

W. Charles Akins High School PTSA
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Akins ECHS – Eagle's Nest

MINUTES

In attendance: Trudy Richards (President/Parent), Meg Kozel (VP/School Social Worker), Michael Herbin (Principal), Belynda Montgomery (Fundraising Chair/Parent), Melinda Van Horn *via Zoom* (School Improvement Facilitator,) Paula Hawn (parent), Skylar Hawn (student), Angelica Ancira (Parent), Luna Garcia (Student), Kendra Chavera (Social Work Intern), Stephanie Cerda (parent), Cecilia Gutierrez (Teacher)

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm

Topic: Trudy Richards presented the minutes from the February 2022 general meeting.

Action: Paula made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Belynda Montgomery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Belynda Montgomery and Skylar Hawn talked about the success of Winter Formal. Ms. Montgomery shared it was a success. Still waiting to hear the results of funds raised. Skylar shared that students felt it was a success. Plan for next year is to host a Homecoming Dance chaired by either Cheer boosters or Diamond boosters.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Kozel discussed updates from nomination committee. Ancira plans to run for PTSA President. Richards plans to run for Secretary. Kozel plans to run for VP. Nathan Willis plans to run for Treasurer. Nominations still being accepted for PTSA Exec Board 2023 – 2024 school year.

Action: None taken.

Topic: President Trudy Richards discussed plans for Teacher Appreciation Week. PTSA plans to do a nacho bar for teachers on Friday, May 5th in honor of Cinco de Mayo. Would like to make sure we serve custodial and cafeteria staff as well as all school staff in this year's Teacher Appreciation plan. Van Horn requested to bring back Admin making hot dogs & hamburgers for staff. Kozel to send links of things we bought in bulk that may be helpful for teacher appreciation week goodie bags. Thorough discussion about options for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Treasurer Nathan Willis not present at meeting. No Treasurer's report provided.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards provided Membership Update. 5 new members joined Akins' PTSA today. Current membership at 101 members. Richard provided information about increases in Texas PTA dues. Akins' PTSA does not have plans to increase our dues.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Michael Herbin provided the principal's report. Highlights include SAT Testing Day, African American Heritage Celebration, Advanced Academics Night is 3/2/2023 in CCC, South by Slaughter Lane spirit week next week 3/6 – 3/10, Orchestra received UIL sweepstakes.

Action: None taken.

Topic: School Improvement Facilitator Melinda Van Horn provided academy updates. Prior to Academy updates, Melinda Van Horn reported a profit of \$538.46 from the Valentine's Dance.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Skylar Hawn (student) provided STUCO updates. STUCO currently working on planning Prom. Akins' SAVE Promise Club part of the See Something, Say Something initiative presented to AISD officials. Positive response from presentations and hopeful for a positive reception from the AISD School Board.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards provided updates from District Advisory Committee about AISD's budget. AISD proposing \$35 million to be budgeted toward teacher salary increases. Highest budget item at AISD board. Plans to increase teacher salaries in order to retain quality teachers within AISD. AISD board also pushing Texas Legislature to increase per pupil allocation. Recapture to increase from 55% to 56% for next school year.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards shared Menchaca Elementary School's Mustang Round Up is coming up. Great community event as well as opportunity for students needing community service hours. Ancira Cowan Elementary's Spring Festival, great community event as well as opportunity for students needing community service hours.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Van Horn shared Juntos Together is planning to recruit Latin-X families for round table discussion for parents and students. Parent meeting planned for March 7th, and student meeting planned for March 9th. Van Horn also shared concerns from Track Coach Flores regarding the crosswalk on Old San Antonio connecting main campus and field. Belynda Montgomery and Ancira have previously made efforts for the City to Address this. Richards directed to City Council Member Ryan Alter.

Action: None taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.

[ABLLE updates as 3/1/2023](#)

- Akins Criminal Justice Students received a behind the scenes look at the Austin Police Department Training Academy. The instructors commented on the excellent questions our students asked and students were very appreciative of the experience.
- Class of 2024 Skins Correctional Services Internship Applicants have been selected and we couldn't be more excited for all of them and all their hard work.
- Akins Correctional Services Internships had big wins at the TPSA Regional Criminal Justice Competition. Every Akins student who competed at the event earned 1st place in at least one event with several earning multiple medals.
- The YMCA Youth and Government Competition starts tomorrow and Friday
- Our Color Guard has been keeping busy and participated in multiple events throughout our community in the month of February.

[AHA Updates as 3/1/2023](#)

- Akins Journey Theatre will perform Midsummer Night's Dream for English classes on Friday and Monday
- Akins Fine Arts is beginning UIL competition season
- Akins' Art program competed in VASE this past weekend. Many students received 4s. Congratulations to Madison Flores who qualified for state!

[ECHSA Updates as of 3/1/2023](#)

- Students participated in an academy assembly and were celebrated for receiving A and A/B honor roll, several students also received teacher awards for their accomplishments in a specific content areas
- A new group of students recently finished registering for CLEP testing and will be traveling to Texas State soon. Students will have the opportunity to receive several college hours upon successful completion of this test.
- Students in the Real Estate Pathway have been working with AVID in order to get ready for a PTech Symposium with Austin Board of Realtors this Friday 3/3.

[Green Tech as of 3/1/2023](#)

- Last week was National FFA Week. Our FFA students hosted a breakfast for the teachers and also gave out treat bags to all staff!
- FFA students showed their animals at the San Antonio Livestock Show last week and did really well! The following students placed:
 - Ryder Thornton showed his pig and came in 10th place cross. Ryder also showed his steer Chuck and came in 11th place.
 - Colby Cotter Top 13 Hamp
 - Arianna Murray Top 15 Hamp
 - Lili Gonzalez Espina caught a calf at the San Antonio Calf Scramble and earned a scholarship.
 - Our floral team competed in the SALE Floriculture Contest and did well.
- Students are now preparing for the Travis County Livestock Show.

[New Tech updates as 3/1/2023](#)

- Working with Code2College to set up summer program participants
 - Also working to get students access to Code2College's "Career Day" that provides mentorship opportunities to students
- Akins Film students are working on their submissions to the 2023 Austin Film Festival

[SSA updates as of 3/1/2023](#)

TAFE is headed to STATE this weekend!!! If they win, they'll be going to Nationals in Orlando in June.

STEM updates as of 3/1/2023

- 3 Biomed students presented at the Regional science fair last week and 1 project earned 5th place in the Energy Sustainable Materials and Design category.
- 4 Biomed students will be taking the BACE (Biotechnician Assistant credentialing Exam) exam on Monday and Wednesday so we wish them the best of luck!
- Civil engineering students had a field trip to Whisper Valley to explore an Eco Housing community yesterday.

AVID Updates as of 3/1/2023

- AVID Seniors are up to over 5.3 million in scholarships!
- We are currently working on getting recertified as an AVID campus.
- Our next field trip will be to Huston-Tillotson University.