

W. Charles Akins High School PTSA
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
Akins ECHS – CCC (Room 146)

MINUTES

In attendance: Trudy Richards (parent/secretary), Cecilia Gutierrez (teacher/parent), Angelica Ancira (parent/president), Michael Herbin (principal), Melinda Van Horn (staff), Shekema Dunlap (staff), Christy Huggins (parent), Jessica Rest (community member), Paula Hawn (parent), Ann Hatsfield (teacher/STUCO sponsor), Lance Wilksinson (teacher), Ceci Vazquez (parent), Melissa Contreras (staff), Russell Cole (teacher)

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

Topic: Trudy Richards presented the minutes from the December 2023 general meeting.

Action: Paula Hawn made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Jessica Rest seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Angelica Ancira said that treasurer Nathan Willis had stepped down from his role due to a promotion that resulted in a relocation to Cedar Park. She appointed Meg Kozel as interim treasurer for the remainder of the 2023-24 fiscal year.

As Kozel is still on maternity leave, Richards presented the treasurer's reports for December and January.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Ancira reminded members of the Phill the Box donation station that is installed in the middle of the school parking lot and will be there through at least May 1. She said that the PTSA collected 375 pounds in December for a total payment of \$75 and reiterated that there is a supply of bags in PSS Connie Miralrio's office if anyone needs them for their donations.

Richards said that the Executive Board is planning on a bigger push to the community during April for Earth Day.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards announced that the application window is open for the inaugural Akins PTSA Scholarship. Flyers have been posted, images have been submitted to Mr. Doerr for posting on school tvs, and the CCC has received and shared a flyer with seniors and their parents.

Scholarships:

- To be eligible for 2024, students must be a PTSA member by March 1, 2024
- Award is valued at \$500
- Will promote to parents in newsletters and at Coffee with the Principal events and to students with posted flyers, on school tvs, and potentially on a Blend banner
- Requires 75 hours of community service over four years, including some PTSA-specific service (students are notified of PTSA-specific opportunities on the PTSA Remind group)
- Can count PTSA meetings/events and PSS events as hours of service
- Applications due April 10, 2024
- Winner(s) to be announced at senior breakfast
- Panel of 3 reviewers to be selected by the PTSA Board
- Blind review process to avoid bias
- Applications will be scored on a rubric that takes into account levels of engagement

Action: Richards will reach out to Alex Vasquez for information about the Blend banner.

Topic: Richards announced that PTSA currently has 103 members, surpassing last year's total of 101.

She said that the Student Activity Committee has been challenged to help recruit new members, and that they'll receive a ticket into a drawing for each new member they refer during the month of February. The drawing will be held March 1 for a \$50 gift card. Additionally, students will receive service credit at the rate of 1 hour per 5 referrals.

There will be a membership incentive drawing for those who join in February for an Amaya's gift card. One parent/student/community member name and one teacher/staff member name will be drawn.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Ancira reported on behalf of fundraising chair, Gessie Wilson, noting that Wilson donated the \$50 gift card for the Student Activity Committee drawing.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Herbin provided the principal's report. He said that this week is Counselor Appreciation Week and that there was a recent TEA visit to view Akins' Special Education classrooms. Friday, February 9, will be a Parent/Teacher Conference Day. Akins' students are in the midst of competition season and have been successful in both UIL competitions and those of other organizations. Teacher of the Year is Yesenia Cardoza-Molina and Teacher of Promise is Deepa Pokala.

Richards commended PSS Connie Miralrio for her tireless work to publicize school events and meetings to parents and families, including the growth of the PSS Facebook page to 411 members.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Academy Coordinator Dr. Shekema Dunlap provided academy updates. She detailed competition success for ABLLE and discussed plans for Black History Month, including a talent showcase, teacher interviews, and other planned activities. Dunlap also mentioned an upcoming visit to Akins by an administrator from Las Cruces, New Mexico, to learn about the academy structure and programming.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Student Council (STUCO) sponsor Ann Hartsfield said that the April 27, 2024, prom theme chosen was "Tonight's Dreams...Tomorrow's Memory." Students are currently selling pretzels to raise money for prom and have created a donation link that she will share with PTSA for posting in the newsletter or on social media.

Hartsfield said that students would like to have a candy bar at prom, but that the catering prices for this are prohibitive at \$7 per person. She asked that PTSA help to support this goal, whether financially or logistically. Community member Jessica Rest volunteered to help with this, with parent Paula Hawn saying that she also had serving trays and containers to loan.

Hartsfield will also share opportunities for parent volunteers for set-up/chaperones/clean-up at a later date.

STUCO will also be assisting with Black History Month festivities.

Action to be taken: Hartsfield will confirm that the venue will allow outside food to be brought in. The PTSA Executive Board will coordinate with STUCO, Rest, and Hawn to help with this project.

Topic: Ancira asked for volunteers for the Nomination Committee to help secure nominees for next year's PTSA Executive Board. Rest and Richards volunteered to serve. Ancira and Richards will try to find two additional members for the committee.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Ancira asked for suggestions for ways to celebrate teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week in early May.

Teachers and staff in attendance said that food is always appreciated and came up with some additional ideas, including:

- hydration packets
- Expo/Sharpie markers
- lottery tickets
- car wash cards
- Sonic drink coupons
- potential drawing(s) for class coverage or larger prizes

Action: None taken.

Topic: CTE Team Lead, Cecilia Gutierrez, said that February is CTE month and asked if PTSA would be able to support the department's 30 teachers in some way.

Ancira volunteered to bring supplies for fruit cups and Rest volunteered to bring cookie trays to be set up on February 26.

Action to be taken: Ancira and Rest will coordinate with Gutierrez to find a space to set up these treats on 02/26/24.

Topic: Parent Ceci Vazquez announced that the Menchaca PTA will be hosting their annual school carnival, Mustang Round-Up, on April 13, for which they need student volunteers.

Richards said that if Vazquez could send a copy of the volunteer flyer, she'd share it with the PTSA student group.

Action to be taken: Vazquez will send the flyer to akinhsptsa@gmail.com and Richards will post it to the PTSA Remind group.

Topic: Richards announced that PTSA recently received a request for student grant funding from a current Akins' junior. She said that the PTSA Executive Board would consider the request and be in touch with the student in the next two weeks.

Action: None taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.