

W. Charles Akins High School PTSA  
Wednesday, October 5, 2022  
Akins Library

## MINUTES

**In attendance:** Trudy Richards (President), Ella Lutz-Carrillo (Membership Chair), Yvonne Valdez (Secretary), Meg Kozel (VP), Cecilia Gutierrez (teacher), Paula Hawn (parent), Skylar Hawn (student), Michael Herbin (Principal), Connie Miralrio (staff), Melinda Van Horn (staff), Gloria Litt (parent), Martha Romero (parent), Raybann Stephenson (parent), Katy Larson (parent), Alan Brooks (teacher), Belynda Montgomery (Fundraising Chair), Sara Bernier (parent), Bonny Hannah (parent), Brower Hannah (parent), Angelica Aneira (parent), Myriam Sanchez (parent), Leidy Ramirez (parent), Joanna Rowley (parent), Kasey Roebuck (staff), Gladis Deleon (parent)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Topic:** Yvonne Valdez presented the minutes from the September 2022 general meeting.

**Action:** Meg Kozel made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Ella Lutz-Carrillo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic:** Kozel discussed ongoing plans for the teacher workroom remodel and indicated that volunteers will be needed for taping and painting when those dates are set. Parents can still purchase from the Amazon wish list if desired:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MW032NPTY159?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MW032NPTY159?ref_=wl_share)

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Trudy Richards discussed plans for Blue & Gold Night and said that PTSA will need 15 volunteers to man the ticket and merchandise tables. Volunteers are especially needed for the 7:30-9 pm shift to help count tickets from each organization's booth. She passed around a sign-up sheet for shifts.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Lutz-Carrillo announced that membership is currently at 73 members with a goal of 200 and asked for suggestions to boost membership. Some ideas:

- Remind teachers they get academy points for joining
- Have events for kids to sign up for PTSA
- Have student PTSA meetings during the day
- Require booster club reps and student reps from each organization so we can know where each group needs help (Gloria Litt volunteered to help find reps from the boosters and start working on list)

**Action:** Richards will send Litt the current list and Litt will work on getting contact info for all reps.

**Topic:** Belynda Montgomery, fundraising chair, said that the PTSA will be doing Spirit nights monthly and she is trying to find locations that are not used by other Akins' organizations. Several suggestions were made by parents and other members, including Mod Pizza, Whataburger, etc.

**Action:** Montgomery will investigate member suggestions and plan for additional spirit nights.

**Topic:** Richards asked the attendees to break into groups to brainstorm ideas for additional PTSA events in 2022-23. When the groups presented, they suggested the following:

- Student Council needs help to have a winter formal dance
- Luncheon for staff
- Food trailer
- Candy/dessert cart for teachers
- Coffee cart for teachers
- Cookies made by parents and then teachers get to select and go home w/box of cookies
- Swag qr codes
- Halloween carnival/Trunk or Treat
- fence line sponsorship
- Pies for staff to take home for holidays
- Community garage sale
- Sibling day
- Summer meeting to discuss Homecoming so the kids don't miss out again
- Formal dress donation - advertise to outgoing srs. and others to see if we can build up a selection for kids.
- Parent or Student talks about college/financial aid (Gear Up can help)
- College fair

- Movie night, sell popcorn, pizza, etc.
- Split the Pot raffle
- Candy / Pencil / Flower Grams - for different holidays

Richards noted that although we likely won't be able to do all of these, some would definitely be possible this year.

**Action:** The Executive Board will meet with the Campus Leadership Team to integrate some of these activities into this year's planning.

**Topic:** Richards presented the budget report prepared by treasurer, Nathan Willis, who was out sick. She indicated that the primary income in September came from membership dues and the primary expenses were from the portion of those dues that go to the state and national PTA organizations.

