

Athey Creek Middle School PTSA
General Meeting
Friday, Sept. 8, 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 9:31 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming. All attendees introduced themselves.

25 attended per sign-in sheets (17 of those are members) – Quorum established.

Vote To Approve PTSA Secretary and Approval of Minutes

President Tabor moved to approve Bethany Wurtz as this year's PTSA Secretary and for approval of the June 2, 2017 general meeting minutes – both motions were approved unanimously. Copies of the June 2, 2017 PTSA general meeting minutes were distributed prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Principal's Report (*Joel Sebastian*)

Principal Joel Sebastian provided a "start of the year" summary and answered questions from attendees.

- They are excited and "off and running" this year. He described formative assessments for students, and professional development for staff in these areas.
- Robotics, Chess Club and Cross-Country are some of the activities that start at the beginning of the year. At Athey, there are lots of ways for students to participate in extracurricular activities, and the majority of these experiences are led by teachers. They help build relationships, and statistically, students do better if the breadth of their experiences is expanded beyond the classroom.
- Student population – last year there were 650 students, and this year there are approx. 620 – this number will change as they have not done a detailed audit yet. A large 8th grade class (230 students) left, and a smaller 6th grade class (135) came in, plus about 20 new students signed-up in August.
- Busing is a contract service through the district – counts are being done, which are then sent to First Student Co. (bus).
- South Korean exchange program – there are two Korean schools who send students each year to Athey (1st group visits in October, 2nd group in January – these are Athey's sister schools), and Athey has a group of students who visit Korea each year. There is an upcoming meeting (1 hour before Curriculum Night begins) regarding 1) hosting a Korean student and 2) applying to Korea. Host families are still needed for October. Last year there were 50-60 Athey students who applied to go to Korea, but only about half of these can go. There is no Academy class for Korea this year, so they're working on when to have sessions for the students who are accepted.

Guest Speaker (*Betty Reynolds*)

WLWV Board Member Betty Reynolds provided a summary regarding many points surrounding education at the local, state and national levels. She holds several volunteer education positions- nationally, statewide and locally, although clarified she is not here as a spokesperson for the WLWV Board.

- Engaged parents are very important for achievement. She would like us to make public education a priority – be advocates, be ambassadors.
- There is always a spot on the WLWV Board Agenda for public comment. Board meeting location might be changed to move around the district instead of just having them at the District Office – stay tuned.
- Lots of progress this session at the State level, but reached an impasse – conversation is not over however. They did get to \$8.2 billion, but they wanted \$8.4 billion. The Ways and Means Committee started at \$7.8 billion. There will be a \$1 billion “hole for education” if Health Care passes.
- Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has the latest school statistics, but has embargoed the data until 9/14/17. After this date, you can drill down to individual schools to see 2016-17 assessment data.
- There is a lot going on at the Federal level, several new challenges. The National School Board has an Action Center with a program called “Public Schools First.”

Board Reports

President’s Report (*Jennifer Tabor*)

- Jennifer asked for a motion to approve the 2017-18 PTSA Standing Rules for two minor changes – the date, and from 2 to 1 Vice President positions. Member Toni Cacciatore made the 1st motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- Athey’s Curriculum Night is on September 14th at 6:30 p.m. – please come!
- Amazon Smile has earned \$62 for the PTSA since 8/1/17. Printed handouts regarding this fundraising program were distributed at the meeting.

Vice President’s Report (*Jen Drew*)

Treasurer Nicole Rusk spoke for Jen who could not attend the meeting. There will be a PTSA sponsored Parent Social at Pete’s Mountain Winery on the evening Thursday, Oct. 5. Ticket information will be sent out via PTSA Facebook page and Athey Notes. Please join us!

Secretary’s Report (*Bethany Wurtz*)

Bethany reminded everyone to use the sign-in sheets for today’s meeting.

Treasurer’s Report (*Nicole Rusk*)

Email any reimbursements you have to Nicole – the information will be on the website. See below for 2017-18 Budget Review under New Business.

Membership Report (*Patty Caveney*)

Please join Athey's PTSA! As of today we have 81 members for this year – today is the deadline for the gift card drawing, membership forms must be received by the end of the day to have your name entered. Membership can only be done via paper currently, maybe next year there will be a way to sign-up online. Last year there were 180 PTSA members.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report (*Bobbi Kelly*)

Parent volunteers are needed throughout the year – there is a purple form that came home with each student in the PTSA packet where parents can sign-up to be on the volunteer list – Bobbi will then include you in all emails. Volunteers are currently needed for the school dance on Friday, Sept. 15.

Committee Reports

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

The first dance of the year will be on Friday, Sept. 15 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at Athey. These dances are very fun for our students – DJ is confirmed, and the gym is open as well for volleyball or basketball. Dance information on the main bulletin board for students, and an all school email will be sent next week. Volunteer shifts are 6:15-7:15 p.m. or 7:15-8:15 p.m.

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

- Heather described Turning Point – two fun evenings of activities (one for boys, one for girls) for 6th grade only so that they can get to know each other better and make new friends. There is a game truck, photo booth, etc.
- Today's sign-up deadline has been extended to Tues., Sept. 13. Currently only 40 kids are signed up. A couple of classrooms haven't yet distributed the applications, and 6th grade parents might still be learning about the Listserv – be sure to sign-up your child for "ACMS-2024" as Turning Point information has been distributed this way as well.

