

## PTO Working Minutes

February 25, 2010

Called to order at 3:59 pm

Held in Mrs. Cook's classroom

- **Board Attendance:** Misty O'Leary, Meredith Jacobs, Michelle Barrett, Tina Cook, Deb Van Sicklin, Allyson Ford, Laura Heese, Amy Lee, and Jeannie Reddan (a quorum was present)
- **Additional Attendees:** Mrs. McVicker
- Minutes from the January General Meeting to be approved at our next General meeting in April, as they were currently not ready for approval.
- Misty O'Leary reported that use of the Douglas County Educational Foundation Chapters Program needs to be approved or denied at this time. If the PTO signs with the DCEF, the PTO will no longer need to file separate tax returns. This will be done by DCEF. Under the DCEF, an insurance policy would be instated. This would help cover any liability issues with the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip and the like. On the downside, the PTO would lose the flexibility of writing our own checks. All checks would have to be requested in writing to the DCEF and then checks would be written upon approval. This creates a delay in getting checks out. In turn, this could create a potential problem during fundraising times. It was reported that the current contract with DCEF does not state how money will be handled and checks will be written. This poses a great concern to many on the PTO board. The PTO board discussed strong feelings against using the DCEF Chapters Program.

*A unanimous vote was recorded to deny the institution of the DCEF Chapters Program.*

In support of this denial, it was reported that the Governing Board has put in place an insurance policy that will include the PTO Executive Board and the Lifelong Learning Center Board. It was also noted that Meredith Jacobs recommends an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party that can prepare and file the necessary tax returns for a deeply discounted rate.

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 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. This will take time for the money to accumulate. For a vendor, there is a one time set up fee and a low monthly fee to participate.

Misty reported that Chad Mitchell of the Governing Board suggested another perpetual support program for ACS. It is run by Wells Fargo Bank. Wells Fargo Bank would agree to donate \$300 back to ACS for every refinancing or closing of a home made through their bank. It was agreed upon by the PTO Board to place this on our website and in email blasts, but not to make a push for promotion. The PTO Board believes that ACS families feel overwhelmed with all of the fundraiser/support programs available.

Misty stated that around \$9,500 was grossed at the Soc Hop. Not all of the expenses have been turned in; however we did pay out around \$1,865 to the caterer.

Misty addressed the subject of the amount of fundraisers held by the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip. Tina Cook mentioned that another teacher discussed the fact that the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip should hold their fundraisers outside of the school. This teacher, as well as many others, believes that these types of fundraisers, which only benefit the students who go on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip, take away from the PTO's fundraising efforts. Misty mentioned that the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip fundraisers have been pre-approved prior to the start of the school year. At this point, the PTO Board cannot make changes to this program; however the PTO Board will address these issues for next year. A limit will be assessed on the number of fundraisers held inside ACS to benefit the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington Trip.

- With the Spring Survey fast approaching, the PTO Board needs to develop around 5-10 questions. These questions are due to the Governing Board by March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please email Misty with any questions you would like placed on the survey.
- **Communications Report:** No new information to report as Emily Ragan, the Communications Chair, was not present at the meeting (proxy attached).
- **Social Report:** Laura Heese reported that the Teacher Breakfasts are fantastic and running smoothly. Currently there isn't any feed back coming in from the Teachers. As a result, Laura will determine the winner of the competition. She is keeping notes on what foods are coming in, and to what extent she is required to participate due to lack of parent involvement. So far, every grade has done a wonderful job. There are some ACS families that wish to participate in every Teacher Breakfast, whether or not it is their turn, as a way to fulfill their volunteer commitment. This is fine with the Social committee, and the Social chair emails these families personally to remind them of the upcoming event. During the December Teacher Breakfast, one family brought in presents for all of the ACS staff. At another Teacher Breakfast, one family asked to spearhead and plan the event, relieving the Social Chair of the duty. It was discussed that the competition portion of the Teacher Breakfasts may be eliminated for next year.
- **Enrichment Report:** Meredith Jacobs reported that the Lego Class was going well, and that the scheduling conflict has been resolved. The Lego Engineering Company again expressed an interest for doing a Summer Enrichment Camp.

The Dance class went well and the instructor was happy with the turn out.

Abakadoodle is currently being offered during March 3<sup>rd</sup> thru April 14<sup>th</sup>, however due to lack of interest it was decided to cancel the class. A cooking class is a possibility as a replacement for this program.

A BMX class was discussed as a possibility. The major issue with this program would be the liability to ACS. If this program comes to fruition, September is listed as a possible time line.

- **Fundraising Report:** Allyson Ford and Deb Van Sicklin reported that the Soc Hop was a great success. The DJ did an awesome job of getting people up and dancing. It was mentioned that this could be a permanent yearly fundraiser (with the era of dance to change, i.e. 70's, 80's, etc.), as long as the interest remains high. Some ACS families and teachers stated disapproval at having to pay an entrance fee. Allyson and the PTO Board believe strongly that a fundraising event will never be a free event. It was reported that many local schools always charge an entrance fee ranging from \$4 up to \$25.

Misty O'Leary and Allyson Ford attended a luncheon held by ABC Fundraising to find out more about their program. It was discussed that The Parker CORE Charter had raised \$20,000 through the ABC Fundraising program. Most schools in this program earn around \$20,000 to \$40,000 and hold only 2 fundraisers per year. ABC Fundraising program hosts all of the regular fundraisers; such as food sales, special gift sales, and flower sales, all included in one catalog. They also host a Santa's Workshop in December that acts like a store and sells gifts for the students to purchase for their parents. Each gift costs around \$3 to \$4. Kids can earn prizes based upon their sales. There is no upfront cost to ACS. The school has the potential to earn 50% of all sales, with the exception of the food sales which earns 40%. By signing on with ABC Fundraising, it would help to streamline our fundraising efforts and keep it consistent. If ACS commits to this program by March 1<sup>st</sup>, ABC Fundraising program will donate gifts to the teachers. In addition, whatever percentage a class earns in sales, the teachers earn the same percentage to use through the teachers reward catalog.

***A unanimous vote was recorded to proceed with commitment to the ABC Fundraising Program.***

In a side note, it was discussed during the Fundraiser Report whether or not the \$40,000 budgeted fundraising goal was for a new Science Curriculum for the school as a whole, or just for the Middle School only (specifically the 6<sup>th</sup> grade since CSAP testing is fast approaching). ACS plans to pilot 3 programs beginning in April.

- **SAC Report:** No new business to report, as the SAC-PTO Representative, Laurel Johnson, was not present at the meeting.
- The Elementary School rep, Tina Cook, had no new information to report.

- The Middle School rep, Michelle Barrette, will address the issue of who will benefit first from the new Science Curriculum.
- 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 as of last time the PTO met. Since then, ACS has received an additional \$4,000 in donations, specifically marked for snow removal. This brings our total in donations received to date to around \$21,000.

In a side note, it was discussed during the Treasurer’s Report that the Policy Committee approves the wearing of old Spirit Wear on Fridays along with the new Spirit Wear.

- : No new business to report, as the Deans were not present at the meeting.
- **New Business:** No new business to report.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm. End of meeting minutes. The next General Meeting is to be held on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm.