

Alexis I.duPont High School  
PTSA Meeting Minutes  
September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
[www.aiduponths.com](http://www.aiduponths.com) link to PTSA

Attendees: list is on file with Secretary, 54 persons signed in

Call to Order: Co President Molly Diehl called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from August 15<sup>th</sup> where approved

- Committee notes where distributed and now incorporated into these minutes
- Parents/Student Officers and Chair list to-date, distributed to those in attendance, also updated on the PTSA web page
- Student volunteer positions that are currently vacant, distributed to those in attendance
- Student requirements for PTSA service awards, distributed to those in attendance
- PTSA web page on [www.aiduponths.com](http://www.aiduponths.com) has been updated

Treasurers Report:

- 07/08 PTSA budget was unanimously approved
- Unanimously approved \$500.00 to 6 clubs/orgs for a total of \$3,000.00 (freshman and sophomore advisor, key club, math league, science Olympiad) national honor society and environmental action committee
- \$200.00 will be awarded to the school newspaper Tiger Pause, these funds will be moved form the awards budget. The school has agreed to split the cost of the annual awards night.
- Unanimously approved to merge the 2 PTSA checking accounts into one

**Administrators Report:** Vice Principal, Nick Manolakos attended the meeting

- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 grade will be completing M.A.P. testing through 9/20
- There is no approval for PTSA funding the clubs and organizations that have been eliminated due to the district wide budget cuts. On 9/20 Dr. A. will be holding a principals meeting and we should be informed shortly after that on how we can proceed in funding these clubs/orgs \*\*\*note, this has now been approved
- The school evacuation of 9/11/07
  1. A person of interest has been identified and an arrest should be made possibly Wednesday night or Thursday. He added that the charges against this person will be substantial
  2. Sam had sent an e-mail from the school's e-mail list(managed by Leslie Wagner)explaining the evacuation and issues concerning the dismissal of students. The return response was about 82+ percent positive. Some parents obviously had very strong criticism

The following are the immediate changes made to the "campus safety plan"

1. Alternative message on the schools phone line with direct information for families at our school
2. One Administrator will be in charge of early dismissals for all students. They will direct the approval of any student whose parents request their child's early dismissal
3. Control and change the traffic pattern during an emergency
  - a. all driving students will now be required to exit the campus from the back side of the building onto Hillside Road and not be permitted to exit on to Rt 52

PTSA informed all those in attendance that we have 2 parents that volunteer on the school's climate control committee Holli Davis [holidav@aol.com](mailto:holidav@aol.com) and Krista Brazell [sweetstuffff@hotmail.com](mailto:sweetstuffff@hotmail.com) any comments or suggestions on how to improve school safety should be directed to them. We also asked that if anyone knows of someone with experience in safety or emergency planning to please consider volunteering for the climate control committee. Assistant Vice Principal Mark Pruitt oversees this committee [mark.pruitt@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:mark.pruitt@redclay.k12.de.us)

## **Committee Reports:**

**SmartDrive/YELL:** Celia Huber [celia.huber@pnc.com](mailto:celia.huber@pnc.com)

Karen Busby from SmartDrive visited Clarence Gallo's SmartDrive/YELL homeroom last week. They are currently planning on running a seatbelt check

sometime later this month. Karen is also working on setting up an on-line form to collect students' volunteer hours so they can earn high school credit and a certificate from the Governor's office at 90 hours of volunteer time.(see note below)\*\*

\*\*There is a website of State Approved volunteer sites at [www.volunteerway.org](http://www.volunteerway.org). (must be a non-profit site). Each guidance counselor at AI handles their caseload's volunteerism documentation, in terms of forwarding items to the State Office of Volunteerism.

