

## PTO General Minutes

November 19, 2009

Called to order at 5:05 pm

Held in the ACS Cafeteria

- **Board Attendance:** Misty O’Leary, Meredith Jacobs, Amy Lee, Michelle Barrett, Tina Cook, Bonnie Buckley, Emily Ragan, Deb Van Sicklin, Allyson Ford, Jeannie Reddan and Laura Heese (a quorum was present)
- **Additional Attendees:** Dean Brown, Dean Peters, Robin and Todd Warnke, Kathy Hedeem, Mary Anderson, Jon Hanger, Kim Blaner, Marcette Pore, Lori Parfitt, Beth Midolo, Michaela, Gauer
- Minutes from the September General Meeting were approved.
- **President’s Report:** Misty O’Leary reported that the by-laws are in process of being amended to reflect the formation of the Dad’s Club, which will run as a non-voting subcommittee of the PTO. These amended by-laws are to be voted on in January at the next meeting. We are currently looking for 1 dad to be the chair person.

We are currently working with the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip fundraising committee to streamline the fundraising process. From this point forward all fundraising monies collected by the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will be funneled through the PTO and reflected back to them as a single accounting system. The current by-laws are being amended to reflect this. They will be voted on in January at the next meeting.

*A unanimous vote was recorded to approve the amending of the current by-laws to include the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip as a subcommittee of the PTO.*

Misty discussed the upcoming PTO events. The Library Book Sale will run from November 30<sup>th</sup>-December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Taekwondo enrichment/fundraiser class, which will benefit the PE Dept., will start on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Pennies for Patients will start on February 1<sup>st</sup> (this is an enrichment program not a fundraiser). This will be facilitated by Mrs. Hollister. The sale of Spirit Wear will begin in January, (the Policy Committee formed a separate committee to sell ACS logoed spirit wear, consisting of long and short sleeved t-shirts. These will be sold for \$15 each and may be worn only on Fridays tucked into uniform pants).

- **Communications Report:** Emily Ragan discussed the PTO newsletter. It is going well and is looking great. She reminded the PTO Board to please turn in their items by the deadline discussed. Otherwise, there is no new news.
- **Social Report:** Laura Heese mentioned that the Grade Sponsored Teacher Breakfasts were fantastic. Each breakfast gets better and better. The last breakfast was completely run by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents, including the setup and cleanup. Laura and the PTO would like to express their gratitude to the parents and families who have contributed towards these breakfasts.
- **Enrichment Report:** Meredith Jacobs reported that the Mad Science Enrichment program was currently underway with 5 kids in attendance. She believes that the higher cost of the program was the cause of the low turn out.

During the run of the Abrakadoodle program, a 3 week closure was incurred due to sickness, miscommunication, and the snow closure. There was also a low turn out for this program due to high cost and it being a repeat program.

The Lego Engineering class will run from January 14<sup>th</sup>-March 4<sup>th</sup> with a cost of \$120 for the 8 week program.

Dance classes will be a possibility and will be held later in the year in conjunction with the Soc Hop.

- **Fundraising Report:** Allyson Ford reviewed the Otis Spunkmeyer fundraiser. She stated that it ran very smoothly and that we raised about \$5,000. Mrs. Fredrickson's class was awarded a pizza party for the most cookies sold.

The Anniversary Cookbook sales are reaching their deadline of November 20<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Delivery of December 18<sup>th</sup>. An email blast will go out school-wide with the cookbook information, order form and deadline. The student who sells the most cookbooks will win a Red Robin gift card. The Cookbooks can still be purchased throughout the school year as well.

On Elementary Testing Day, December 4<sup>th</sup>, coffee will be sold by the Funky Brewster from 9-11am.

- **Fundraising Report, cont'd.:** The Soc Hop planning committee will meet on December 6<sup>th</sup> for a brainstorming and planning session. Allyson and Deb are looking for parents to chair subcommittees under the Soc Hop umbrella. The subcommittees will include: silent auction, concessions, decorations, and entertainment (of which a DJ has already been obtained for \$270 and reflects a discount of \$200). The Soc Hop is to be held in February.

An Ice Cream Social will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm for the students of the families who made direct donations, in honor of their generosity.

