

South Anchorage High School PTSO
General Membership Meeting
October 2, 2025
@Raven's Ring Brewing
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Dr. Almon, Jennifer Wagner (treasurer), Landon Forth (president), Aubrey Forth (student rep), Amber Forth (spirit wear), Courtney Luff, Shelley Cooper (teacher/student govt), Jennifer Torpy, Amanda Johnson, Hillary Hansen (student), Monica (student), Laurie Hanna, Janelle Walton (teacher), **need roster from Landon.**

Apologies: Jyll Green.

1. *Call to order*- 6:05 by Landon Forth.
 - a. Introductions around the table. OWL utilized for this meeting.
2. *Approval of Minutes*
 - a. Approved September meeting minutes.
3. *Principal's Report*
 - a. Recognize success of homecoming events this year. Everything went off mostly without a hitch. Big success.
 - b. Latest challenge-grant that was funding Anchorage Academies was cancelled by the Federal DOE. Each school's academy coach is no longer being paid out of that grant as all monies have a deadline for spending. Meeting upcoming 10/28 to discuss funding for this position for the next 5 months. This position will likely cease to exist by end of year. South has invested \$40k in academic support. Lots of extracurricular activities will be stopped (field trips, etc.). School board will need to fund through general fund or cancel initiative.
 - c. Class size and physical size of classrooms makes it not feasible to increase student-teacher ratio. Anticipate bump in enrollment at South for next year, which Dr. A. anticipates increasing ratios.
 - d. Parent teacher conferences are on October 23.
 - e. In November Dr. Almon is headed with Jenn Neff, math teacher, to watch Jenn present at a conference at Yale. This was funded by the Yale Endowment.
 - f. Next week there will be announcements of potential school closures. Ask to make your voice heard at the school board meetings.
 - g. South has invested \$40k in academic support.
4. *Teacher Representative Report—Kim Leary*
 - a. Grant request: Ms. Walton, art teacher, runs art club. They are trying to start a national art honor society. There is a community service element for the NAHS. There is a fee to be part of the NAHS, student dues are \$5 which doesn't cover the fees and costs associated with the community service projects. They are trying to create large accordion boards to display art, and they cannot use

student supplies. They are looking at creating an “art pen pal” group with Oceanview Elementary. They are requesting \$500 in seed funding for the art display project. Kim Leary recommends increasing grant to \$1000. All approved and none opposed.

- b. Grant request: YANA (you are not alone) is a club at South, overseen by Sara Miler. They have done one event where students signed a pledge to look out for their fellow classmates. Looking for grant funding to host additional events in the future-hoping for monthly events with snacks and doing a craft project to build community in the school. They also want to bring back movie nights-YANA has supported this in the past. They are also looking to have sweatshirts made with the YANA logo to build awareness. Kim Leary is asking about movie licensing. Kim also asked about selling the YANA sweatshirts in the school store. Clarified that they were looking for sweatshirts for existing club members and then will sell them later when awareness and interest have built up. Asking for \$500 seed funding plus movie licensing fees. Landon recommends covering the movie licensing fee for all South High. Jennifer Wagner states that this historically has cost \$500 annually. Kim Leary makes a motion to give the YANA club \$1000, seconded by Landon Forth; all approved. YANA club is requesting to purchase and be reimbursed.
- c. Grant request: Amanda Johnson, teacher biology and marine science. She would love to bring hydroponics to her biology class at South. The system she has experience in is low maintenance and self-efficient. The system can grow 30 plants. She wants to use these plants to have salad eating days in class and offer others in the school to come have salad lunch. The system will last for years with just replacement cost of plant starters. Kim Leary recommends adding a sign on the system stating donated by PTSO. Cost is \$1987 now with subsequent start kits at a very low cost of a few hundred dollars max. Kim Leary makes a motion to approve, seconded by Courtney; all approved. PTSO will buy outright.
- d. Grant request: Logan Guese, student. He is a senior and is a tremendous student for the Eco Friends Club. Requesting \$200 to put recycling bins in classrooms for aluminum cans and plastic bottles. There are recycling bins in the rooms, but they are for everything and they get smelly. Concern presented that funding request is too low. Kim will ask Logan for more information and ideas and actual product/cost requested.
- e. Jennifer Torpy needs some things laminated. She spoke with Shelley about this-one of Shelley's students can design this and then discuss further with Kim.
- f. Teacher union is going through negotiations and things aren't going well. Teachers that Kim interacts with are excited about going on strike. They are currently in non-binding arbitration. If this arbitration effort fails, they move to strike. They could “walk the line” in 6 months.

