

## PTO General Minutes

January 28, 2010

Called to order at 5:05 pm

Held in the ACS Library

- **Board Attendance:** Misty O’Leary, Meredith Jacobs, Michelle Barrett, Tina Cook, Emily Ragan, Deb Van Sicklin, Allyson Ford, and Jeannie Reddan (a quorum was present)
- **Additional Attendees:** Dean Brown, Dean Peters, Robin and Todd Warnke, Dennis Desormeaux, and Alice James
- Minutes from the November General Meeting were approved.
- **President’s Report:** Misty O’Leary reported that the by-laws have been amended to reflect the formation of the Dad’s Club, which will run as a non-voting subcommittee of the PTO. She also reported that the by-laws have been amended to reflect the inclusion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip as a non-voting subcommittee of the PTO.

*A unanimous vote was recorded to approve the amended by-laws with<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip as non-voting subcommittees of the PTO.*

It was reported that Dennis Desormeaux has volunteered to chair the Dad’s Club. Elections for this board will be held in April. It will be open to all ACS Dads. Dennis expressed a need for more Dads to become involved and participate at ACS to help set good role models for the students.

Misty mentioned that many employers are willing to donate money to ACS if the employee volunteers a certain amount of time at the school. For example, the Bayman Family’s employer will donate \$500 to ACS if they volunteer 40 hours of time at the school. Dennis Desormeaux stated that his company has the same policy, called “Time Share”.

Misty discussed the activation of a new perpetual way to support ACS. It is called the Learning Points Reward Program. This program is run by Les Krieger. This is not a fundraiser, nor is it a discount card. Each family at ACS would be given a tracking or membership card. This card would then be registered online. Once the card is registered you would simply swipe the card at participating local merchants, or give them your

- President's Report, cont'd.:**  
 telephone number, and make your purchases as usual. The participating merchants will then donate a pre-determined percentage of the sale back to ACS. There is also an online shopping center, which promotes many well-known national merchants, for all of your online needs. The students at ACS will benefit as well. As points are accrued on the tracking card, the students will earn points as well. These points can be used as cash at Walmart.com. This program does not cost the school or ACS families any money. These cards may be shared with family members. LPR will track the use of each card. This program requires a 3 year commitment from the school and periodic promotion.
- Communications Report:** Emily Ragan reported that there was no new news. However, she did mention that the PTO bulletin board is now split with the SAC.
- Social Report:** Laura Heese was not present at the meeting. However, it was reported that the teachers have stopped filling out the surveys. And the teachers stated that they have not received the surveys. This matter will be researched.
- Enrichment Report:** Meredith Jacobs reported that the Lego Class was going well, with one minor exception. The current instructor had a scheduling conflict and was in need of switching the class from Thursdays to Fridays. This did not work well for ACS. As a result, the Director of the Lego Engineering Class has volunteered to fill in. This is a full class with around 14 students.

The Dance class currently has 16 students enrolled. The students are learning a 50's style dance for the Soc Hop, with their performance to go on around 7pm.

Mad Science has a very small turn out, with only 5 students enrolled. This program's appeal seems to be waning as it has been repeated many times. It was decided that the PTO will look into a different science program for next year.

There has been an expressed interest from ACS families and staff in holding Summer Enrichment Camps at ACS. This would be a new program at ACS. The proposed camps would be held during the month of June, and possibly again during the 2 weeks before school starts to

- **Enrichment Report, cont'd.:**

help welcome the new families to ACS. Academy Kids are welcome to participate in these camps. The Lego Engineering Company has mentioned an interest in participating in these camps. Meredith Jacobs has volunteered to spearhead this effort.

Abakadoodle is currently in question for continuation. It was decided to offer the program during March 3<sup>rd</sup> thru April 14<sup>th</sup>, and if there is little to no response the program will be closed.

