

JANUARY 2015 PTSA MINUTES

John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School

Date | time 1/14/2015 7:11 PM | Meeting called to order by Maria Tiongco Ramos

In Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 7:11PM with 15 members in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of December Meeting Minutes: motion Patricia Hollar, 2nd Dr.Howerton
Minutes were approved.

Officer Introductions

The members of the PTA Executive Board introduced themselves briefly including Maria Tiongco Ramos (President), Brian Prince (Vice President), Carrie Czarnik (Treasurer), Aruna Davis (Recording Secretary) and Ana Venegas (Corresponding Secretary)

Reports

1. President's Report – Maria Tiongco Ramos

- The first 'Coffee Talk with Dr.Howerton" held on Dec 18th, 2014 was a grand success. Plans to have several such talks in future.
- Salutes: Winter Festivus and Holiday Engineering Challenges were carried out well and heartfelt thanks to all the committee chairs and Head Room parents who volunteered for these events.
- Yearbook – Talks are underway with the Peekaboo organization to help with compiling a yearbook. Details will be shared in the February meeting. The best part of the service is that there is no minimum order requirement. Students will also have an opportunity to work on the yearbook project. Families will have an opportunity to customize up to four pages.
- Gathered interest for End-of-the-year potluck at the Eola Community Center near Aurora Public Library. Among the members present, 8 voted for Friday May 22nd as possible day to host this event.

2. Treasurer's Report – Carrie Czarnik

- Presented available funds in the PTSA account which included \$ 222.62 in checking; \$ 600 savings; \$ 90 petty cash.
- Reported receiving a \$500 donation.
- Recent expenses included winter party snacks, coffee, PTSA Incorporation Fees, and Fees for Liability Insurance.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Educational Enrichment :

Chair: Matthew Root (Brian Prince – PTSA Board Liaison)

Report presented by Matthew Root

- ✓ Mr. Root informed the members that a spreadsheet has been created and has been shared with the educational committee members to collaborate and source new ideas.

- ✓ Informed the initiation of a new speaker series. Working with Dr.Howerton to decide on the dates. This will be an event to be held once a month, most likely on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Tentative Start Date: March 2015. It would be a day long activity. Aurora University is also excited about this opportunity and the STEM school will be working the University on this. Also, anyone who is in a STEM career or know of people in STEM careers may contact Mr. Root about this opportunity.
- ✓ Plans are underway to possibly start a Raspberry Pi and Minecraft club using the University server.

B. Membership:

Co-chairs: Sarah Anderson & Patricia Hollar (Ana Venegas - PTSA Board Liaison)

Report presented by Patricia Hollar

- ✓ Current Membership: 54
- ✓ Planning a Team Jersey Day
- ✓ Also planning for some classroom based incentives and announcing monthly winners

C. Fundraising:

Report presented by Maria Ramos

- ✓ Committee needs a chair and also requires more members in the committee. Currently has only one member. Sign-up sheet was passed around.
- ✓ Some fundraising options such as Fun Run, Silly Walk, Box-Tops, and Write-a-Check were discussed.

D. Socials :

Co-chairs: Tammi Anderson & Celeste Holmes (Carrie Czarnik – PTSA Board Liaison)

Report presented by Carrie Czarnik

- ✓ Restaurant Night @ Sweet Tomatoes – Feb 12th; Flyers and email reminders will be sent home.
- ✓ FMSC – Apr 22nd and Apr 28th. More information will be sent out closer to the event date.

E. Community Outreach:

Chair: Mary Garza (Aruna Davis – PTSA Board Liaison)

Report presented by Mary Garza

- ✓ Shared a list of Community Outreach initiatives as possibilities for the next few months. This included Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry, Mutual Ground, Easter Bunny, El Dia de los Ninos and SciTech Day. A detailed list of activities was presented to the PTSA Board for consideration.
- ✓ The committee will keep the members and the school families posted about participating in these various events via emails, Facebook page and announcement during meetings.

4. Principal's Report

Dr.Howerton presented the Principal's report with the following updates and announcements

- **PARCC Assessments:** Notification about the new PARCC assessments will be sent in a week or two. Dates for PARCC assessment will be listed. PARCC is a 100% online assessment and the students and teachers are working in their classrooms and trying out this new testing format.
- **GROW Program-** Reported that the GROW program is off to a great start and informed that the program will cover all services every day that the program is being offered.
- **Winter Festivus –** Commended the school and the community as they worked together during the holidays to give back to the community through the various service projects.

- **2nd Semester Progress** – Improving several processes at the school level and presenting the STEM school to various groups. Teachers are becoming more comfortable with the various curricular requirements and engaging in a natural way.
- **Field Trips**- Possible field trips in Spring will include visits to Waste Management and Microelectronics.
- **Governing Board Decision** – No new updates as of meeting date. Families are invited to join the Governing Board meeting on Feb 3rd to follow decisions about new school district additions etc.

Announcements

- No new announcements

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2015; 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Matthew Root; 2nd – Patricia Hollar

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM

Minutes prepared and submitted by

Aruna Davis

Recording Secretary

John C.Dunham STEM Partnership School PTSA