

South Anchorage High School PTSO
General Membership Meeting
July 31, 2024
Ravens Ring Brewing
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Dr. Almon, Landon Forth, Amber Forth, Jyll Green, Jennifer Wagner, Kim Leary, Jayme Carr, Jerrett Boling (parent), Neil (parent), Lee Butterfield, Rebecca Tyler.

1. *Call to order*-6:09 pm by Landon Forth.
2. *Approval of Minutes*
 - a. None to approve. Kick off meeting for 2024-25 school year.
3. *Principal's Report—Dr. Almon*
 - a. Schedule for beginning of school year
 - i. 8/12: Teachers arrive
 - ii. 8/13: Annual ice cream social 5-7pm, have your own adventure, walk schedule, meet coaches. Show up 4:30 to volunteer, set up coolers at entrances and at school store entrance. Luke can buy the ice cream. Costco business could deliver and store in freezers.
 - iii. 8/15: Freshman first day. Agenda for this day that is not curricular, meet staff and do 10 min at each class. Talk about credits, cell phone policy, communicating with teachers, using canvas.
 - iv. 8/16: School starts for everyone.
 - v. 8/29: Open House.
 - vi. 3rd week of September is homecoming.
 - b. New Cell Phone policy. Cell phones: none in classroom or hallways but can use at lunch and at passing. Kim noticed some were using Apple Watch to cheat. Teacher prerogative to take watches. No headsets. Students are 90% on track to graduate-attributes partially to cell phone policy. Exceptions for phone based needs to accommodate.
 - c. Staff vacancies: 2 teaching (science and special education) and 9 paraprofessional vacancies.
 - d. Gained an additional assistant principal due to the academies, which is great. Three total-one dedicated to freshman.
 - e. Next fall, each assistant principal will oversee one academy. 10-12th grade optional academies remain and won't be eliminated. UAA will be more involved for dual enrollment options.
4. *Teacher Representative Report—Kim Leary*
 - a. Bleachers are at the school and ops is coming out to build them. Ready for homecoming game. Yay! Plan to make sure PTSO gets thanked at the games along with The Jensens and Span Alaska.

Consider banner: Thanks to PTSO, Football Booster, and Span Alaska. Consider halftime thanks. Take picture of team on the bleachers, frame and send to Span Alaska.

- b. Ask to save \$1k or so a year towards concrete pads for the bleachers. Explore company that would offer offsets. Get bids and create a plan. Luke says we need to fill out a school-initiated project. Must use school approved contractor-they might get the bids. Goes through risk management and eventually gets approved.
- c. Social accounts are doing well. IG is doing the best and other schools are reposting our posts.
- d. Website is ready to go, review, and send any edits.
- e. Zen Zone teacher moved. Trying to get sunshine committee to take over. Or Shelly has been volunteered.
- f. Chemistry teacher needed a filter for her chemistry lab (tool to measure water deionization).

5. *Officer Reports*

- a. President's Report-Landon Forth
 - i. Sign checks at end of meeting today.
 - ii. Jane Tuomi has resigned. Nikki Marshall is her replacement for membership.
 - iii. Jennifer Torpey (sp?) doing all school breakfast.
 - iv. All board members from last year were voted back in for this year.
 - v. Goals and planning and fundraising goals for next year-table until next year.
 - vi. Thank you card or certificate to prior board members (Jayne and Colleen). Landon will create the certificate-Dr. A recommends reaching out to teachers with 3D printers to create a plaque.
 - vii. Meeting dates, times, location discussion: Wed or Thurs work best for Dr. A. Discussed and decided 1st Wednesday of every month at 6:00 at Ravens Ring. Next meeting September 4, 6:00 pm.
- b. Treasurer's Report-Jennifer Wagner
 - i. Under budget for clothing but over budget for school store. Teachers buy most of the items and get a discount.
 - ii. Proposed budget for this year. Kept most similar to 2023-24. Increased income expectation to align with last year's earnings. Budgeted less for purchasing spirit wear. Online store gives the school sports a benefit.
 - iii. Grant fund remained the same as last year-\$28,500.
 - iv. We can fund deionizer for chemistry teacher anytime.
 - v. We have a Costco credit card now. Had to pay credit card bill because check wasn't clearing, and Jennifer didn't want a late payment. Needs reimbursement.
 - vi. Biennial report for the State of Alaska due soon. Check online.
 - vii. Freshman shirts/welcome gifts purchased. Every student is getting a lanyard and shirt from the academies grant.

6. *Committee Reports*

- a. Senior Events
 - i. Christy offered to continue in this role.
- b. School Store

- i. New school store website. Jayme to send links. Kim asked to stock notebooks, pencils, and compasses.
 - ii. Needs new water tank-would like to order two water tanks for the commons. Each tank is 100 cups each, \$430 total for two. They use this for hot water for noodle bowls. Approved to order.
 - iii. One of the carts has a broken wheel. Might need a new cart of wheels she bought don't work. \$80 if she needs to buy new cart. Cart holds microwave.
 - iv. School store items delivered 8/13, maybe before.
 - v. Made new school store signup sheet. Hoping for more parent involvement. Three volunteer sign ups per day. One student and one training. This works for student volunteer hours. This could be helpful for business academy hours that are needed.
 - c. Spirit Wear
 - i. Lora Huston will run spirit wear store by herself. It will be open 8/13. She will have items delivered on 8/13 so it's there for the ice cream social.
 - d. Membership
 - i. Jane has resigned. Nikki Marshall is new chair for membership, but on vacation this week. Thanks Nikki!
 - ii. Email went out with reminder for parents to join PTSO.
 - e. Student Report—Rebecca Tyler
 - i. Limited social media posting this summer, but updates will start posting now. Encourages all members and parents to follow and share with friends.

7. *Old Business*

- a. None other than deionizer for chemistry room.

8. *New Business*

- a. Jarrett, parent who is interested in the academies. He listened to a lot of the work sessions. He spoke during the approval meeting. Apparently little feedback from students. Questions: staffing and budget were main concerns. He is concerned about schedule and what that looks like. He sees merit to the program. 60% don't go to post-secondary education. ASD went to Nashville to review what was being done there-their graduation rate reportedly went up dramatically, but he reviewed the data and didn't find that to be true. He hopes that parents and teachers and board have a clear understanding about the program. His concerns are surrounding implementation in Anchorage and wonders if this will increase graduation rates. He wonders about teaching hour requirements here-Nashville increased by 140 hours for the academy program.
 - i. Dr. Almon reply: Current grad rates at South in the 80%. Staffing is his concern. And funding. One time funding from the gov went into savings.

9. *Announcements*—Next meeting September 4 at 6pm at Ravens Ring in upstairs room.

10. *Adjourn*—7:48pm.