- **SAC Report:** The SAC-PTO Representative, Laurel Johnson, was not present at the meeting. Robin Warnke, the SAC President, has agreed with Misty O'Leary to allow the PTO to always go first in the combined meetings. This was decided upon since the SAC usually needs more time to complete their meetings.
- **Dean's Report:** Dean Brown reported that the Home School program has a new location. They will be located at the New Hope Church. They will be moving into the new facility on November 24<sup>th</sup>. ACS is asking for volunteers to help with the move starting at 9am.

Mark Overmeyer, a published literacy teacher, made a return visit to ACS on November 10<sup>th</sup>. He visited with the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. The students are pumped about their writing. His visit was paid for by the PTO.

A Veteran's Day Celebration Assembly was held on November 11<sup>th</sup>. This was the first Veteran's Day Celebration and will continue to be a tradition at ACS. A retired Air Force veteran came and talked about his service. The students received this well.

Brown Bagging with the Dean is a big hit among the students. The kids are very interested in making a difference. The Middle School students requested a Student run store that would sell spirit wear, pencils, erasers and the like. This could be used as a fundraiser. The Middle School would also like an earlier start time, with their day running from 7:30 am to 2:30pm. The Kindergartners suggested selling fruit and their own art

work. A therapy dog was suggested by First Graders. The next brown bagging with the Dean will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- **Dean's Report, cont'd.:** ACS has 5 snow days built into the school year calendar. We have already used 3 of those days. If we are in danger of going over the allotted amount, ACS can eliminate some Teacher Work/In-service days in combination with extending the school year further into May (possibly until May 28).

A State of the School Finance Update will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm in the ACS gym. We will be discussing the methods needed to address the 6% funding cut ACS will experience this upcoming year. The 6% cut equals out to about cutting roughly \$400 per student. ACS is better off than most schools in the District. We are starting in the black before having to make cuts.

The Apple Awards are fast approaching. The deadline for submitting an ACS teacher for nomination is November 24<sup>th</sup>. Please visit <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef> to vote.

The Fall Survey results are in, and ACS achieved 75% survey results. This was the highest percentage achieved in 8 years. The students will receive an extra Dress of Choice Day.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the DCSD Board of Education meeting will be held in the Wilcox Bldg. at 7pm. The newly elected Board will be introduced. This new Board is charter friendly, which will bode well for ACS.

ACS will be hosting the annual Vision and Hearing Screening on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We need parent volunteers to assist with the screenings.

- **Teacher Representative Report:** The Elementary School rep, Tina Cook, had no new information to report.

The Middle School rep, Michelle Barrette, wanted to remind everyone about the upcoming Middle School dance.

- **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer, Bonnie Buckley, asked that when Teachers submit their special requests that they include shipping as a part of the total amount. Tax is not charged, if we use the school Tax ID number.

To date, the PTO has paid out monies to reimburse the following approved items: books for Mrs. Gauer, the Bullying program for the

- **Treasurer's Report, cont'd.:** 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders, the Geography books for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and the Middle School field trip to Colorado Springs.

Only a few of the Teacher Scholarships have been requested.

When collecting money during a fundraiser, make sure to use the provided forms. And when possible, separate the monies by grade level.

After the Thanksgiving holiday, a summary of costs and revenue will be uploaded to the ACS website.

The PTO is wrapping up the finances from last year. The hired firm filed an extension. When completed, the financial statements will be held in Barbara Ireland's office and will also be attached to the newsletter.

For direct donations, the PTO has received a \$500 corporate donation from United Launch Alliance, \$8,500 from 2 family foundations, and \$1,650 from ACS families. A new direct donation form will go home in Friday Folders shortly. To all families who have made direct donations, a thank you letter will go out and will serve for tax purposes as well. ACS will not make a formal public acknowledgement of these donations nor will host donation levels as we have done in the past.

- **New Business:** It was noted that when using the ACS discount code, ACHART, at Papa John's another coupon can not be used. Misty O'Leary will send an inquiry to the Papa John's rep regarding this. To date, the PTO has received no monies from this perpetual fundraiser.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm. End of meeting minutes. The next General Meeting is to be held on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.