I will report in November.
- If anyone wants to get a yard sign in support of AISD Proposal, Pam Porter (917-1713) has them.
- Received from Mark Erck regarding the PAC:
  - The PAC Task Force has been charged by the Board of Trustees with recommending to the Board a list of site selection criteria for the PAC. The members of the task force have developed a preliminary proposal for the site selection criteria and would appreciate your input. Please click on the link below to review the proposed criteria and provide any related comments. The deadline for submitting comments is **October 28, 2008**.  
<http://www.austinisd.org/inside/2004bond/performingarts/comments.phtml>

##### CAC Rep (Evelyn Andrews)

- The Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) was approved (see attached).

##### Directory (Julie Cowan)

- Extra directories are available for \$8. Anyone wanting to purchase a directory should contact Julie.

Grocery Cards (Cindy Martin)

- Profit this month so far is \$ 436.52
- Balance of cards is \$10,450.

Landscaping (Sylvia McMinn)

- Sylvia is selling spirit wear to raise money for landscaping projects.
- The Green Club has been helping with weeding and mulching.
- 99 new trees have been planted on the Anderson campus in the 5 years that Sylvia has been on the committee.
- A specimen tree will need to be moved to accommodate a new practice field, but because of the high number of new trees planted, this should not be a problem.

Newsletter (Ida Longoria)

- The newsletter will be mailed as soon as possible. There have been some program difficulties that have delayed it, but it will be full of information!

Project Graduation (Diana Fairbrother & Kim Squier)

- Project Graduation sold twice as many mums this year as last, and cleared over \$5000 profit from the sale.
- An extra 100 mums were sold in drive-by sales, since the mums were set out on the school yard.
- Overall fundraising is ahead of last year's pace.
- Upcoming fundraisers include pavers, a silent auction, and spring geranium sales.
- The fundraising goal is \$20-\$25,000 for the party itself. Any money raised in excess of that will be used for gift card prizes.
- Graduation has been set for Thursday, 4 June at 3:00 p.m.

Scholarship (Suzanne Torres & Linda Zimmerman)

- 117 Seniors and at least one parent signed up for PTSA membership prior to the Oct 15th deadline to be eligible for those seniors to apply for the Anderson PTSA scholarships.
- Letters to eligible seniors will go out in the spring inviting them to fill out an application for the scholarship.