

W. Charles Akins High School PTSA
Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Akins College and Career Center

MINUTES

In attendance: Trudy Richards (President), Ella Lutz-Carrillo (Membership Chair), Yvonne Valdez (Secretary), Meg Kozel (VP), Paula Hawn (parent), Skylar Hawn (student), Michael Herbin (Principal), Connie Miralrio (staff), Melinda Van Horn (staff), Alan Brooks (teacher), Belynda Montgomery (Fundraising Chair), Angelica Aneira (parent), Teresa Grumbles (teacher), Taylor Mena (A+FCU rep), Belynda Montgomery (Fundraising Chair), Vividiana Reich (parent), Greg Santiago (parent), Ma Esther Aguirre (parent), Cathleen Stadler (community member)

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Topic: Trudy Richards announced that the Texas Council of PTAs had acknowledged the Akins PTSA as an organization in Good Standing and awarded us the Snappy Increase Award for reaching membership greater than last year's by the end of October.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Yvonne Valdez presented the minutes from the October 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: Richards announced that Blue & Gold Night raised \$15,000 (much more than in previous years. PTSA will make \$200 (maybe more if Academy Coordinators vote to approve). In debriefing meeting, ACs discussed having some craft tables and/or free booths to allow more families to participate without cost. Survey was sent out to all who had booths to gather feedback.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Kozel discussed ongoing plans for the teacher workroom remodel and said that painting had been completed in the main areas. Parents can still purchase from the Amazon wish list if desired: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MW032NPTY159?ref=wl_share

Action: None taken.

Topic: Teacher Alan Brooks presented a proposal to recognize Akins' high-achieving students with a billboard. This is something that other districts have done to acknowledge the success of their valedictorian and salutatorian, top 10, etc. He presented locations and prices of potential billboard sites. Cost would be \$3,500+, but A+FCU would be willing to help defray part of the costs. Belynda Montgomery said that we may be able to utilize our existing partnership with Rocket Banners for design or printing services. Richards said it would be a good idea to see the district would be willing to pay for part or all of the cost since they would have to approve it anyway.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards discussed several of the possibilities for events that were brought up at the October meeting and said that the PTSA have picked three to take on now:

- Pies for teachers for Thanksgiving (goal of 280 pies/monetary donations)
- Teacher treat carts (every six weeks)
- Work with Student Council to help facilitate winter formal dance

Action: None taken.

Topic: Richards presented the budget report prepared by treasurer, Nathan Willis, who was out. She indicated that the primary income in October 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: Lutz-Carrillo announced that membership is currently at 86 members with a goal of 200.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Belynda Montgomery, fundraising chair, announced several upcoming spirit nights for the fall semester, including Pizza Hut (Nov 15), Whataburger (Nov 29), DoubleDave's (date TBD),

and Chuy's (date TBD). She also passed around a sign-up sheet for pie donations.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Michael Herbin provided the principal's report and reminded us that Election Day, November 8, is a day off for students and a parent conference day. Akins will also be serving as a polling location, so parents and teachers can vote on site.

Action: None taken.

Topic: Academy Coordinator Teresa Grumbles provided academy updates (see addendum for details).

Action: None taken.

Topic: STUCO President Skylar Hawn provided an update on membership numbers and on the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System that has been approved by AISD police. They will be attending the next school board meeting to speak on behalf of this program and ask for Board approval.

Action: None taken.

Topic: A+FCU representative Taylor Mena gave a brief report on recent donations they have made to Akins. She reminded us of the ongoing membership promotion and that A+FCU reps are always happy to discuss opportunities to come into classes to teach lessons on financial responsibility.

Action: None taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

PTSA/CAC Updates 2022-2023

ABLLE updates as of 11/2/2022

- Law Practicum mock trial district competition will be at Akins on November 5th
- Blue & Gold night was a HUGE success for our ABLLE club booths (JROTC & CSI)

AHA Updates as of 11/2/2022

- Fine Arts students performed at Blue and Gold Night! Big shout out to the band, sapphires, and diamonds!
- Akins Mural in partnership with MexicArte Museum is almost finished!
- Orchestra performed in Fall Vertical Concerts with our vertical team

ECHSA Updates as of 11/2/2022

- Several students traveled to Texas State to take the CLEP test, which allowed them to receive college credit for Spanish and College Algebra. We will be taking another group of students in the second week of November to go test.
- Students will participate in the first Honor Roll ceremony for the semester this Friday. Students who earned A/B and A honor roll will be celebrated.

Green Tech as of 11/2/2022

- Ryder Thornton represented Akins at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis the week of October 24-28. He was selected to play his tuba in the FFA band.
- Our FFA hosted a petting zoo booth at Blue and Gold Night. It was very successful! FFA also hosted a petting zoo for our staff on October 14.
- Ag teachers (Kayla Hughes, Nicole Smith and Brandon Callis) hosted a Halloween party at the barn. Students were able to eat dinner, watch movies and keep our animals safe.

New Tech updates as of 11/2/2022



- 14 New Tech & AHA students received scholarships to attend Austin Film Festival on October 27th & 28th. These students were able to meet & mingle with industry professionals while attending panels and film screenings.
- Code2College is recruiting for their Winter 2022 internship program. We are working on recruitment events to get our students involved.

SSA updates as of 11/2/2022

- HOSA hosted their trunk or treat for the community.
- HOSA hosted Blood Drive today.
- Kyra Avalor was hired at her internship Lawson Chiro.
- MA 2 Practicum partnered with Watermark Memory Care facility to help with music/art therapy for patients with dementia.

STEM updates as of 11/1/2022

AVID Updates as of 11/2/2022

- AVID seniors are working on completing their FAFSA/TASFA, college applications and scholarships
- AISD AVID will host a college workshop day at Akins on November 11. The goal is for all seniors to complete at least 1 application and finish their FAFSA/TASFA. Students will also work on applying for scholarships.
- Many of our students just received their first college acceptances including:
 - Shaun Cabase (UMHB)
 - Beto Nino Garcia (Texas, Texas State and Texas A&M)
 - Kyndall Sterling (Texas A&M Corpus Christi)
 - Justin Gonzalez (Northern Arizona University)
 - Uniyah Nicholson (Prairie View A&M University)
 - Abraham Gonzalez (Texas State)
 - Cameron Alejo (Texas State and Texas A&M Kingsville)

ABLLE updates as of 10/5/2022

- Law Practicum is preparing for a 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 11/1/2022

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.