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Michael Herbin provided the principal's report and gave the following important dates:

10/12: PSAT

10/14 : no school

10/17: campus information session about bond

10/22: School Fair at Palmer Event Center

10/22: Trunk or Treat at Akins 4-7

11/08: Election Day is a day off for students (staff might have a parent conference day on election day, if so, PTSA will provide breakfast for teachers)

**Action:** None taken.

**Topic:** Academy Coordinator Kasey Roebuck provided academy updates (see addendum for details).

**Action:** None taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

# PTSA/CAC Updates 2022-2023

## [ABLLE updates as of 10/5/2022](#)

- Law Practicum is preparing for mock trial district competition in November. The district conference will be at Akins on November 5th. Mr. Herbin has given permission for us to start a See Something, Say Something Sandy Hook Promise Club. This is the first step to a more comprehensive school safety awareness program that we have proposed as part of our grant request. It is one that we want to see implemented district wide.
- The Akins Correctional Services Internship volunteered at this year's National Night Out Kickoff Event with the Austin Police Department. They helped set things up before the event, helped direct people during the event, and remained to clean up after the event. During the event, they had a chance to meet with various officers including K9, Community Liaison, Recruitment, Dispatch, etc. They also got a chance to have a few words with our Chief of Police in Austin, Chief Joseph Chacon. The students were eager to help, and people had nothing but great things to say about the interns, the internship, and Akins Early College High School.

## [AHA Updates as of 10/5/2022](#)

- Working in collaboration with Austin Symphony to teach lessons on close listening and the decline of classical music
- AP Studio Art mural is going up in the green hall!
- Akins Journey Theater is hosting their famous Haunted House at Blue and Gold Night on the 26th!

## [Green Tech as of 10/5/22](#)

- Our Vet Tech Program will have a grooming day on October 21, 2022.
- On Saturday our FFA sheep and goat exhibitors traveled to Drippings Springs to compete in the Buda Buckle Bash. Our first jackpot show of the year!
  - 🏆 Brandon Ruiz- 2nd place Medium Wool, 3rd place Southdown and 7th place Medium Wool
  - 🏆 Amaris Maldonado- 3rd place Dorper and 5th place Cross
  - 🏆 Sarah Thomas- 3rd place Cross and 4th place Southdown



- 🏆 Zoe Gregg-4th place Cross and 7th place Medium Wool
- 🏆 Kaitlyn Rangel- 5th place cross and 8th place Medium Wool
- 🏆 Rome Williams- 8th place Medium Wool
- 🏆 Lily Gonzalez-Espinal- 8th place light weight goat

### SSA updates as of 10/5/2022:

### New Tech updates as of 10/5/2022

- Our journalism, yearbook, and commercial photography students are headed to a conference/competition in San Antonio this weekend.
- We have 14 Akins Film students who received scholarships to attend the Austin Film Festival at the end of this month.
- We are beginning recruitment for Code2College, an internship program to connect students with the world of compute science.
- e4Youth club has taken off for the year which connects students with creative careers. We're seeing record participation.

### STEM updates as of 10/5/2022

Our students' experienced the ACC Bioscience Incubator. They also had the opportunity to analyze a protein, prepare a sample of DNA and analyze it. In addition, they had a tour in the research lab used by various companies in the field of biomedical and environmental.

Bio med also has a project on CPR Life Savings Skills. It was fully funded by Donors Choose mostly from two donors, one of which is the Akins own Cheah family. The Cheah's family has helped to fund 2 projects in my program! This project consists of 2 sets of manikin's with adult and infant for the students to practice and prepare to earn their certification in CPR/First Aid/AED.

Friday is Manufacturing Day! Austin area manufacturers open their doors for students to visit their facilities to learn about the industry. We have a group of 30 students visiting NXP Semiconductors in North East Austin.

### ECHSA Updates as of 10/5/2022



- ECHS 9th graders participated in our first TSI testing push for the semester in late September. Several students became ELAR ready, which means they will now have the opportunity to take ACC courses in the spring.
- ECHS 9th graders registered for ACC through their AVID class last week. Our academy ambassadors helped this process by answering student questions and guiding students through the application process.
- Students in our Real Estate Pathway participated in a kickoff event on September 27th. Our industry partner, The Austin Board of Realtors, met with students and introduced them to work based opportunities.

#### AVID Updates as of 10/5/2022

- Our seniors are getting their first acceptances and scholarships!
- Akins is leading the district among AVID campuses in college acceptances, FAFSA completion and students being TSI ready.
- Elias Brown received a \$50,000 scholarship from the University of Arizona
- Anna Harrell received a \$36,000 scholarship from Northern Arizona University
- Diana Moreno-Zamarippa was accepted to Texas State University.
- Natalie Smith was accepted to Texas A&M University Corpus Christi.