

Avondale Mustang P.T.O. Minutes

Meeting date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Attended by: Andrea Yamarino, Juli Drake, Jen Henry, Sheila Denstaedt, Lateacha Allums-Carr, Maryanne Munroe

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Principal's Report – Mrs. Munroe wrote personalized notes on more than 400 of the report cards that went home with students this past trimester. In this first trimester there was a 95% decrease in referrals for discipline as compared to the first trimester last year. There was also a 41% decrease in suspensions in the same time period as last year. Some of this may be attributed to the relationship building that was done in the first 2 weeks of the school year this year. It seemed to be helpful for student growth.

Student attendance is up from last year. There are only about 30 students with “E”s in 2 or more core classes so far this year. Kids need to know that they can re-bound and they may be getting a math summer school at the middle school this year. One of the goals in middle school is to make sure they are high school ready.

The middle school will also be getting a new part time secretary on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Secretary's Report- Minutes from the October meeting were distributed by Juli. There was no November meeting due to the snow day. The date of the meeting on the minutes should read: October 8th, 2019.

There is not too much feedback on the bi-monthly PTO newsletter that has been going out, however parents in attendance noted that they liked the quick update of what is happening.

Treasury Report – Jen Henry reported an account balance of \$9,707.98. There are some deposits that still need to be made: \$60 for spirit wear, \$61.56 from Shoparoo, \$50 from Jet's Pizza, and \$69 from Kona Ice. A check was also received for \$150 from “Your Cause NPO”. It is being investigated to make sure it is from a legit company.

Concessions Report – Mrs. Munroe noted that parents would like to have concessions available at the boys' basketball games. Finding volunteers has been difficult. There may be some willing basketball parents and PTO will fill in the gaps where they can. Lateacha has also signed up for some of the basketball game slots.

Appreciation Report- Juli reported that a gift of flowers with Starbucks gift cards were given to the para-educators for Para-Educator Appreciation day in November. Mrs. Munroe noted that they really enjoyed them. The staff holiday breakfast and cookie exchange will take place next Thursday, December 19th. There are still many items that need to be brought in on the signup genius. It will be sent out as a blast e-mail to encourage signups. Juli will also make a flyer to notify teachers of the breakfast.

Box Tops Report- \$35 in Box Tops were sent in for the November cut off. We should receive a check that will include that amount, plus anything submitted electronically.

Positivity Project T-shirts – We must use licensed Positivity Project Artwork. We can use what one of the elementary schools has used. Jen Henry will contact OC tees regarding ordering shirts. We will need shirts for 750 kids, approximately 80 staff, and about 15 extras for students who may move into the building.

Halls of Halloween - \$1568 was taken in at the door and \$555 in raffle tickets was sold. We will need to get someone to help organize this event for next year. It is mostly logistical organizing, as the event itself is run by NJHS. The event was well attended, but we will need to make sure all the elementary buildings are aware early on so that they do not schedule conflicting events. Andrea Y. suggested looking into food trucks for next year as they may donate back a percentage of their earnings.

Fundraising – The AMS night at LCA for the Red Wings game will take place on February 25, 2020. They block our tickets out for 30 days before, then our tickets are released to the general public. We have not sold any yet. It was noted that the Red Wings are not having a good year so far.

The PTO is considering having Step It Up Kids run a pledge-based fundraiser this coming spring. Students raise pledges in order to compete on a Ninja Warrior style obstacle course. We are hoping to get more information and plan it for the spring with a possible kickoff at the end of March and obstacle day in May. Mrs. Munroe may have an assembly for students showing a movie (Screenagers) and wants to make sure that assembly would not conflict with the fundraiser assembly. At this point more research is being done on the movie to see if it would make sense to show it to kids or parents.

Millage Information – Juli reported on a community forum that took place regarding a possible recreation millage to be levied by the Avondale School District. The school district is exploring the idea of putting a recreation millage on the ballot that would increase taxes. The district would then run activities out of its facilities as a community center would, using funding from the millage. The idea is that using millage funds would free up some funds in the general school budget to be used for other things. There were many questions about how this would work and concerns regarding bus use as well as building use priorities. The district mentioned that it might survey the community to see if the idea would be received well.

Open Discussion- An Arts and Music showcase fundraiser may still take place in the spring. The teachers have not indicated when they would like this to happen.

Mrs. Munroe suggested that maybe students who are participating in the Optimist Speech could present them to the community in an after-school evening event. She will need to check with the English department regarding this.

There will still be honors/advanced English at the 8th grade level. There is a pause on the curriculum change regarding honors classes at the high school based on community feedback. Mrs. Munroe indicated that if one building changes part of its curriculum, it should be looked at from many angles because it could affect curriculum in the other buildings.

There are a few teachers using Donors Choose for classroom projects. The PTO may decide to pay on the remainder of a project depending on how much funding is still needed. This will need to be discussed more, however, since we currently are not financially able to help with much funding and we want to be fair to teachers.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Next meeting: January 14, 2020 A.M.S. Media Center

Minutes submitted by Juli Drake