



September 20, 2016, 7:00 PM

Minutes

In attendance Heather Claxton, Angela Hansen, Ken Joslin, Jill Podzimek, Veronica Hillman, Kendra Boone, Tori Vicich, Laura Regelbrugge, Jewel Wacker, Melissa Turner, Jorge Ayala, Wendy Peterson, Bridget Winz, Areli Perez, Melinda Hafenrichter, Mayra Johnson, Kit Neel, Anthony Hansen, Leslie Smogor, Becky Lee, Jason Peterson and Laura Balles.

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Anthony Hansen.
2. Introductions – Presented by Anthony Hansen.
 - a. About the PTO – ACES PTO is a 100% volunteer organization; all parents and teachers are automatically members. PTO strives to build a sense of community through family events, and raises funds to purchase equipment for the school.
 - b. Goals for the Year – This year PTO aims to continue communication enhancements via social media and marquee; participate in new District PTO Council monthly meetings; introduce new events to broaden reach; continue humanitarian efforts; and support facility and learning needs through teacher grants.
 - c. Questions for Administration – Parent questions can be submitted anonymously on forms at meeting or via PTO web site.
3. Budget Report – Presented by Treasurer Becky Lee.
 - a. 2015 – 2016 Recap – \$24,500 raised, primarily through the Fall Fundraiser and Color A Thon Run. These funds were largely used to pay off the marquee, as well as for teacher grants and support.
 - b. Fundraising Goal – \$20,000 fundraising goal to purchase 60 Chromebooks and two carts, to allow for additional technology outside computer lab and assist with standardized testing; 30 Chromebooks and one cart already purchased. Additional stretch goal of \$5,000 to purchase playground equipment for older students. These goals are above and beyond \$4,000 budgeted for teacher grants this school year.
 - c. Budget – Current budget reviewed. **Motion to accept, first Heather Claxton, second Wendy Peterson, all approved.** Back to School Bash profit and loss statement presented; less than budgeted expense of \$525.89.
4. Old Business
 - a. Back to School Bash – Anthony Hansen provided a Back to School Bash summary, and thanked his event co-chair Wendy Peterson. Despite being forced indoors due

to weather, the event was a success, with over 250 students, many teachers and staff in attendance. Jason and Wendy Peterson also secured two sponsors – Mike & Denise’s and Keller Williams Infinity – which allowed PTO to distribute free spirit shirts to students. There were also ten vendors, four food trucks, two bounce houses, a community art project, prize dash and school supply pick up. There was mixed parent feedback on supply pick up, and it may be scheduled differently next year. Finally, Laura Balles reported some parents were disappointed teachers were not on site for the entire event; consider communication improvements next year.

- b. Boo Hoo Breakfast – Vice President Leslie Smogor provided a Boo Hoo Breakfast summary. For the first time, PTO hosted an informal breakfast for kindergarten parents on the first day of school. Will increase communication next year in effort to improve attendance.
 - c. Cappuccino with PTO – Leslie Smogor also provided a summary of the new, monthly cappuccino with PTO events. These informal gatherings are intended to increase communication and participation, especially for those who may be unable to attend formal PTO meetings. The first event in August was well attended.
5. Principal’s Report – Principal Mayra Johnson provided a report.
- a. Enrollment – Although other schools in the District experienced enrollment decreases, or modest increases, ACES enrollment increased significantly – from 582 to 664 – and is currently at capacity. In addition, approx. 20 new homes are projected to close in Autumn Creek by December. District is reviewing ACES programs for next year, like Dual Language, STARS, etc.
 - b. New Staff – There are many new staff members at ACES this year, including Dual Language, Special Education and other teachers.
 - c. Communication – New monthly newsletter starting 10/1; consistent format across District. Sunday reminder phone calls will continue at 5:00 PM.
 - d. Math Curriculum – Math curriculum updated, and new math program approved and purchased; parent letter to come 9/30.
 - e. Grading and Homework Policy – New grading and homework policy implemented; FAQs on District web site, or questions can be directed to Mayra Johnson. Homework, especially reading, remains very important.
 - f. Hispanic Heritage Month – Students and staff throughout the school are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15 – 10/15.
 - g. Upcoming Year – There is a great deal of excitement about the coming year! Please contact classroom teachers and / or librarian to volunteer.
6. New Business
- a. Green Apple Day of Service – Anthony Hansen presented initiatives for Green Apple Day of Service, a national holiday sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council. ACES families cut and donated fallen trees to install three reading rings around the school. A buddy bench will be purchased together by PTO and Student Council, and installed with concrete and services donated by another ACES family. The Green Apple initiative last year was landscaping the marquee.

- b. Fall Fundraiser – Leslie Smogor presented upcoming fundraiser highlights. The Cherrydale Farms and Chip Shoppe fundraiser will begin 9/27, with a school assembly. Orders are due 10/12, and will be delivered to school 11/9. This turnkey fundraising program offers frozen foods, home décor, wrapping paper and more. Approx. 40% of students participated last year, with sales ranging from \$0 - \$1,000 per student. However, there will be a parent donation option again this year, for families who prefer donation to fundraiser participation. A successful Fall Fundraiser is essential in order to purchase the second set of Chromebooks and cart this year.
- c. Walk / Bike to School Event – Leslie Smogor introduced this new event, celebrated nationally, and intended to raise awareness of student safety and traffic concerns. Nearby drop off locations for bused students are under consideration, and a used shoe drive will take place in conjunction with this event. More information to come via Facebook, web site and flyers.
- d. Monster Mash – Anthony Hansen presented details for the upcoming event on 10/29, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Attendees are encouraged to dress in Halloween costumes, and activities will include pumpkin painting, games, food, DJ from Pinheadz, and new this year – a caricature artist. Thank you to Jason and Wendy Peterson, as well as Laura Balles, for securing community sponsors. Many volunteers signed up, but more are needed; all volunteers entered into a gift card raffle.
- e. Ladies’ Night Out – Angela Hansen presented details for the WERQ dance fitness event on 11/18, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM. The event is open to all women in the community, for a suggested donation of \$10 each; door prizes are planned.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Box Tops / Other – Kit Neel presented; total annual goal for Box Tops, Labels for Education and My Coke Rewards is 30,000; if this goal is reached, Mayra Johnson will be turned into a living ice cream sundae, and students will receive an ice cream treat! (Food allergies will be addressed.) This year, teachers are also included in competition and incentives. First collection date 9/30; first counting date 10/3. There is also a new Box Tops bonus app, and other ancillary fundraising initiatives include Shoparoo, AmazonSmile and Red Robin. Anthony Hansen indicated ACES PTO would receive \$5 for each ACES ticket purchased for the Wizards basketball game, organized by BBES PTO and supported by the District.
- b. Restaurant Nights – Leslie Smogor presented restaurant night results to date, with \$250 earned at Southbank Original BBQ in August, and another \$250 earned at The Chocolate Shoppe in September – totaling 48% of the annual target already! Upcoming restaurant nights include Mike & Denise’s in October, Panera in November, Culver’s in January (staff is welcome to serve), Rosati’s in March and Foxy’s on the last day of school in May. The idea of selling Foxy’s ice cream during the last day of school was raised, although District approval is needed. Becky Lee indicated that May and June restaurant night funds were received this schoolyear, and are therefore included in the current budget.

8. Open Forum

- a. A monthly calendar flyer, including all schoolwide events, was requested; this could possibly be incorporated in coming monthly school newsletter.
 - b. Request for new District PTO Council to develop incentive for high school students to volunteer.
9. Anthony Hansen adjourned meeting at 7:59 PM.