

Date: 11 November 2008

Topic: A.I duPont High School PTSA
October 14, 2008 general meeting minutes

Present: Amanda Will, Kim Thompson, Cathy Thompson, Jimmie Crawford, Elyse B. Harris, Eileen Snyder, Pamela Scholla, Vera Werkheiser, Leslie Wagner, Courtney Weitz, Cat Horstmann, Eboni Coger, Merri Pritchett, Sally Pitts-Rakes, Donna Lash, Pat Merritt, Samantha Hoppman, Sharon Sedita, Bonita Turner, Debbie Walls, Kim Stevens, Troy Donato, April Burg, Molly Diehl, Shane Witt, Cheryl Hewlett, Cammy Jamison, Patti Donato, Teresa Cathell, Lindy Condie, Charles Schneider, Ann Exline Starr, Janeh A.W. Coger, Greg Burg

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Cathy Thompson @ 7:06 P.M.

Introductions – roundtable introduction by those present.

Student Spring Dance – Sam Hoppman and April Burg co-chaired last year’s dance which had a profit of ~ \$3000. The date of the dance was around 3/13 last year and the co-chairs requested help in getting a date set for this year’s dance. \$1500 has been budgeted by PTSA for this year’s dance. A proposed budget from the co-chairs will be due at next month’s meeting.

Student input – Kim Thompson discussed “line cutting” at lunch and asked that others wait their turn. Amanda Will stated that the chicken nuggets with orange sauce were not pleasing. Troy Donato stated that \$2.60 seems high for what students receive. Mrs. Tighlman said that the line cutting problem can be resolved by having the Administrators position themselves closer to the front of the line to monitor better. Letters to the school’s Food Service may help make menu changes. Kim Thompson also raised the point of underclassmen entering the Senior Lounge. Mrs. Tighlman stated that while Administrators can help, seniors can assist by self-monitoring. Back to menus – the menus can be viewed online. Time to get and eat lunch is viewed as being a difficult subject to resolve. Good menu choices (favorites) also lead to long lines. A question was raised whether the PTSA should write a letter to the Nutritionist to address the lunch menu concern. It was also suggested that the students address the problem with Cafeteria staff before PTSA steps in. Ketchup shortage was another area of concern. Mrs. Tighlman suggested that student groups address the Cafeteria staff to help solve problems. Student Council could help by starting a petition to seek a solution to the problems. Student / Parent letters could also be helpful.

Teacher Requests for PTSA Funds - Pam Scholla, Foreign Language chair – requesting funds to purchase language publications to supplement classes. Cost = \$6.95 each, total of \$2059.70 (Bulk Cost) Teachers guide is included as well as a CD. Monthly publications to be shared between each language teacher group (French, Spanish, etc.) per set (35). All students have a foreign language requirement.

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Pam Scholla (representing Mrs. Malatesta, Math) requesting funds to purchase an additional 30 calculators at a cost of ~ \$2500 – 3000.00. (This is a repeat of last year's approved PTSA funding.)

Courtney Weitz, student representing Ms Kohl – Tiger Pause advisor) requesting funds to purchase a 2nd copy of the Quark software used to publish the Tiger Pause newsletter to help speed the production process. Cost = \$635 Suggestion was made bby the members present to purchase 2 copies (\$1270.00)

Charles Schneider, Business Ed. – requesting funds for a class project to design and create t-shirt, including cost and marketing. (2 classes) Cost = \$160 per class, total = \$320.

Budget – Kelly Piatt reported that last year's books have gone to audit, tax forms are to be processed, and financial report is on track. Changes to bookkeeping process are being aligned with the National PTA guidelines. Please contact Kelly for copies of any materials you would like concerning these matters. Line items have been added to include Booster Club reimbursements to PTSA, etc. Operating expense s from last year and this year will be audited this year. Surplus funds should be reduced to stay in line with non-profit status. Kelly stated that \$5,000 – 7,000 is a reasonable float of emergency reserve from year to year. Currently have approx. \$15,000 proposed budget. Motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. Approved.

