

Athey Creek Middle School PTSA
General Meeting
Friday, Oct. 6, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
Held in the ACMS staff room

Call to Order (*Jennifer Tabor*)

President Jennifer Tabor called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming. All attendees introduced themselves -- 11 attended per sign-in sheet.

Principal's Report (*Caitlin Klenz, Assistant Principal*)

- They are digging into this year – formative work is informing teachers' next steps, and the kids are doing great and have a ton of energy.
- Thanks to the PTSA for a new basketball hoop at the back of the school.
- Conferences are coming next week – Wed. evening and Thurs. morning. Staff are excited about the TASA dinner organized by the PTSA.
- Most teachers are teaching two different grade levels and two different subjects, so conference sign-ups are more like a slot. Lines can get long, so they are talking with the district again this year about getting more time for conferences. This is a bargaining year for teacher contracts and they welcome feedback from parents and others regarding conference time.
- Thinking about ways to bring the world to Athey, and teaching each other about relationships. Athey is one of two middle schools statewide that has international sister schools (ours are in South Korea).
- Possible change to our schedule – looking at starting it in 3 weeks. A little bit of time each week (30 minutes in homeroom 1x/week) is needed for a homeroom, announcements, etc. Plans are for 21-24 kids per teacher, and it will be a teacher they already have – most likely their 1st or 2nd period teacher. Currently, passing time is 4 minutes, and they'll likely return to the 3 minute passing period, to save some of this time for homeroom.
- Overall, class sizes are the same this year – about 40 fewer students than last year, and they did hire 3 teachers this summer, although do have a smaller staff. All teachers have 5 classes with one prep period.
- Getting rid of Academy Classes was a district-level decision. One reason is budget, plus these classes won't fit into the new schedule time-wise. Caitlin would love to see these classes come back – they bring it up at the district level, but she would encourage parents to do this, too.
- There are yearly state requirement for core classes, so what they're trying to do is figure out how to take some of the Academy Class topics and incorporate them into core classes.
- Kids are going crazy for the Student Store.

Guest Speaker (*Pam Pearce, Community Living Above*)

- Pam leads the organization, Community Living Above. Oregon City, Tualatin and Tigard all have prevention organizations at the high-school level, and West Linn did not before she got started. There is now a Teen Advisory Board at West Linn High School – they started two years ago with 50 students, and they currently have 200 students involved. She wants to educate kids that this is a preventable disease.
- Middle School is where it starts – everyone in recovery will tell you that they started at ages 12, 13 or 14 years old. 80% of kids will experiment with drugs and alcohol in a lifetime. She cited that Clackamas County has more prescriptions written than the number of people in it.
- If kids are predisposed, it's all about getting them to wait to try alcohol or drugs. If their first time is at age 17, there is a 70% chance you can outrun it, and if they wait until age 21, there is a greater than 90% chance they will escape it.
- She applied for and West Linn (only city in Oregon) was selected as one of 15 communities nationwide to participate in a Pilot Community Project organized by Facing Addiction, a national, non-profit. Per Handout #1 – “Via a grassroots-driven campaign strategy, Facing Addiction will work in partnership with Community Living Above to provide training and guidance to help bring issues that are of concern to the forefront in our community so that we can begin to help support each other.”
- They have an upcoming annual event at WLHS on 10/19/17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. – it's a Community Forum with great speakers on their panel. Handout #2.
- There is also an event at Oregon City HS on 10/26/17 at 5 p.m. with speakers.
- For more info. you can go to Community Living Above's Facebook page, or their website www.communitylivingabove.org.
- Handout #3 – Parents Who Host Lose the Most – Don't be a party to teenage drinking, it's against the law.
- Handout #4 – What is Facing Addiction? What is the Community Pilot Project?

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Rachel Stevenson that the Sept. 8, 2017 general meeting minutes be approved, it was seconded, and they were approved unanimously. Copies of these minutes were distributed prior to the beginning of the meeting via email (and hardcopy at the meeting).

Board Reports

President's Report (*Jennifer Tabor*)

- A huge thank you to Laura Greyerbiehl and Dee Putnam for putting on a wonderful dance for Athey kids – great success!
- Another huge thank you to Heather Anderson and Alaina Kuehn for putting on great Girls Turning Point and Boys Turning Point evenings. There were about 65

boys, and about 75 girls in attendance for a total of approx. 140 kids participating.

- A Book Fair volunteer sign-up sheet is being sent around – please do shifts if you are able (especially for Ms. Melnychenko who has classes now – she provided us with this sign-up sheet).
- A lot is going on this month at Athey – you can always refer to the school’s online calendar. Jennifer mentioned many activities including our Korean guests arriving on 10/13 and leaving 10/20, and picture retakes. Athey Idol is also quickly approaching – this is not a PTSA event, but it is awesome and is a fundraiser for the choir program.
- A general discussion arose on how to get information to parents about PTSA events. One way is to get them to sign up for the “Class of _____” (their child’s graduation year) on the listserv, but not all incoming 6th grade parents are aware of this one.
- Rachel Stevenson had an idea that if there are going to be homerooms now, maybe we could have the kids obtain their parents’ email addresses for PTSA purposes? She will follow up with Principal Sebastian on this.

