

Date: 13 October 2008

Topic: A.I duPont High School PTSA
September 11, 2008 general meeting minutes

Present: Gregory Burg, Ruth Coughlan, Kelly Piatt, Cathy Dennison, Cheryl Hewlett, April Burg, Kevin Apostolico, Katie Hewlett, Sam Hoppman, Katie Diehl, Linda Bradford, Leslie Wagner, Beth Gotheld, Teresa Cathell, Linda Hanna, Cathy Thompson, Donna Lash, Kim Stevens, Shane Witt, Eileen Snyder, Patti Donato, Jimmie Crawford, Connie Crawford, Cat Horstmann, Fran Louth, Stacey Hoppman, Molly Diehl

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Molly Diehl @ 7:02 P.M.

Introductions – roundtable introduction by those present

Student Input – Molly Diehl passed out copies of the committee chair sheet and asked for student volunteers. Looking for PTSA Hospitality Rep. Sam Hoppman volunteered for SMART DRIVE / YELL, in addition to her Spring Dance position. Katie Diehl asked the question – if advisor period is only 13 times per year why was homeroom done away with? Principal Sam Golder responded that the 13 periods will most likely be increase and that this time can also be used for such activities as Student Government, etc.. 1st period is supposed to end at 8:35 and until 8:45 is to be used as downtime, catch-up work, etc. Clubs can meet upon request to Administration and approval. Advisory lessons are written per grade level so each grade gets information relative to their levels. Attendance is now based on 6 classes per day. There was discussion about some glitches where students may be late due to being held up in a previous class. Mr. Golder stated that this will be worked out as the school year proceeds and the computer system used for capturing attendance is reviewed. Katie Diehl asked who scheduled the Homecoming game and stated that it conflicts with SAT testing and the Homecoming Dance. Mr. Golder stated that students are encouraged to leave after the game in order to be prepared and rested for testing. Sam Hoppman commented on having difficulty in passing in the halls between classes. She went on to say that rumor has it that school population is up which is a cause but Mr. Golder countered that enrollment is actually down this year from last year. Lunchroom seating was also discussed but class schedules have been changed to correct the problem.

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

Administrator's Report – Early opinions have shown that the Front Office has been running smoothly. Math and English departments are showing staff improvements. Mr. Cresi and Mr. Palladinetti are proving to do great jobs in their new positions as well. The Custodial issue from last month was discussed. One custodian has returned and 2 added, but 2 were moved bringing the total to 12 once the Groundskeeper is hired. Athletic fields are also looking great. Custodial services for extra-curricular activities will still require to be paid extra for activities over 4 hours, such as dances. (cost is approx. \$50 per hour). Custodial hours are controlled by the school instead of the district office.

Financial update – department chairs have been notified and proposals are expected to start coming in soon for use of PTSA funds. All clubs have been restored. (i.e. – Key Club, Honor Society, Math League, etc.) School budget is up approx. 25%.

The Fall dance will be held on 9/20 and is the most popular dance of the year. The ticket situation is being worked on to avoid problems experienced last year. The number of guest tickets may be reduced to allow more A.I. students to attend. Tickets will probably go on sale next week. Guests will still have to fill out a form and be approved by their school's admin.

PTSA storage area – There are 2 possibilities. 1 small area and 1 large (old phone booth or the 152-155 closet) Phone booth approved!

The graffiti situation should be a “done deal” and was worked on correcting this past weekend. Students stated that this is the senior classes time and should not be infringed on and that it shouldn't include vandalism or damage to other people's property. Road signs were replaced by DELDOT thanks to Reps. Hudson and Manalagos.

Open House – The logistics of PTSA during the event was discussed and Cathy Thompson asked that the PTSA table be based outside the gym. Sam Golder stated “the more student volunteers the better”. School Administration will handle refreshments as in the past. After Prom will have a separate table again.

Bus seating and overcrowding was discussed. Mr. Golder asked parents to contact the school with details so that the situation can be addressed. Staffing for Choir Director was questioned. The assigned teacher has become seriously ill and this was not learned until 8/15., making it difficult to backfill the position. Choir has been combined with Band to get the Pathways program underway and materials are being acquired. Afterschool Choir will be set-up in the meantime and the search is still active to find a replacement instructor.

Treasurer's Report – A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. Approved

Newsletter – The deadline for next month is 9/15.

Teacher Appreciation – Donna Lash reported that the event went off “with a big bang!” Everything went well and the teachers were amazed, especially those who haven't attended before.

Membership – Ruth Coughlan, and Eileen Snyder will be co-chairs with Megan Fioravanti leading Staff membership. Student helpers are needed for Open House “Box Duty” to help collect forms. Staff already has over 50% membership. April Burg and Shane Witt volunteered to work on leading Student membership.

Library Tags – Tuesday from 4 – 7 will be book tagging using the new system. A signup sheet was distributed during the meeting. Maximum of 15 people needed.

Fundraising – Very successful last year with a \$1200 gain from Not My Garage Sale sales, led by Ann Exline-Starr. Large and small items are accepted and all profits come back to the PTSA. Donations are tax deductible.

After Prom – Karen Spencer has been recruited to be a “tri-chair”. The 1st meeting between the chairs will be next week. Highway award has used all of their funds and a plea was made to be able to send out a After Prom donation letter before the “No Bake

Bake Sale” letter. Approved to send the letter as requested. A request has been made for underclassman parents to get involved this year to allow them the opportunity to gain experience in the planning and execution of the event. The secret theme has been chosen!

Reflections – Cathy Dennison has agreed to chair.

New Business

A question was raised about the timing of the No Bake Bake Sale. Could the mailing be earlier? After discussion it was agreed to continue the mailing at the same time as the previous year.

PTSA Award criteria – 4 meetings and 7 hours volunteer hours. Molly Diehl asked that the requirement be standardized (this requirement has fluctuated in the past) and a committee be set-up to review the award criteria and submissions. Students need to be notified of the requirements and the awards. Sam Golder agreed to include notification of the PTSA meeting during the morning announcements to help build student participation.

The school website needs updated.

Student Dance – still need a parent chair. School Administration is needed at the door to help handle check-ins and be visible to students entering. Teresa Cathell volunteered to be parent chair.

Choice Open House – 11/3 6:30 -7:30 p.m. No Choice bus stops will be run in 2009 - 2010 1st choice will not always be granted next year and slots will be reduced.

Red Clay Communications Meeting – 9/16

Patti Donato will be resigning as Treasurer. Kelly Piatt has volunteered to fill the position.

Teacher Request for PTSA Funds Form – near completion.

Old business

Student Service Awards – Leslie Wagner asked that we review last year’s awards and verify that we didn’t overlook any students.

Next meeting – October 14th @ 7:00 P.M. in Room 153

Meeting adjourned @ 8:33 P.M.