

Anderson High School PTSA
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008

President Julie Cowan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 19 people in attendance. The minutes from the October 23, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report (Mary Beck)

Over half of the available dollars in the Trojan Excellence Fund have been spent on items requested and approved.

Project Graduation proceeds from the Mum sale have been deposited.

A budget line item will be added for donations to the Drug and Alcohol Awareness committee. The amount will be amended in the future as funds are received.

President's Report (Julie Cowan)

Extra directories are still for sale. Anyone needing a directory should contact Julie Cowan.

A nominating committee composed of 5 members plus one alternate (if available) needs to be formed in January to find a slate of officers for the 2009-2010 school year to be voted on in March.

Ms. Biester (Asst Principal) is now coordinating the PIE reporting to AISD. Committee chairs and booster clubs need to report their 2008-2009 volunteer hours to her. Discounts received (i.e.: for CPA services, etc) can also be included in the report.

Recently, there was an intruder in the girls' locker room. Around the same time, personal belongings were reported missing. Cameras have been redirected toward the locker room doors, and doors are now being locked during practices/class periods. Students need to be careful to keep their belongings locked up during practices/classes.

"Thank yous" from Donna Houser and the McMinn family were read.

PTA Day at the Texas Capitol is 26, February 2009. Anyone interested in attending should contact Julie Cowan.

One of our freshman students, Lennie Arnold, recently died. Donations to help the family offset funeral expenses are now being accepted. Contact Julie Cowan for more information.

Principal's Address (Donna Houser)

None, as Mrs. Houser was out of town.

Officer's Reports

- Secretary (Annette Juba) Records Retention Policy
 - In response to a communication from the state PTA, a "Records Retention" policy was proposed. Annette Juba moved, and Lisa Sejnowski seconded, that the policy be accepted. The motion passed. The policy is attached to these minutes.
- 2nd VP (Lisa Sejnowski) update on TEF donations
 - A refrigerator, which was requested by the Foreign Language department, was donated by an Anderson family, the Jeffries. Many thanks.
 - The science department has prioritized all the items they requested from the Trojan Excellence Fund and will begin spending allocated monies in that order.
 - The Dance department requested rolling mirrors. The PTSA will contribute \$2500 toward their purchase. AISD and other donations will cover the remaining cost.

Committee Reports

Alcohol & Drug Awareness (Mike McMinn)

- 2 articles about the Lucid event were in the newspaper.
- About 575 students attended the Lucid event, and the Diseases of Addiction group was very pleased with the presentation and the response to it. Two Anderson students participated in the presentation.
- There is a follow-up meeting on 3 December for parents. Richard Cunningham and Mike Ginsberg from PDAP will also attend.
- The committee is working on possible future partnerships with PDAP (such as hosting programs at Anderson).
- Planning continues for the Shattered Dreams program:
 - A Yahoo group has been set up.
 - A meeting is being planned for the 2nd week of December.
 - The Shattered Dreams event will take place on 1-2 April 2009.
 - The police and emergency services personnel are already on-board for the event.
 - The committee is applying for a mini-grant from TABC to help offset program expenses.
 - Students will be aware that Shattered Dreams will take place ahead of time. In addition, classes that do not attend the event live will watch a student-produced film about the event, and be able to watch the “memorial service” via a live feed in the school.

CAC Rep (Evelyn Andrews)

- The CAC recommended 2009-10 Calendar A to the school district.
- Members were told that future calendars may be structured so that finals occur after the winter holidays.
- The CAC approved a student proposal to introduce a Navy ROTC program to Anderson.
- A final decision on block scheduling should be made later this week.
- Discussion regarding student homework loads and group projects, particularly during the freshman year, took place.

Grocery Cards (Cindy Martin)

- Costs for supplies for this committee are recorded in the “postage and supplies” line item.
- To date, proceeds from grocery card sales have totaled \$522.22.
- An additional \$20,000 in HEB cards will be purchased on 11/22/08.

Hospitality (Cheri' Crozier & Kathy Ballee)

- Each faculty and staff member will receive 2 movies tickets and candy as a holiday gift from the PTSA.
- The committee will host lunch for faculty and staff on 12/17/08, with salads made by volunteers and soup from Jason's Deli.
- The committee plans to host a lunch to recognize the Custodial staff early in 2009.

Project Graduation (Diana Fairbrother & Kim Squier)

No report.

ACPTA Report (Cheri' Crozier)

The Anderson Vertical Team met November 13, 2008. The guest speaker was school board member Vince Torres. He did encourage us to speak up when the legislature convenes in January and our PTSA President did convey that message to our community through the Trojan Times.

In addition we discussed the impact of AISD having 11 academically unacceptable schools. Funds are being diverted from our middle and top performers and according to our principals, the teachers in our vertical team are feeling it. They are asking to do more with less. Our campus' are becoming more diverse and we need to embrace that and remember that all children K – 12 need to be educated for the 20th Century. By 2011, end-of-course exams are to be administered via computer. With less funds and little hope of expanding technology, how do we intend to do so?

A short discussion was held regarding the Ron Ferguson talk on Closing the Achievement Gap. This meeting on November 10, 2008 was attended by Julie Cowan, Ann Howard and myself representing Anderson. Two things that I walked away from are the need to be frank with our kids about their future. They really do need to consider these questions:

1. Do you know that with advances in medicine you are predicted to live to 100?
2. At age 80 would you like to be planning how to spend your money for vacation OR where you were going to find your next job?

AND – the second thing I walked away from this meeting with is that we need to lobby for Parent Support Specialists on all AISD campuses. The needs on just the Anderson Campus alone are overwhelming. We ask our Vice Principals and our Counselors to take on so much more. I did hear of two incidents on campus where Hispanic parents were not made to feel welcome. Neither was a PTSA-sponsored function, but it is a valid perception that we need to understand when we plan events and we move forward.

The ACPTA General meeting was held on November 13, 2008 as well. ACPTA passed their budget for the year. They are looking for a treasurer.

One of the goals of ACPTA is to recognize PTAs and their work as well as to offer scholarships. We need to make sure that Anderson students are aware of the availability of those scholarships. One is for future educators and the other is for a special needs student who plans to continue their education or receive further job training. Some years these scholarships go unclaimed. Both were given out last year.

We did learn about the Nov. 22 march on the Capitol by Reagan HS supporters. Casis Elementary parents are planning to speak out about overcrowding. After the new year begins, they will also have a march.

Capital Metro presented some information regarding the new Rail system and the need to remind students of Safety First around all railroad tracks. A group called "Raise Your Hand" made a presentation: they are working to support public schools and enact changes.

Attendance Office

- The office is glad to have more volunteers, but still have volunteer spots available.

Trojan Times

- The committee is working hard to consolidate announcements so that e-mails are only sent weekly.

Landscaping

- Four trashcans will be installed on islands in the parking lot as an Eagle Scout project.

New Business

Barbara Coldiron from the Theater Booster Club brought up concerns from the Theater Department that the theater entrance is very dark at night and difficult for people unfamiliar with Anderson to see. Possible solutions include installing additional exterior lighting (this will be investigated further and discussed again in January) to spotlight the theater sign, trimming trees around the theater entrance (Sylvia McMinn will discuss this with Phillip Davenport) so that the sign is more

visible, or posting a message on the electronic marquee to the PAC entrance.

Unfinished Business

None

Announcements

Presentation from Trey McIntosh and Laura Wagner re: ROTC program at AHS

- Cheri Crozier moved and Robyn Nutt seconded a proposal that the PTSA support a Navy ROTC program at Anderson. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.