

PTO MEETING

Monday, September 10, 2012

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM. Members present were: Karine Picchietti, Amy Fehrenbacher, Dana Andrews, Molly Haworth, Sue Locke, Julie Adams, Charlotte Vrba, Dr. Jan Wright, and Sue Sokolinski.

Secretary's Report: Karine Picchietti made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2012 meeting. Dana Andrews made a second. All were in favor. Minutes were approved. Amy Fehrenbacher had nothing additional to report.

Ways and Means Report: Sue Locke reports that we made \$156.98 on our first Market Day this year. October 30th will be the next pick-up day. Sue is continuing to look at ways to improve upon the declining sales. The Clothing Fair is this weekend, and Sue reports that we are in desperate need of additional volunteers. Sue Sokolinski offered to check on staff availability for this event, and perhaps send out an email with a link to the website. Julie Adams will notify Head Room Parents of this need, as well. Enticing Cuisine will be donating food Wednesday night for the clothing fair workers, and in return we will be making Enticing Cuisine menus available to workers and AGS staff members. In addition, Sue stated that there are plans to include Enticing Cuisine as a Dine- Around opportunity at some point this year. Sue also reported that she has re-enrolled AGS in the Meijer program, and they will be sending an informational packet. It appears that this program is run very similar to the one we have with Target. After brief discussion it was decided that interest was there to once again do a Dine-Around with Tom & Eddy's. Sue will talk with Marcie Mefford about setting this up. Our Panera date is set for October 7th. Sue states that she has also been approached about doing a new fundraiser. This would be an on-line partnership with certain businesses such as Amazon. It is a program that Music Buffs have been using successfully, and that Storm School has just initiated. Sue will be looking into this and will follow-up as more information becomes available.

1st Vice President's Report: Dana Andrews provided an update on the status of Gator Gallup. This event is scheduled for September 28th, and everything appears to be in order. T-shirts are being printed. At this time we have 21 sponsors donating money (T-shirts) and 5 companies donating services. Pal Joey's and The Batavia Creamery have donated gift certificates. Dana states that she met with the year book rep on Friday to sign the contract with Inter-State for one more year. She also shared that Inter-State will be taking candid's on picture retake day in October; so Sue Sokolinski will notify staff that this will be going on. Regarding Spirit Wear, Dana reports that a committee is in place and working on this. The plan is for a possible October sale with delivery by Christmas.

2nd Vice President's Report: Molly Haworth provided an update on the status of the AGS courtyard project. Thanks to Molly and Melinda's hard work clearing out the weeds and over-growth, we are now at the stage to begin planting. Molly discussed the option of paying Wasco Nursery \$1,000 to clear out an area of sod and plant some good-sized bushes along one wall. She also expressed the idea that we are at a point now where additional money is needed if we are to reach our goal of completion by fall.

*Karine Pichietti made a motion to allocate \$1, 500.00 to the AGS courtyard for completion of the project. Julie Adams made a second. All were in favor. The motion passes.

In addition, Molly is still looking into the Lowes grant for courtyard benches. And, Dr. Wright suggested checking into a place on Rt. 56 (North Aurora) where we could possibly load up mulch at no cost. Additionally, Karine has a connection with a flower company which she will be working. Regarding the above motion for courtyard money, Amy Fehrenbacher will see that a notice is posted on the bulletin board at the front entrance of the school per PTO guidelines.

Communication's Report: Karine Picchietti provided a report from Melinda Taschetta-Millane. A new page regarding the AGS technology initiative has been added to the web site, and follow-up postings have been made on FB urging parents to get involved. Melinda reported that the PTO bulletin board was updated prior to school starting, and she will be giving it a complete revamp next month. Update on the Student Directories---the cover contest deadline has been extended a week to allow for more entries. Ms. Cannon and Mrs. Starzac will act as judges for this contest. Melinda is working with Diane Cronin to pull information, and she will provide an update on this process as she is able. Additionally, Melinda reminds committee heads that all information intended for the Gazette, web site, and face book should be sent directly to her, not to Caroline. The next PTO deadline for October Gazette information is September 17. Finally, Melinda inquired about volunteer recruitment and wondered if a campaign of some sort might be helpful to get more people on board.

President's Report: Karine Picchietti reports that the Tax ID is done, and for just around \$100. Thank you to Kevin Corera and his firm who did this for us at cost. Karine provided an update on the status of our Technology Initiative. The committee met for the first time last week, and they are working to develop a plan. Their next meeting is set for October 3rd. One committee member, Sharon Kolb, will be focusing on the marketing aspects, including taking pictures of AGS students actively engaged in using the various forms of technology. Such pictures will be used in creating a monthly "Did you know..." for the Gazette to further increase the AGS community's understanding of this initiative. Sue Sokolinski will continue to encourage teachers to spread the word about technology through their students and into the AGS community. Susan Anderson has committed to writing some grants for this project. She is currently planning to write two over the next few months. Karine will continue to follow-up with Amy Grimscheid. Karine reminded PTO members to continue to network in the search for grants.

Principal's Report: Dr. Wright inquired about the timing/availability of additional money for technology. She reported that if we were to increase the amount to \$20,000, this would allow for the eight teams to each receive \$2,500. After some discussion, it was decided that the PTO will wait until October when dollar amounts from the Clothing Fair and Gator Gallup are in before taking a vote. In the meantime, Dr. Wright can let teachers know of this October date, giving teams time to get wish lists in order. Dr. Wright shared that the NED assembly was a big success; over \$2000 worth of yoyos have been sold.

Classroom Support's Report: Julie Adams reports that she has a Head Room Parent meeting scheduled for September 12th. She already met with Dr. Wright to discuss streamlining the guidelines for classroom parties. One big change was put in place---head room parents can now access money all year long, but with a reimbursement plan. Julie has created a form to keep track of party funds which will be distributed. Head Room Parents will start the year with one monetary amount which will not be altered for gain/loss of students. The decision was also made to cut out the Winter Party service project. All classes already participate in many such projects throughout the year, and removing this from the winter party will relieve some of the stress of trying to accomplish these projects in the brief amount of time allowed. It will also eliminate potential stress in finding parents and children available to deliver the projects once completed. Julie reports that Teacher Appreciation Week has also been scaled back while still keeping in place the more special traditions.

Teacher Liaison Report: Sue Sokolinski reported that teachers are loving the new technology. Technology is being utilized daily, and teams are working together as they move through the learning process. The Homecoming parade is this Wednesday, and AGS teachers will be marching. Sue also shared with Julie Adams that she has extra vases available for use during Teacher Appreciation Week; Julie will send a reminder email closer to this date.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte Vrba reported that we have received a \$2100 check from Target. Sponsor checks are also in for the Gator Gallup. After significant discussion and research, Charlotte reported that we will be making the switch to Harris Bank. There is still a fee involved when making a deposit, but an advantage with Harris is that individual checks brought in together count as one deposit so we are not paying a fee for each check. Charlotte and Karine Picchietti are both approved to be check holders. Charlotte stated that we do need to keep a \$1500.00 balance, which should not be a problem.

*Karine Picchietti made a motion for AGS PTO to switch banks from Chase to Harris. Dana Andrews made a second. All were in favor. The motion to switch banks passes.

New Business: There is a PTO General Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 20th; time changed to 7PM for this meeting only. The plan is to invite the Technology Committee to speak at this meeting.

Adjournment: Karine Picchietti made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Wright made a second. All were in favor. Meeting is adjourned at 8:20PM.