South Anchorage High School PTSO
General Membership Meeting
August 11, 2026
@Raven's Ring Brewing + OWL
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Dr. Almon, Courtney Luff, Kim Landry, Jennifer Wagner (treasurer), Anika Schmidt (Student rep), Van Angel (student rep), Shelley Cooper, Jennifer Torpy, Jyll Green (secretary), Cristy Jensen, Carla Woods, Joseph Tied (teacher), Jared Ricker (cafeteria staff).

Apologies: Kim Landry.

1. *Call to order*- 6:08 by Courtney Luff

2. *Approval of Minutes*
    a. Approval of May meeting minutes. Motion to approve Kim Leary, Seconded by Courtney Luff
3. *Principal's Report*
    a. Student schedule has changed 3 times. Pushed Back to School night to September 2 to accommodate the ever-changing schedule.
    b. 3.3 FTE back (originally lost 4, ½ a counselor, and Mr. Overgaard's position). Dr. Overgaard is back. Hired a German teacher who has intermediate level German, but it is great to be able to offer this language. The German teacher will also teach English courses which will help lower English 1 and English 4 enrollment numbers to the lower 30s (better than 40). Still trying to find ½ counselor roll. Chemistry teacher was put back due to very large class sizes.
    c. Almost all of support for most of the at-risk students is gone. Paraprofessional roles are gone. No technology professional. Curriculum secretary is gone and duties will be absorbed by another full-time person.
    d. Homecoming is September 26.
    e. Reading block is not moving forward-it was an 80/20 vote in support. He will continue to encourage teachers to adopt the reading block and hopefully this will be more traction down the road.
    f. Dr. Almon can change the bell schedule to accommodate any changes that are necessary throughout the year.

4. *Teacher Representative Report—Kim Leary*
    a. Joseph Tied teacher has been hired for indigenous education at South. This is his first-year teaching at the high school level. He is very excited to bring this curriculum to South. He would like to know what he can do to best help the students. He has a grant to develop cultural pride. He states sometimes our Alaska Natives are reluctant to identify Alaska Native. He is here to promote college attendance, develop story telling about their heritage, and educate the student/teacher

body about the Alaska Native culture. Suggestion from Kim Leary to bring in Native Olympic sports. Dr. Almon recommends bringing in Native dancers or a cultural food potlock. Kim also recommends having a fashion show or make your own Eskimo Ice Cream for lunch. Suggest that every Tuesday could be Traditional Tuesday for those in Kuspuks or Native Wear and gift $5 gift cards to the school store or candy. Student Anika recommends guest speakers and students who attend will often receive extra credit. Kim suggested maybe having a Kuspuk making class.

b. Kim will send out email notifying teachers that they can apply for 5 x $5 PTSO donated gift cards to the school store.
c. Needs March and May meeting minutes to post. Kim Leary posts them monthly to the website.
d. Kim has been updating the PTSO website. Needs to update the school store sign up. Plan to have meeting first Thursday of every month.
e. Vicky Kearn is no longer teaching at South this year. She was responsible for advertising Bo Seward Award and organizing review committee. Kim will update website to state the contact person is TBD. Dr. Almon recommends tapping into the English 4 teachers to spread the word to the students to apply. This will need to be decided by February.
f. Need to update three pieces of paper: Contact form for the PTSO, Emails to be provided on the PTSO, Annual calendar of events.
g. Math department submitted a grant. Kim Leary has signed up for her annual membership. Wants to replace aging tech-their current ipads will be obsolete. They are asking for 3 ipads this year and will ask for 3 ipads next year. They were priced at $449 each. Total of $1347. Their Apple Pencils previously provided by the PTSO still work. They are asking that PTSO write a check to the school and the school will order. Courtney made a motion to approve, seconded by Jennifer Torpey. All approved. Courtney will write the check tonight and give it to Dr. Almon and Dr. Almon will get this going tomorrow.