TASA (*Rachel Stevenson*)

- TASA stands for "Teacher And Staff Appreciation" Lunch and it's done one time per month throughout the school year. Each month has a theme, and sign-ups are via Volunteer Spot. Teachers and staff really appreciate the effort, and it's easy to help with – except for this 1st TASA, all food items need to be brought to school by 10:30 a.m. (super easy if you send it with your child to school).
- For this 1st TASA (sign-up sheet was distributed at the meeting), it's a Dinner due to evening conferences – the theme is Picnic BBQ, and all food items should be at school by 3 p.m.

Student Store (*Kim Jordan*)

- Adult volunteers run the student store, which is open for all three lunches -- 1st shift is 6th grade lunch (11-11:50 a.m.), and the 2nd shift is for 7th and 8th grade lunches (12:10-1:30 p.m.).
- Currently, there are some shifts open at the end of the month – please volunteer.
- Usually the store makes \$30-45 per day, but there were a couple of days recently where sales were closer to \$60. They've already sold out of pop-tarts. There are rules about what you can sell.

PTSA Website (*Tracy Gilday*)

- Tracy, our new PTSA Webmaster, has researched possible new interfaces to use that would be more integrated compared to what is currently being used. New features might be integrating online forms, event registration and volunteer sign-ups, fundraising that accepts credit cards, etc. She had some examples (e.g. DigitalPTO.com), and it was decided that she would meet with President Jennifer Tabor and possibly others to discuss in more detail in a separate meeting.
- Short discussion regarding new website costs, and a question regarding additional costs of Paypal and/or using credit cards.
- For now, if a form needs to go on the PTSA website, please send it to Tracy.
- If we do go with a new website, this change needs to be noted on our tax forms.

Parent Education (*Elaine Cozart*)

- Last year there was a presentation (speaker) for parents regarding social media, as well as a presentation by two of Athey's teachers for parents regarding executive function.
- This year she's looking for ideas – one might be a viewing of the movie, Screenagers, and another is a speaker who would discuss developmental assets. Another idea was to have a follow-up on the executive function presentation – maybe complimentary to what they did last year.
- Elaine is also serving as the WLWV Foundation Vice President and reported it's their 25th Anniversary this year – they're currently having a drive "\$25 for 25" (years) – so please contribute!
- The WLWV Foundation's sole purpose is to raise money to hire new teachers. In the last 5 years, \$750k has been raised, which has resulted in hiring 16 new teachings positions. Elaine indicated if you'd like more information about the foundation, please contact her.

Annual Garage Sale (*Group Effort!*)

President Jennifer Tabor provided a summary -- this annual event (the last weekend of April) is the PTSA's major fundraiser – it started around \$8k, and has grown to net approx. \$20k.

- This event will be a group effort this year – it benefits the school and the community in many ways, and Principal Sebastian is 100% in support of it.

- A volunteer could not be found this year to chair the event, so the PTSA Board will serve as coordinators. The duties will be broken down into tasks, and committees will be formed as needed. The last coordinator did an amazing job and there is a large resource binder.
- Jennifer asked everyone to please volunteer, and stay tuned for more information.

New Business

2017-18 Budget Review (*Nicole Rusk, Treasurer*)

PTSA Grant Request from Spring (*Jennifer Tabor, President*)

Nicole gave a review of this year's proposed budget, and distributed paper copies to those in attendance – clarification that this is a budget not a cash-flow statement.

- Current proposal has Budget Income of \$36,690 with expenses at \$47,107.89, for a net of negative \$10,417.89.
- Question regarding bank balance – currently there is approx. \$60k in the PTSA bank account. However, there are approx. \$3k in outstanding charges, and the current proposal to spend an additional \$10k, which would get us to an account balance of roughly \$47k at the end of Spring 2018.
- There is a reserve of \$10k with the bank otherwise we get charged fees. She does not believe there are limits to what can be carried over from year to year.
- Nicole mentioned several of the line items including the dance, directory, no-cost fundraising (e.g. Fred Meyer-type programs), spirit wear, garage sale (Board decided to propose reducing budget income this year to \$11,500 with \$1,500 expenses for a net of \$10k), 8th grade celebration, TASA, Turning Point (usually breaks even), \$200 for Other Support/Misc. is for unexpected occurrences, and parent social.
- Proposed \$2k for Meridian MS PTA is a one-time donation to assist them with start-up costs – also, Athey students and teachers transferred there.
- Start-up Classroom Grants will be reduced from \$3,700 to \$3k – each teacher can get reimbursed for general classroom costs up to \$50.

President Tabor distributed a hand-out with information detailing the four new grant proposals that were received last spring (post-deadline). These are #12-#15, and must be voted on before the overall budget proposal is voted on. Grants #1-#11 were already voted and approved by the PTSA last spring.

- Each proposal was discussed – all 4 total \$3,850.89. #13 – new Korean grant for \$2k is for transportation and entry fees.
- Tracy Gilday made a motion to approve all 4 grants, none opposed, and the 4 grants were approved.

Tracy Gilday then made the motion to approve the proposed 2017-18 Athey PTSA budget with the following changes:

1. Increase PTSA website expense budget by \$400 for a total of \$500.
2. Decrease Start-up Classroom grants from \$3,700 to \$3k.
3. Add the four additional grants (#12-#15 as above) for a total of \$3,850.89.

None opposed, and the PTSA Budget for 2017-18 passed unanimously.

Adjourn

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned by President Jennifer Tabor at 11:10 a.m.

Attachment A: Sign in sheets

Attachment B: Amazon Smile hand-out

Attachment C: Athey PTSA Standing Rules 2017-18

Attachment D: Proposed Athey PTSA Budget 2017-18 (one prior to vote)

Attachment E: Packet of Proposed Grants (detail on Grants #12-#15)

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President: _____

Secretary: _____