5. Student Report

- a. Aubrey states she was asked if PTSO wants to have a trunk at the trunk or treat event. Kim offered her van for the event. Event is 10/27 on a Monday night 6:30-8pm. Kim also offered to be the adult present. Requesting \$300 budget for candy and decorations. Kim will put up the membership banner as well to encourage membership/donations. Kim made a motion to approve and Jennifer seconded; all approved.
- b. Peer mentoring is doing a movie night on 10/17. No fee for movie but will sell concessions. Sharing this responsibility/profit with YANA club. Ask to use the PTSO square meter for concessions. Jennifer said it is possible to use this and send collected funds back to the peer mentoring/YANA club-she creates an account for them and recommends adding a user fee to each transaction to cover credit card fees. Recommend advertising to Goldenview.

- c. She has been making TikToks. Had 1.6k views for the tailgate TikTok, which is great. Still doesn't have sign in information for Facebook. Katana has the login information for the Facebook account.

6. *Officer Reports*

- a. President's Report
 - i. Need to approve meeting minutes from September meeting. Need to change month to August-states April. All approved meeting minutes.
 - ii. Homecoming-sold SWAG and there was a lot of buzz in the air, and everyone was upbeat and supportive.
- b. Treasurer's Report
 - i. Insurance renewal and business license should trickle in soon. Also need to complete corporate taxes soon.
 - ii. The school store continues to do well. Landon is happy about the addition of the credit card transaction fee.

7. *Committee Reports*

- a. Senior Events
 - i. No report.
 - ii. Requesting banners to hang at all PTSO events. We have already printed banners per Kim with membership QR codes. Asking for just a SOUTH PTSO banner-preferably a vinyl banner. Requesting 1x8' and Kim will have this made.
- b. School Store
 - i. Ordered carts to help get microwaves out instead of using the tables.
 - ii. Continue to bring in new items.
 - iii. Student Jack volunteered at school store to see what was involved. They plan to have student government help in a few weeks to see how this would work as a fund-raising option for that group. Landon states there is no rush to get student govt in the store-recommends taking our time to organizing it and see how it works out. Goal is to have assistance with the running of the store.
- c. Spirit Wear
 - i. Open house resulted in \$2000 in sales over 2 hours. Also did another \$2000 at (?) event as well. Ordered scarves and working on mittens and reordering mountain hoodies. Looking for approval of a donation of \$50 for "door prize" apparel for 7 months (total of \$350) at the PTSO meetings. Motion by Landon and seconded by Jennifer Torpy, all approved.
- d. Membership
 - i. Difficult to hear on meeting audio...Discussed keeping track of year of membership as right now it is difficult to tell. Banners with QR codes have been helpful at getting people to register as PTSO members. Discussed upcoming membership drive and getting business donations. Kim Leary needs list of members and prizes so she can start drawing names for prizes. Aubrey will be in charge of a silent auction on conference day.

8. *Old Business*

- a. On hold.

9. *New Business*

- a. Landon is not available for next meeting (along with a few others).

10. *Announcements*—Next meeting on Monday November 3 at 6:00 p.m. at South H204.

11. *Adjourn*—Motion to adjourn by Landon Forth at 7:52 p.m.

**Meeting minutes were scribed from the Zoom audio recording with some challenges of background noise during meeting—Jyll Green.

Treasurer's Report