

W. Charles Akins High School PTSA  
Wednesday, March 6, 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), James Huggins (parent), Ian Huggins (student), Paula Hawn (parent), Melissa Contreras (staff), Connie Miralrio (staff member/parent)

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

**Topic:** Trudy Richards presented the minutes from the February 2024 general meeting.

**Action:** Paula Hawn made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Shekema Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic:** As Interim Treasurer Meg Kozel is still on maternity leave, Richards presented the treasurer's report for February.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Ancira said that the PTSA received a payment of \$75 for January clothing donations, bringing the total for this fundraiser to \$150 so far.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Richards announced that the application window is still open for the inaugural Akins PTSA Scholarship and that the deadline for a student to join PTSA to be eligible for 2024 has been extended to March 22. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is April 10, 2024.

Melinda Van Horn suggested PTSA host a scholarship workshop session for any eligible students on 04/09, an EOC testing day for underclassmen and Richards said she would be open to doing so if there was student interest.

James Huggins asked if the scholarship was only open to seniors and Richards said yes, but that the PTSA hoped to continue this program in subsequent years if funding can be secured.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Richards announced that PTSA currently has 106 members, with five new members in February.

She said that the Student Activity Committee drawing for a \$50 gift card was won by Leah Duran.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Richards gave an update for the Nominations Committee, stating that there are four open positions (President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary) and so far only two potential nominees. She asked that members reach out to their colleagues to see if anyone has interest in serving on the PTSA Board and said that she would be happy to share additional details about the positions.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** As there was no representative available for a fundraising update or a Student Activities Committee update, no reports were given for these topics.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Herbin provided the principal's report. He said that April will be full of many activities, including the 04/08 eclipse viewing (Akins has 3,000 pairs of viewing glasses provided by AISD and has a plan for all students to go outside for a short period of time during the eclipse), EOC/STAAR testing and prom. He also discussed the many successes students have had recently in contests, including mariachi, orchestra, and various CTE contests.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Academy Coordinator Dr. Shekema Dunlap provided academy updates. She detailed additional student competition successes as well as the success of the Black History Month celebration and the site visit from an assistant superintendent from Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Regarding ECHS, more than 20 students are projected for ACC graduation, which will be held May 17.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** As there was no representative available for a STUCO update or a A+FCU update, no reports were given for these topics.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Ancira said that the Diamond Dazzlers dance team has asked for concession volunteers for their spring show (she wasn't sure of dates, but thinks 04/12-13). They are willing to provide 15% of concessions proceeds to the PTSA if we can provide 8-10 volunteers to help.

**Action:** Richards will coordinate with Ancira to get dates/times and provide this info to the Student Activity Committee as a volunteer opportunity.

**Topic:** Richards announced that PTSA recently received an inquiry from a UT professor offering to provide a free digital training tool for students called Finding Focus, along with training for teachers/staff for implementation of this tool if Akins is interested. Currently, this tool is in use at LASA and Navarro HS in Austin and at over a hundred schools nationwide. Herbin asked that Richards forward him the email to review.

**Action:** Richards will forward the email to Herbin and he'll reach out to Navarro/LASA to inquire about their experiences with this tool.

**Topic:** Student Ian Huggins, who recently received a student grant from PTSA, gave details of his planned aerospace engineering program at Rice and thanked the group for their support.

**Action:** None taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.