

Avondale Mustang P.T.O Minutes

Meeting date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Attended by: Cynthia Tacheny, Lateacha Allums-Carr, Andrea Yamarino, Juli Drake, Sheila Denstaedt, Debbie Johnson, Jen Henry, Robin Bovensiep

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Henry at 6:05 p.m.

Principal's Report: There was no Principal's Report to be given.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the August 13, 2019 meeting were submitted. They were approved by Andrea Yamarino and seconded by Jen Henry. They will be submitted to Ms. Zaremba to be posted on the district website as well as posted on the PTO bulletin board. It was also noted that anything that would need to be submitted for the weekly Friday AMS newsletter would need to be in by Wednesday.

It was noted that Curriculum Night went smoothly and was very informative. It was suggested that next year the PTO does not sell shirts at this time so that PTO members are able to participate in curriculum night.

Treasurer's Report: The current account balance will be \$8,747.69 after the concessions/Mustang Mania purchase from Sam's Club clears. A deposit on 9/16/19 was from Kohl's Benevity fund. They donated \$500 along with providing 5 employees to help volunteer at last spring's Eighth Grade Celebration. A total of \$543.46 was spent on supplies that were given to teachers and staff during a team building district tour at the end of August. AMS teachers and staff toured the district on school buses so that they could become familiar with the area that their students come from. They made stops at Graham and Auburn Elementary schools and where PTO members gave them gifts such as post-its, pens, markers, etc.

Appreciation Committee Report: A variety of goodies were set up for teachers and staff on the first day of school. It included leftover supplies from the school bus tour as well as apples and other snack foods. Custodial Appreciation Day (10-2) and Principal and Assistant Principal Day (10-16) are coming up. We will also be sticking to dates on the district calendar the other appreciation dates throughout the year. PTO will not do Board of Education appreciation, however, as that is done by the teachers.

Beautification Committee: Cynthia Tacheny volunteered to help with this. It mainly involves keeping up the front entry way (woodchips, pots, flowers, etc.). Student council and NJHS students can also be called upon to help with these tasks.

Concessions Committee: Items were purchased to sell at upcoming fall sports events. It was decided that the PTO will not sell at football games due to Little League already using the concession booth during that season. We will sell at Girls Basketball, but we will need help finding volunteers. Juli will draft a letter for basketball parents and Robin will create a Sign-up Genius to notify parents of the need for volunteers.

Box Tops: Box Tops is done mostly via app now, however we will still turn in clipped Box Tops. Juli will find out the co-ordinator login information. Sheila also volunteered to help. We need to put information in the newsletter so families know we collect these. Spirit Wear is still available on-line for purchase,

however it is hard to get that information to families even via newsletter. It was suggested that maybe a monthly "PTO newsletter" be put together. Benefit Mobile was also discussed as being a good "passive" fundraiser. This app has more potential to earn money than Box Tops, we just need to get parents to use it.

Class Color T-shirt update: These were sold during registration as well as two days during lunch on 9/10 and 9/12. We have 283 shirts left out of the original 770 that we started with. Many of the leftovers are 8th grade red shirts, 2XL sizes, and yellow and purple shirts. We will have them at conferences as well as conference night. We will also sell shirts at sports concessions. We need to sell approximately \$800 more worth of shirts to break even. We will revisit donating leftover shirts to Gift of Giving at the next meeting.

Positivity Project update: We are still waiting on information as far as getting t-shirts ordered for the Positivity Project. Shirts were originally wanted to be purple and yellow to align with school colors, however, the Positivity Project requires them to remain their design colors of green and white. We will need to send a form home with students in to order shirts. We will need more information on cost and design before proceeding.

Halls of Halloween: Susan Good is still coordinating the event this year. It would be helpful for someone to shadow her this year since this will be her last year chairing the event. It was suggested that the raffle tickets sold during the event be organized a bit differently this year, as last year the lines were long for purchasing raffle tickets. We may consider setting up a few raffle ticket selling stations throughout the event. It was also determined not to have pizza for sale this year. Last year it did not sell well and was not worth the effort.

Fundraising Ideas: The Color Run initially planned for this fall has been taken off the calendar. It was determined that the initial company that was being looked at took too high of a percentage of the money students brought in.

A Ninja Warrior Course type fundraiser may be planned for the spring. The idea is similar to a Fun Run where students collect pledges for doing an inflatable obstacle course. They receive prizes based on how much money that they collect. Students typically need to collect a minimum of \$60 in pledges. It is estimated that a school of our size would bring in \$10,000 to \$30,000. Jennifer Henry will speak with Mrs. Munroe and bring more information to a later PTO meeting.

We are still waiting to hear on a date for setting up a Fine Arts Night fundraiser. This event would showcase band, choir, and art students as well as be a social event for the community. It would raise funds by collecting donations at the door and having a few other activities such as bake sale.

We are hoping to raise enough funds to cover yearly PTO operating expenses that generally run between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per year.

Dine to donate nights were not successful last year. They tend to be hard to promote. Information often gets overlooked in the weekly newsletter. Andrea Yamarino will look into setting up a dine to donate with Jets Pizza on the night of fall conferences (10-17). We will see if Mrs. Munroe can promote this with the conference e-mail blast, or possibly a "robo call". Andrea will also look into updating the Facebook page so that we can get information out that way as well. AirTime and Dave and Busters were also

mentioned as far as possible fundraising activities. Andrea will also contact Dave and Busters about setting up something with them.

Open discussion: It was suggested that we really try to promote Halls of Halloween since this event brings in quite a bit of money for the PTO. We will look into promoting it on the WAHS radio station as well as contacting Annette regarding a press release. It was also suggested that flyers be hung in local businesses or the library.

In the past the PTO has had NJHS students at meetings to provide childcare to parents who might otherwise not be able to participate in meetings. This service, however, is not used. The question arose wondering if this something that should still be arranged. We will need more input from Mrs. Munroe.

The Homecoming parade is coming up next Friday. The middle school has a banner that students can walk behind. Students may bring candy to throw during the parade.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45

Next meeting: October 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the AMS Media Center