**Guidance** Laura Fitzgerald, Guidance Counselor and Merrie Pritchett, PTSA Chair.

[laura.fitzgerald@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:laura.fitzgerald@redclay.k12.de.us) [mpritch@udel.edu](mailto:mpritch@udel.edu)

We are gearing up to visit the 9th grade US History classes to give a brief introductory talk to the students about the resources available in the building, tutoring program, promotion policy, and items to help as they are making the transition to our building, as well as helping them to start a strong foundation here in high school for their post-secondary plans

Student Handbooks have been distributed. There are separate student handbooks completed for each grade level; most share some similar information since we wanted all grades to have the important information to help them in making the most of high school and to be in the best position when they are deciding about post-secondary plans.

We have distributed the first Senior Guidance Handbook. It's called " A Pause in Time". The handbook provides the following:

Senior College Preparation Action Plan

- Questions to Ask School Counselors
- ACT & SAT Dates
- Homework Tips
- School Tutoring Services
- Time Management Tips
- Note Taking Strategies
- College Application Requirements
- Transcript Request Process
- Graduation Requirements

The PTSA had asked for a tool such as this last year and guidance said they were developing this for the each grade. This is a GREAT accomplishment for both guidance and the PTSA.

**After Prom:** Stacy Hoppman and Elaine Burg: [hoppman6@aol.com](mailto:hoppman6@aol.com) or [venusonsaturn@aol.com](mailto:venusonsaturn@aol.com)

Stacey and Elaine will be speaking at the Open House. A volunteer list was circulated at the PTSA meeting.

Stacey and Elaine are proposing they hold a parents meeting about the After Prom the week following the Back to School night. There are 2 main objectives for the meeting: 1. To answer questions about how the After Prom is put together, etc. and 2. To form as many working groups/committees as we can to do the work.

Each chairperson will be responsible to put together a committee to assist them in completing the tasks/goals of the committee.

We will start having meetings in October to plan, but the time commitment increases beginning in February.

The following have agreed to be Committee Chairs:

Decorating Chairs- Sharon Cooper (need e-mail address) and Pat Merritt [tazpatty@juno.com](mailto:tazpatty@juno.com)

Food Chair- Nora Wallace [wallacen@udel.edu](mailto:wallacen@udel.edu)

Treasurer - Nancy Descano [nanonano531@aol.com](mailto:nanonano531@aol.com)

Volunteers at Large- Cathy Thompson, Molly and Walt Diehl, Kim Stevens, Merrie Pritchett,( Elyse Harris [eharris@ccps.org](mailto:eharris@ccps.org) and [embharris21@aol.com](mailto:embharris21@aol.com), would like more information)

We still have the following positions that need to be filled:

**Volunteer Chair** - responsible for getting all volunteers for pre-event and event

**Building Chair**- Works with decorating chair to build required decoration/props

**Entertainment Chair**- Responsible for acquiring all necessary entertainment for the event (Inflatable, karaoke, casino etc)

**Photo Op** - if we want to have this - Responsible for all aspects of the photo op

**Donation Chair** - Responsible for keeping track and depositing donations as well as soliciting donations.

**Correspondence Chair** - Responsible for all correspondence for newsletters, e-mails, meetings, donation letters, volunteer letters etc

**Secretary** - Keeps notes from all meetings.

**Fundraising:** Dee Burnett [burnett10@aol.com](mailto:burnett10@aol.com)

We have purchased face paint markers, glow sticks, paw tattoos and lanyards. Total cost of goods was \$661.58. When all of the stock is sold, it should bring in \$1250.00. An approximate net gain of \$589.00. We also sold AI stickers and license plate surrounds that were paid for from previous year's budget, which has not been included in the \$589.00 net gain

We collected \$155.00 at the first football game. Thanks to Linda Bradford and Kim Stevens for manning the booth.

We would like to sell at the sub dinner if anyone is interested and again at the football game. We would like kids to go through the stands and sell items.

#### OTHER FUNDRAISING IDEAS

We would like to do spirit jars this year. This was done a few years back. This would be done at all football games and during the week of homecoming. Mr. Golder has agreed to have his head tattooed and Mr. Pruitt has agreed to something (we will confirm this later) the idea is that they dress up in AI uniforms, band outfits, paint their heads, etc. We will recruit more teachers and staff. At the end of the week at the pep rally is where this will all happen. Spirit jars are put out with a request for a donation and what exactly that person will be doing. The students seem to think this will be fun and hopefully we can raise a few dollars.

