

W. Charles Akins High School PTSA
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Akins ECHS – CCC (Room 146)

MINUTES

In attendance: Trudy Richards (parent/secretary), Meg Kozel (staff/VP), Jess Rest (community member), Nathan Willis (community member/treasurer), Cecilia Gutierrez (teacher/parent), Angelica Ancira (parent/president), Michael Herbin (principal), Melinda Van Horn (staff), Paula Hawn (parent), Brian Ariguza (teacher), Natalia Cana (student), Yalecia Martin (student), Shekema Dunlap (staff), Connie Miralrio (staff), Jess Rest (community member)

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

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

Action: Meg Kozel made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Cecilia Guterriez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Richards reported that the total raised at Blue & Gold Night was \$14,548.36, about the same as last year. PTSA will receive at least \$400 for their help with ticket sales. PTSA also raised \$125 from their gift card wall and sold one t-shirt at the event.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards said that a meeting of the Student Recognition Committee was held via Zoom on October 26, but had only two PTSA members in attendance. She said that the executive board will work to develop a plan for student recognition and that any interested members were welcome to give input.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Kozel gave information about the first PTSA student meeting, held October 18. She said students in attendance were enthusiastic and had great ideas to get more students involved and to boost morale. Student volunteers worked the concession stand at the last football game to help raise money for PTSA. Kozel created a Remind group that several students have joined already and the next meeting will be November 15 during FIT. Richards said that the executive board approved the formation of the Student Activity Committee, which will hopefully be

chaired by a student, and that this committee would be provided with a small budget for their work. This will be discussed more in-depth at the November student meeting.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Ancira said that some progress had been made on the Phil the Box fundraiser, but the company has not yet provided an installation date. (As a reminder, the donation box will be installed in the parking lot and the community will be able to drop off clothing, shoes, and softline household items like blankets and sheets. The PTSA will receive monthly checks for 20 cents per pound collected.)

Action: None taken.

Topic: Willis presented the treasurer's report for October, including \$4,408 in income from credit card transactions from Blue & Gold Night that will go to the school. Other income for the month included t-shirt sales, gift card wall sales, membership dues, and reimbursal of a meal for parents from the school. Expenses for the month included state and national membership dues and a reimbursal to Richards for the CheddarUp annual membership.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards announced that PTSA currently has 90 members. There will be another membership incentive drawing for teachers and staff for all who have joined by November 15. This month's prize is a gift basket with goodies and gift cards from several local businesses.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Ancira spoke on behalf of Fundraising Chair Gessie Wilson, who was unable to attend the meeting. Wilson was instrumental in securing donations for Blue & Gold Night and continues to solicit additional contributions for the PTSA.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Herbin provided the principal's report. As part of PTSA's October membership drive, he covered 8th period for Ms. Jochem's biology class and enjoyed designing a fun and interactive lesson for the students.

November 13 is a student holiday and staff development day and November 17 is the second annual Thanksgiving luncheon for staff. He said this luncheon would be the best time to distribute pies that the PTSA is able to collect.

STAAR/EOC retesting will happen during the first week of December.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Academy Coordinator Dr. Shekema Dunlap provided academy updates. The coordinators met for their Blue & Gold debriefing meeting on November 1 to discuss successes and ways to improve future events. Next week, they will be hosting academy assemblies to celebrate students with A and A/B honor roll and to remind students of school policies like wearing ids and attending regularly.

Middle school visits will begin November 11, with daytime and nighttime opportunities.

Recently, Akins hosted members of the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation for a site visit regarding Early College High School, PTECH, and career preparation. Visitors were able to tour classrooms, visit with PTECH students, and hear from our amazing faculty. They came away impressed and consider Akins a model for how to implement such programming.

Action: None taken.

Topic: A+FCU representative Nathan Willis said that scholarship applications opened November 1 and he will be partnering with the CCC to offer a Q&A session in November. Information about these scholarships can be found online or in his email signature.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Ancira announced plans for the Pies for Teachers project. It is estimated that we'll need 280 pies. She has been in contact with Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, who has committed to purchase some pies for donation (number unknown). Herbin said to check with Senaida for up-to-date numbers of teachers and staff.

Community member Jessica Rest, who donated 40 homemade pies last year, committed to 100 pies for this year. PTSA thanked her for her generosity.

Ancira and Wilson will continue to solicit pie donations and Richards will send out a notice to all parents for donations of pies or money to buy pies.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards announced that there is a PTSA spirit night at Texas Roadhouse on November 8.

She also noted that she and Ancira have a meeting scheduled with Brian Peña of US Congressman Lloyd Doggett's office and asked if members had any thoughts on topics of discussion that they'd like addressed in this meeting. She plans to discuss school finance reform, teacher salaries, and standardized testing.

Action: None taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.