

South Anchorage High School PTSO
General Membership Meeting
September 7, 2023
Agenda

Attendance: Dr. Almon, Landon Forth, Jyll Green, Jennifer Wagner, Kim Leary, Jane Tuomi, Jayme Carr, Dane Senaga, Ethan Saephon, Kathleen Morre, Cristy Jensen, Jessica Michou, James Michou, Kendall Moore, Jen Torpy, Lori Hanna.

1. *Call to order*-6:02 p.m. Landon Forth, Introductions around the room, sign in sheet circulated.
2. *Approval of Minutes*
 - a. Approve May meeting minutes: motion to approve by Dr. Almond, seconded by Jane.
 - b. Approve August meeting minutes: motion to approve by Dr. Almond, approved by Jane.
3. *Principal's Report*
 - a. Upcoming event is Homecoming September 23. 1st game flag football 9am, varsity game against Bartlett midafternoon, two other games during the game. Dance 8-11pm. Guest passes available this week-turn into Mr. Ruggles.
 - b. Open house last week-less turnout than past few years.
 - c. October 12-big day for school district. "Community gathering" to integrate "life goals" and create the Career Academy program. Some students have been invited. Next year 6 period day yet considering lengthening number of periods to add electives-allows for more options for internships/dual college credit electives. Could be up to 8 periods to allow flexibility. All incoming freshmen will be enrolled in seminar course during first semester as an elective to aid transition from 8th to 9th grade—this will involve a career fair and a visit to UAA. Alaska studies will remain as it is required and will be taken in second semester, but ancient civilization will be phased out. More deliberate about grouping kids so they travel in similar cohorts. Freshman academy principal will be appointed. Career academies and pathways will be built in years to come. Need \$45m in federal grant funding to rebuild high schools-this will be announced September 30. This grant money will be directly allocated to this project—this money is distinctly separate from the school deficit. Ideal world—end up with certifications and/or college credits. Helps to build focus as you go along through high school. Dr. Almond spoke of personal experience talking to a similar pilot program and an arts program was a great prelude to many different careers. Video/web design, civic leadership, engineering, project design are different ideas. 4 Cs: "Career, college, civic leadership, (?)entrepreneur."
 - i. This program will work with community partners: United Way, UAA, King Career Academy, Anchorage Economic Development Association. These partners will be at the Alaska Airlines Center on Oct.12 for the community gathering.
4. *Teacher Representative Report*
 - a. Updating emails on web page-they have been removed.

- b. Social media has had a slow uptake, but Dane and Ethan are using Snapchat/Instagram. Following and reposting from other groups. They are posting every week about something. Dane said Snapchat is better for stories, but it deletes after 24 hours—tries to post something little most days—sports or other school events. Dane said sporting groups could reach out to him, so he gets notifications to post.
 - i. Need to get various sports boosters to notify Teacher Rep/Dane about their games. Teacher Rep will notify the various coaches of availability of advertising games and events.
 - ii. Ethan and Rebecca can post on Instagram/FB about upcoming events. Dane will post about immediate happenings.
- c. Zen zone sponsored by PTSO-it was fantastic.
- d. Sent notification to teachers today to encourage joining PTSO.
 - i. Landon wants teachers to be able to come to PTSO to ask for grants and be involved.
 - ii. PTSO is focused on student/student experience. Reiterated that we are here to support the students during their school experience.
- e. Fantastic start to the school years. Calm, students are engaging with one another. Thinks that new cell phone rule is helping with increasing engagement. Students are communicating via a shared Google document.
 - i. Dr. Almond notes decrease in blue passes. No more blue passes last 30 minutes of the school day.
 - ii. Vaping in the bathrooms is decreased-thinks it is harder to coordinate without cell phones.

5. *Officer Reports*

a. *President's Report*

- i. Kudos to those who helped with ice cream social. Attendees were happy to be there.
- ii. Open house-he was unable to attend. Shout out to Courtney to pitch PTSO to attendees of open house.
- iii. Work on our PTSO group mission. Get feedback from parents and students to see how we can help.
- iv. Thanks to parent and student attendees at meeting for attending and participating.
- v. You can reach Landon best by text.
- vi. He will reach out to Kim to discuss website edits (Kim's husband redesigned our PTSO website). Need to push out PTSO website—there is a chat/question box on the PTSO website. Dr. Almond offered to send out a quick blurb on the weekly to pitch PTSO.

b. *Treasurer's Report*

- i. Estimates for a lot of things on the budget as "Square" has had an outage all day.

- ii. \$29k available for grants to go out this year. So far only a few hundred dollars sent out this year. Last year we had a lower budget and few people applied for grants.
- iii. We have had a few hundred dollars in donations.
- iv. Memberships has brought in \$1200.
- v. \$5000 in spirit wear.
- vi. \$5000 in school store food.
- vii. Charging a nominal school store transaction fee for credit card transactions (\$0.10).
- viii. \$300 for staff breakfast at school start.
- ix. Purchased new tablet to work with Square.
- x. Bank balance about \$30,000.
- xi. Discussion
 - 1. Dr. Almond recommended a table at the game entrance at the gate house to encourage PTO membership/donations. Michelle Hawkins/new teacher Niko will be there all day to help. Noon-2pm is the lead up to the varsity game. Mr. Ruggles to talk about table.
 - 2. Ethan requested explanation of what types of things that students could apply for grants.