We need volunteers for this during football games and during lunch the week of Homecoming. Donna Lash is available that week to help at lunch with this fundraiser

Ann Starr [ann.exline.starr@gmail.com](mailto:ann.exline.starr@gmail.com) an AI parent and owner of Snappy Auctions an online sales site has offered the month of October as "Not My Garage Sale" Month for PTSA. Ann and Honor Smith [honor.smith@verizon.net](mailto:honor.smith@verizon.net) will be coordinating this new fund drive. The idea is to have AI family and friends drop off, send photos or Snappy Auctions will pick up items of at least a \$50.00 e-bay value. These items will be posted on the online auction site. All proceeds, less commission will be donated to PTSA. Snappy Auctions is located on Lancaster Pike in Hockessin. All donors will receive a tax receipt. More information on the "how to's" will be available at the Open House on 9/26.

**Library:** Suzanne Smith [Suzanne.smith@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:Suzanne.smith@redclay.k12.de.us)

Our libraries budget has been cut to "0" from approx. \$22,000.00 last year. The state legislators did not fund the \$5,000.00 that had been awarded in prior years and the district cut the remaining \$17,000.00. Our library has provided the following information and will need all the support and funding that PTSA can provide. Additionally, Sally Rakes-Pitts [2000blackmodel@msn.com](mailto:2000blackmodel@msn.com) and Pat Merritt [tazpatty@juno.com](mailto:tazpatty@juno.com) two wonderful PTSA parents have agreed to assist Suzanne with whatever ideas she has for fundraising

Thank you so much for your support of our library program. What may help as well, is verbal or written support from PTSA members to Board members on behalf of the students who need the resources of the Red Clay school libraries.

A I. duPont High School Library 2007-08 – Basic Needs

These are the basic needs that will get us through these tough and meager financial times.

Item	Amount	Due Date
Follett Alliance Plus annual subscription for cataloging books --	\$245.00	Oct. 31, 2007
New York Times subscription—M-F	\$ 80.00	ASAP
Philadelphia Inquirer subscription – M-F	\$ 78.00	ASAP
Magazine subscription renewals	\$1750.00 approx.	Dec. 2007
Junior Library Guild renewal	\$ 450.00 (optional)	
Book Fair – help managing a Scholastic Book Fair – early December 2007	Priceless!	

<b>TOTAL</b>	\$2600.00 approximately	
	unless the district agrees to fund libraries in any small way (which looks unlikely).	

Perhaps we can set up an "Adopt a Magazine" program. I will get a list together with prices. It may be better if I create a bulk order through a wholesale vendor. They help manage in case of problems and we get good prices.

Book Fair, I will call Scholastic and get things set up. Do you think there would be parent volunteers to help with this? We would probably set it up in the Conference Room and try to run it for 3-4 days as well. We won't earn money but will get books depending on how much we sell. Do you know when the Winter Concert is to possibly link the bookfair to a school event?

I've gotten some information from Patty at Books and Beyond in Hockessin. She would set aside a day and anyone purchasing books and mentioning AI High Library would earn us 20% of their purchase total. I've also e-mailed the community relations person at Barnes and Noble about a similar situation.

**PTSA Membership:** Ruth Coughlan, Patti Donato [rcoughlan@comcast.net](mailto:rcoughlan@comcast.net) [pattidonato@comcast.net](mailto:pattidonato@comcast.net)

As of Sept. 7, 2007 our total PTSA membership breakdown is as follows: 40 Parents, 23 Students, 3 Staff

TOTAL MEMBERS (as of 9/7/07) = 66 members

(\* TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DUES = \$530.00

(\* Please note that a portion of our dues (\$3.75 PER member) go to State and National PTA.