5. *Student Report*
    a. Will thank Span Alaska for donating hundreds of dollars in shipping for South Spirit Wear on social media.
    b. Anika is still a huge advocate of the reading block to start the day. She thinks it is important to stop and enjoy the moment without other distractions. Recommends against cutting passing period time.
    c. Anika did promote the meeting on IG today. Van was unable to log into Facebook but will work through this with Kim Leary next week.
    d. Van is in support of using food to lure students into events. Kim recommended he write grants to the PTSO!
    e. Kim will send link to sign up for PTSO to students once that is available for 26-27 years.
6. *Officer Reports*
    a. President's Report
        i. Approval of the board as presented on the agenda. President: Courtney Luff, Vice President: Carla Wood, Treasurer: Jennifer Wagner, Secretary: Jyll Green. Dr. Almon made a motion to approve. Second, by Kim Leary. None opposed.
        ii. Carla Woods needs to be added to bank account. Need to remove Landon Forth. Recommend adding Treasurer Jennifer Wagner to be on the account, but we will need to update the bylaws first. We need to add our bank account number to the minute meetings to get additional signers approved: account # 1700047390744.

iii. Ask of the board by Courtney to update the bylaws and get them approved.
iv. Make sure that we renew our memberships on Cheddar Up (in one week).
v. Staff breakfast—need to approve this. August 14 for $850 for Pepperoncini and Kaladi's for coffee. Kim Leary makes a motion to approve, Courtney seconds. All approved. Courtney will write checks when she receives receipts.
vi. Paid $315 for keychains at the end of last year.
vii. Reimbursed $385 to Civic Leadership group.
viii. Requests help with making a few banners/signs. Shelley said she will get them done through KingTech. The banners about joining PTSO are still around and one is hanging above the school store.
ix. Freshman BBQ-AFD will provide BBQ (Landon Forth is helping to organize on AFD side-thank you Landon).
x. Back to school night is September 2 from 6-7:30. Will sell spirit wear and encourage PTSO membership.

b. Treasurer's Report
i. Last year more income than budgeted. We did end up spending our entire grant fund and funded extra for staff appreciation. We still carried over $27k from last year (over budget).
ii. School store rev went from $65k proposed to $73k actual and proposed increasing to $84k anticipated this year.
iii. We ordered spirit wear last year and have paid a deposit. Unsure of how much more is owed to restock spirit wear that was purchased.
iv. Receipt came in from Span Alaska to ship spirit wear. Span Alaska ended up offering to pay for shipping as a gift to South PTSO. Thank you, Span Alaska!
v. Mini grant fund will be $46k ish for this school year.
vi. Added an advertising fund this year and movie license. Recommendation to remove line items for Senior Night of Inspiration as this has not been used in years as well as Emergency Preparedness-none opposed.
vii. We purchased a bunch (thousands) of Mylar blankets years ago. Dr. Almon said they could be moved into a warehouse for emergency gear. Another suggestion to gift to teachers to put in their welcome bag in case of emergencies.
viii. Dr. Almon motioned to approve the budget. Courtney Seconded. All approved of 2026-27 PTSO budget.

7. Committee Reports

a. Senior Events
i. None to discuss today.

b. School Store
i. Carla states a big delivery shows up this Friday. Replaced a few carts this year. Will get organized this Friday with Jennifer Wagner's help. Courtney and Jennifer Torpy offered to help and requested a text when the Costco order shows up. She will go tomorrow to wipe things down and turn on the fridges.

c. Spirit Wear
i. Jennifer Torpy will meet with Amber Forth (outgoing spirit wear extraordinaire) on Saturday to go through a few things and get set up on the square device.

ii. Goal is to have spirit wear available at more events. There are some t shirts that won't sell because something spilled on them-they have all been washed. Shelley requested they be donated to Student Govt for student body events as give aways.

iii. Student survey recommended a lot of changes. Dr. Almon states he has access to high-quality graphics that can be used for student spirit wear. This will ensure all spirit wear meets school standards as well.

d. Membership

i. No report except new link to sign up for PTSO will be available next week and broadcasted.

8. *Old Business*
    a. None

9. New Business
    a. None

10. Announcements—Next meeting Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 6 pm at Ravens Ring Brewing Company.

11. *Adjourn*—Motion to adjourn by at 7:22 p.m. by Jyll Green, seconded by Courtney Luff.

Treasurer's Report