Vice President’s Report (*Jen Drew*)

- Treasurer Nicole Rusk spoke for Jen who could not attend the meeting. The 2nd Annual PTSA sponsored Parent Social at Pete’s Mountain Winery last night was a success with 37 tickets sold – this is better attendance than the first year. So that the PTSA is not paying for wine, the money from the ticket sales goes directly to Pete’s Mtn. for the wine tasting. Also, the winery didn’t charge us a rental fee, which was great.
- PTSA is looking at having a Spring Social – Jennifer suggested having this after the Garage Sale, which is in late April.

Secretary’s Report (*Bethany Wurtz*)

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer’s Report (*Nicole Rusk*)

- Nicole distributed an updated 2017-18 Treasurer’s Report covering 7/1/17 – 9/30/17 (Attachment C). She’s updated the budget based on the vote at our September meeting. She reviewed several line-items including spirit wear income, the first dance, and the Student Store which is currently in the black.
- She also mentioned that an IRS notice was passed to her from the prior Treasurer. Nicole called the IRS to inquire, and it looks like it has to do with something that was late a few years ago. We’re in good standing, but we have a CPA working to resolve the situation.

Membership Report (*Patty Caveney*)

- Nicole Rusk spoke for Patty Caveney who could not attend the meeting. We currently have 147 members, and are hoping for more. Per the Treasurer’s Report we have made \$3,290 from membership dues (\$25 for parents, \$9.50 for teachers). We need to pay our fee to Oregon PTA soon.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report (*Bobbi Kelly*)

- Jennifer Tabor spoke for Bobbi Kelly who could not attend the meeting. She distributed the Book Fair volunteer sign-up sheet and encouraged those in attendance to sign up.

Committee Reports

Back-To-School Dance (*Laura Greyerbiehl*)

- There were 233 kids, and anything over 200 students is considered a great success. Thank you to all of the volunteers! The profit was \$678, but it was budgeted to make \$750. This was due to the fact that she buys ahead for concessions for the remaining two dances.
- The 2nd dance will be on 2/9/18 from 6:30-8 p.m. (theme tbd), and the 3rd/final dance of the year is scheduled for 5/4/18 from 6:30-8 p.m. and the theme will be "May the 4th Be With You" (dance is on May 4th) ☺. DJ is already booked.

Turning Point (*Girls-Alaina Kuehn, and Boys-Heather Anderson*)

- Nicole Rusk spoke for Alaina and Heather who could not attend. It was a great success (see prior discussion as to numbers, etc.). Any questions should be forwarded to Alaina or Heather.

TASA "Teacher and Staff Appreciation" Meals (*Rachel Stevenson*)

- October's TASA is the only meal this year that's in the evening due to evening conferences – bring food by 3 p.m., and pick up your cleaned dishes by 7 p.m. or the next day. (The other TASAs are lunches once a month.) We still need a few people to help clean up – please sign up.

Student Store (*Kim Jordan*)

- Jennifer Tabor spoke for Kim Jordan who could not attend. It's going very well, and Assistant Principal Klenz mentioned this as well.

Annual Garage Sale (*PTSA Board and Group Effort!*)

- Jennifer Tabor said we want the garage sale (scheduled for the end of April) to be successful and as organized as we can. She and VP Jen Drew will be making an "umbrella sheet" with all of the tasks/deadlines, etc., and having an introductory meeting to get this fundraiser started – lots of people are going to be needed to help put this together.
- Victoria O'Kain is interested in volunteering, and requested to look at the garage sale binder to see how she can assist. Jen Drew is working on reserving the containers. In past years, volunteers have signed-up using an on-line tool.

PTSA Website (*Tracy Gilday*)

- Tracy is working on a new website! She will talk with Jennifer Tabor before going live. It will allow us to take credit card payments – these transactions will go straight into our bank account. Thank you Tracy!

Parent Education (*Elaine Cozart*)

- No report – Elaine could not attend today’s meeting.

New Business

- Jennifer Tabor discussed one of our PTSA approved grants. We had agreed to pay for a book requested by Ms. Bowen, but she had informed us that the same book ended up being approved and paid for over the summer by the District. Can she buy another book with these funds?
- Unfortunately there is nothing in our Standing Rules, By-Laws, etc. that dictates what we do in a situation like this. Jennifer asked for discussion and advice from those in attendance. After some discussion, it was agreed that Jennifer would request that there be a revised request submitted by Ms. Bowen that would note a change in the title of the book, and that we’ll have a special vote at our November meeting on this.
- Jennifer indicated that Ms. Bowen thought the new book would likely cost less than the one previously approved.
- In the future, discussion indicated that there might be a change to our Standing Rules to address these types of situations with grants.

Adjourn

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned by President Jennifer Tabor at 11 a.m.

Attachment A: Sign-in sheet

Attachment B: 4 handouts from Community Living Above/Pam Pearce

Attachment C: PTSA Financial Report 7/1-9/30/17 from Nicole Rusk

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President: _____

Secretary: _____