Strong support via parent memberships and contributions are critical to our Membership income.

Other:· Eleven (11) donations totaling \$240 has been collected.

- Membership Forms for staff to join the PTSA were distributed via teachers' mailboxes.
- PTSA information flyer and forms should be in the September issue of the PTSA newsletter.
- PTSA information flyer and forms were uploaded to the A.I. Website
- OMDR (Online Membership Data Reporting) was initiated this month. Patti Donato and I attended the mandatory Webinar sessions. Membership information will be keyed in, as received, and uploaded into this new database.

Our Fall Membership Drive will continue to gear up for the Back-to-School Night. An initial list of student volunteers representing "Membership" was sent. These students will be carrying Membership drop-off boxes during the night. Each student will need to create their drop-off boxes using shoeboxes – an example will be shown at the meeting. The initial list of students are as follows:

1. Isaiah Brooks (Junior)
2. Avery Griffin (?)
3. Kate Smith (sophomore)
4. Katie Diehl (Junior)
5. Brian Coughlan (Junior)
6. John Daniels (Junior)
7. Kim Thompson (Junior)
8. Troy Donato (freshman)
9. Jack Fisher (?)

Finally, our first membership report is due at the State Office by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Teacher Appreciation:** Donna Lash, Donna Bredbenner [dl49@comcast.net](mailto:dl49@comcast.net) [bredbennerd@libertytravel.com](mailto:bredbennerd@libertytravel.com)

Welcome back Breakfast held Monday August 20<sup>th</sup> was a big hit and everything was done by the time all the teachers arrived downstairs in the cafeteria. We had more than enough of everything and what was left we gave to the office for their meeting that they were having during that week. Everyone was very grateful for the spread.

### **Newsletter:**

Deadline for the next newsletter is OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>, all inquires should be directed to Amy Hurff [amyhurff@verizon.net](mailto:amyhurff@verizon.net) Amy will be publishing the newsletter but would like someone to take it to the DataService Center and complete the publication process.

### **Treats for Troops:**

Mike Mozer and his dad Bud Mozer [my3sons3@comcast.net](mailto:my3sons3@comcast.net) came to the meeting. Mike will be working on this service project. He will be putting a list together of items that our troops would like to receive from home. If you know an A.I. Alumni, friend or family that is currently serving in our military and would like to receive a package, please e-mail Bud Mozer. He has also provided a large donation jar that we will prominently display at all football games and PTSA attended school functions. Isaiah Brooks [dl49@comcast.net](mailto:dl49@comcast.net) and Shane Witt [kstevens01@comcast.net](mailto:kstevens01@comcast.net) have agreed to help Mike. October 26, Al Homecoming has been designated Treats for Troops night. Everyone coming to homecoming will be encouraged to bring something for the troops. Mike and his volunteers will be working on how to achieve this.

**Campus Beautification:** The sign at the school's entrance on Rt 52 and Hillside Road will be updated by Shane Witt, If you have community or campus news that you would like posted, please contact Shane at [kstevens01@comcast.net](mailto:kstevens01@comcast.net). The sign will be updated as needed and all information posted must be approved by Mr. Golder.

**Open House:** Back to School Night/Open House will be held on 9/26

- PTSA will have 5 tables set up )Membership, AfterProm Smart Drive, Fundraising and the Directory)
- 1. Membership, Ruth and Patti will have the kids roaming the school with Al membership shoe boxes as well as a table for sign ups. We will be providing members with stickers to designate those who have joined
- 2. After-Prom, Stacey and Elaine will be running a video of the 2006 After-Prom and seeking volunteers
- 3. *Smartdrive* will have a information table
- 4. Fundraising, Dee Burnett will have a table selling FanFun Stuff and also have information on the Not my Garage Sale
- 5. Directory, Debbie Walls will be asking for sign-ups

Meeting adjourned 8:30

Next meeting

October 10, 2007

Minutes submitted by Sharon Sedita [sedita10@aol.com](mailto:sedita10@aol.com)