6. *Committee Reports*

- a. Senior Events—no report yet.
- b. School Store
 - i. Doing well. Added \$0.10 swipe fee and only one complaint. Added string cheese and teriyaki chicken bowl and compasses (\$2.00).
 - ii. Jen/Laura really helped with upgrading the overall look of the store.
 - iii. Mr. Rutherford (Ravens Ring Brewing)offered to donate root beer/cream soda if we wanted to invest in a kegerator and clear cups/lib (anticipated total spend \$600). Sell for \$2.50. We could make \$2000 off a whole beverage keg.
 - 1. Dr. Almond OK'd the sale of sugared beverages. The distiller can control the sugar content.
 - 2. Landon asked for a write up on the cost/benefit.
 - iv. Increase in number of school store parent volunteers. Looking at student volunteers to help with school store (National Honors Society and Key Club). Sometimes students in detention will come to help. Considering a sign-up genius for student volunteers.
- c. Spirit Wear: Lora (not present) has ordered a few new things for spirit wear. Will have spirit wear for sale a few days of the week of Homecoming. Working on a new long sleeve shirt. Can order online and it will be available to pick up at lunch time. Table at Varsity homecoming game.
- d. Membership
 - i. Goal was 100% membership. We aren't there. 144 members last year, this year 167 members. Family membership option is a good option.
 - ii. Thank you to volunteers. 22 members have been cleared to serve as volunteers. 17 have said they wanted to volunteer. Need to vet all volunteers. Jane will

email all approved parent volunteers to let them know they have been approved.

1. Dr. Almond offered that he could make IDs for approved volunteers.

7. *Old Business*

- a. Upcoming events: Website is not up to date. List usual events without dates for now but add dates as they become firm.
- b. All school breakfast needs to be scheduled for December 15. Friday assembly time works well-set up on Thursday evening, so we don't have to set up on weekends.
- c. One pending grant request on Google drive on 8/16/23 from Collin Eli for School Life Skills to help teach students with cognitive deficits to help with community outings.
 - i. Dr. Almond will reach out to clarify about the outing.
 - ii. We can vote over email.

8. *New Business*

- a. Information dissemination to members and volunteers—need a volunteer to lead this.
- b. Social media. As above in teacher report.
- c. Membership/donation drive idea for October/November (see second page).
 - i. Membership drive in October (see attachment at end of agenda)—every day in October. Notify winners on Social Media only? Reached out to 15-20 local businesses for gift cards. Have a drawing every single day to give out a daily gift card—all people who are members would be automatically entered. One entry for every \$10 donated via membership or additional funds given. Can use South High buffs as filler gifts.
 1. Email possible businesses for donations to Jane.
- d. Fund Raising
 - i. Landon recommended starting up a fundraising committee. Landon will write up an email requesting a committee of parents to work on fundraising.
 - ii. Consider sponsoring a color run.
 - iii. Jane will send email list of members to Landon.
 - iv. Will discuss more ideas at next meeting.
 - v. Will work with Lora on homecoming table.
- e. Other
 - i. How to increase attendance at meetings-Landon tabled for next meeting.
 - ii. Send website idea/edits to Landon.
 - iii. Need a chair for the parent teacher conference dinner (Wednesday evening, October 25). Landon will send this out in a volunteer opportunities email.
 - iv. Courtney wanted to discuss having us sell water/snacks at homecoming dance. ROTC sold drinks last year, but the line was outrageous. People were complaining about the lack of water. Need to sell for \$1 a bottle. Dr. Almond OK'd opening something up. ROTC asked to be more involved with PTSO. Landon will reach out to the Colonel. Need to be sure we aren't stepping on ROTC toes by selling water. We could open the school store. Easton and Miller

are in charge of school dance. Setting up a “cooling off” zone at bus entrance—
might be a good area to sell water with a trash can.

9. *Announcements*-None, covered above.

10. *Adjourn* 7:30 Motioned by Dr. Almond, seconded by Jyll Green.

South PTSO October Membership/Donation Drive

31 days of prizes. Enter as many times as you want.

Single Membership = \$10 = 1 entry

Family Membership = \$20 = 2 entries

Donation = 1 entry for every \$10. (e.g., \$60 Donation = 6 entries)

Automatic entries if you have joined or donated for the 23-24 year. If you want to increase your chances, you can add an additional donation.

Memberships and donations will be added before the next day's drawing. If you join PTSO on October 3, you will be added to the October 4 drawing and your entry will remain in the drawing through October 31 (unless that entry is drawn for a prize).

List of prizes (and winners of prizes) will be posted on Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and PTSO Website.

Need:

Donations - Gift cards or cash (\$25, \$50, \$100 . . .)

Needed help:

Draw winner!

Post on social media

Get entries in for the next day (Jane - Cheddar Up, School Store entries?)

Give prize - Pick up at school store during lunch (separate cash box)

Receipt for 501c donation?