- **Fundraising Report:** Allyson Ford stated that there are still cookbooks available for purchase. The remaining books will be offered for sale at the Soc Hop. To date, the PTO has at least broken even with the current sales. Discussion of the total profit will be had with Bonnie Buckley at a later date, as she was not present at the meeting. It was reported that many families have not bought even one cookbook. It was suggested that the cookbooks be used to prepare meals for Teacher meals or bake sales to help promote sales.

The Soc Hop preparations are coming along. The Soc Hop is a school-wide and alumni event. All proceeds will be applied towards purchasing a new Science Curriculum. It will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm. The current ticket sales are around 30 families. Tickets are always on sale at the front desk. The current ticket price includes entrance to the event, dancing, Silent Auction, and a catered dinner. It was mentioned to have several students (possibly in 50's style costume) walk around to classes and help promote this event by encouraging their peers to join the fun. Allyson suggested having the older students, who are planning on attending, to give the younger students a free ticket or candy to help encourage more attendance. Dean Brown mentioned holding an assembly 1 week prior to the event for promotion purposes. It was discussed to approach ACS Alumni to help with the games. On the day of the event, ACS will hold a 50's Style Dress Down day. At the event, ACS will host a family door prize, catered dinner with your choice of hot dog or BBQ sandwich, DJ and dancing, cake walk, stuffed animal walk, Silent Auction, hula hoop contest, bubble blowing contest, root beer floats, and popcorn and cotton candy sales.

Castle Rock Press is currently working on an article to feature the ACS Anniversary and recognize our teachers. This article will run after the Soc Hop with pictures of the event to accompany.

- **Fundraising Report, cont'd.:**  
The 2010-2011 school year will highlight the first round of legacy students at ACS (children of ACS graduates).
- **SAC Report:** The SAC-PTO Representative, Laurel Johnson, was not present at the meeting. Robin Warnke, the SAC President, mentioned that the SAC is starting the process of looking at the SIP for next year. This will be a 3-4 month process.
- **Teacher Representative's Report:** The Elementary School rep, Tina Cook, had no new information to report.

The Middle School rep, Michelle Barrette, mentioned the upcoming Stucco Meeting which will run from February 16-19. She also discussed the current effort to donate to the Save the Children Haiti fundraiser. This will end on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Currently there is a clothing drive, which will benefit the Haiti relief effort. All clothing collected will be donated to a Mission through Kris Thiesen's church until the end of January.

- **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer, Bonnie Buckley, was not present at the meeting (proxy attached). Misty O'Leary reported that ACS has received about \$18,000 in donations thru the month of January.

Of the \$5,000 allotted for Teacher Scholarships, approximately \$1,400 has been spent. This equates to 7 teacher requests. This leaves a budget of \$3,500 in this

### **Treasurer's Report, cont'd.:**

year. Misty reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip does email the PTO board to check for fundraising conflicts. However, it was mentioned that they need to watch the wording of said fundraisers on flyers (needs to state for the benefit of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip only).

- **Dean's Report:** Dean Brown reported that we are currently working with the SAC to help promote the purchase of a new science curriculum. She stated that math scores have improved due to the PTO purchased new math curriculum. Currently, our science CSAP scores are not in good standing. ACS is only at a 50% rate compared to a 90% rate at American Academy Charter School. American Academy Charter School is rated as the top in the state for Science. ACS has sent teachers to several schools in the area to observe and research how well they are doing and what programs they teach with. Parent support of the PTO and it's fundraising efforts is needed to purchase said curriculum. The CSAP only tests the science category in grades 5, 8, and 10. Ideally, ACS would like to replace the entire K-8 science curriculum, but the lack of funds prevents this from happening. As funds come in, we will start with replacing the 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade science programs and work from there. This is where the need is the greatest. All of the current CSAP statistics are collected and produced by the SAC in a newsletter. Currently our science curriculum is over 10 years old and outdated. It was mentioned that the PTO consider a news blast referencing all of this data. It was also mentioned that the PTO consider posting, on large poster boards, the CSAP stats and scores at the Soc Hop.
- **New Business:** No new business to report.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm. End of meeting minutes. The next Working Meeting is to be held on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.