Treasurer's Report – Kelly Piatt reviewed the monthly report. Motion was made to accept as presented and seconded. Approved.

Administrator's Report – Kathy Tighlman reported that the Teacher PTSA Fund requests were reviewed by the Administration prior to being presented tonight and were all viewed as great proposals. Requests were screened and approved to proceed to PTSA. Anticipation of additional requests is expected. Co-President Cathy Thompson suggested putting approvals in the newsletter to help spread the word of fund requests being granted. Teachers are encouraged to apply and all requests will be pre-screened by the Administration prior to PTSA review.

Kathy went on to say that school is running well and students are really here to learn! Student headcount is ~ 1432 to date.

Mrs. Ubar , French Spanish teacher, has left the school.

Custodial staffing (groundskeeper) – 2 people are slated to be interviewed. Job closed last week and interviews are on track. A District committee has been formed to help boost organization.

School Beautification – students did not seem to like the idea even though a credit was offered.

Fall Dance – the DJ (chosen by Student Council) was not very cooperative. Lighting was an issue as not enough lights were available. Ticket logistics went well and capacity was met. Ticket sales went well with some students coming to the dance an hour early to get tickets. There was no pre-sale of tickets this year. Rationing tickets for lunch sales was suggested for the next dance. (i.e. – 75 - 100 tickets available per lunch period)

EPER monies for after-school tutoring is no longer available, however, there are teachers that will stay to assist students who ask for help.

SOS will run from October to April. 12 students are ready to begin.

Secretary's Report – Motion was made to accept the minutes as written and seconded. Approved.

Teacher Requests for PTSA – All requests presented at tonight's meeting were approved. Cathy Thompson will write a newsletter article and submit it to Leslie Wagner for inclusion in the next issue.

PTSA Student Awards – 2008 – 2009 criteria was reviewed by Cathy Thompson. A suggestion was made to change the "Distiguated" criteria to include and student, not just freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Motion made and seconded. Approved. Additional cash awards discussion was tabled until a later date. Volunteering, in order to meet the criteria, must be for PTSA sponsored events. Troy Donato requested that a criteria list be made available at PTSA meetings for review.

Newsletter – Leslie Wagner reported that the next deadline is 11/1.

Teacher Appreciation gift – Courtney Weitz, Shane Witt, and April Burg volunteered to work on the gifts.

PTSA Membership – Ruth Coughlin reported that membership is doing well and she feels that this is due to the new re-alignment of the membership process. There are 268 families signed up to-date. 66 out of 85 staff members have signed up as so far this year.

Teacher Appreciation – Donna Lash asked that volunteers get in contact with her to work on Christmas gifts (prior gift – snow brush/scraper)

Directory – Debbie Walls reported that 11/31 is the deadline for submissions prior to print by Paul Turner.

Choice Open House – to be held 11/3 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. PTSA needs to participate. Volunteers needed.

Not My Garage Sale – Ann Exline Starr (Snappy Auction) reviewed the concept and process. Donated items will raise money for AI PTSA. ~ \$1500 was raised last year. Looking for a student co-chair volunteer. The best time to sell is now through the week before Christmas. Unsold items have also been donated to the AI fund. Items valued at \$50 plus are accepted and can be of a combined value. Ann can be contacted by cell @ 302.897.0110

Jefferson Award – Sally Pitts – Rakes reports that this is a Student Lead Youth Service and every month a student will be nominated. Student leaders will accept nominations until May. (Student Leaders are Anh Nguyen and Casandra Williams) All SOS have been invited to the Youth Conference at the University of Delaware on 11/22. The Jefferson Award criteria is available for review on the AI website.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:34 p.m.

Next meeting – 11/12/08 @ 7:00 P.M. in Room 153