

NewTech High @ Coppell PTSO

August 3, 2009

Minutes

Attendees:

Ranjini Agarwalla	Kelly Durso	JoAnn Leach
Jean Ainsworth	Jo Gillen	Sharon Mankin
Bridget Bell	Becky Gross	Michele McClew
Tabitha Branum	Marca Hiller	Gretchen Pace
Connie Braun	Tina Jenkins	Karen Pearsall
Kristen Brown	Lu Ann Kamstra	Donna Ramsey
Alison Durkee	Mary Keane	Anne Tatum

Jean Ainsworth called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and welcomed everyone. She asked everyone to pick up a copy of the PTSO by-laws, updated May 4, 2009. Following introductions, Jean explained that she makes a real effort to be respectful of everyone's time and keep PTSO meetings moving. As necessary, she may ask that some topics be discussed off-line with a later update to the Board.

PTSO Board Changes and Updates

- Jean advised that there was re-shuffling of Board member positions over the summer. Kristy Racz has moved to vice-president, Karen Pearsall will be parliamentarian, Becky Gross will be secretary, Ranjini Agarwalla will be scholarship chair, and Tina Jenkins will be marketing chair.
- Karen Pearsall made a motion to approve the Board as currently slated in the e-mail sent to Board members prior to the meeting. Bridget Bell seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved as submitted following a motion by Karen Pearsall and second by Bridget Bell.

Treasurer's Update

- Alison Durkee presented the final financial statement for Year Ending June 30, 2009. Final net profit for the year was \$5,140, better than budget by \$3,544.
- Based on requests from committees, a preliminary budget was presented with receipts of \$27,800, expenses of \$30,940 and net profit of \$2000 which will be carry-over to next year. Expenses exceed receipts due to the carry-over from last year.
- In response to some inquiries about the Write-A-Check budget, Alison indicated that the estimated income is \$58/student for 390 students. If receipts exceed that, other fund-raisers (i.e., car wash) might be curtailed. If receipts fall below that, additional fund-raisers may be planned. The fund-raising committee indicated that they will "keep going" until they hit the \$23,000 target.
- As was agreed last year, 10% of fundraising, less expenses, has been ear-marked for a benevolence fund to allow school administration to help need-based students as they deem appropriate.
- Following discussion, a motion was made by Karen Pearsall and seconded by Joann Leach to approve the budget, with an amendment to add \$2,200 to both revenue and expense to cover spirit wear that will be promoted by the marketing committee. The motion, an amendment, were approved.

New Tech Gives Back / Enrichment / Community Service

- One of the largest budget lines for next year is Learner Enrichment. By way of explanation of the budget and plans for next year, Sharon Mankin, Bridget Bell and Tabitha gave an overview of a theme that will be integrated throughout and embedded in the NTH curriculum and in Wonderful Wednesday programs this year.
- <http://www.touchalifekids.org/> is the website that provides an overview of the organization that will be the inspiration for this year. The Touch A Life Foundation, based in Coppell, was founded after the founder's 15-year old son died suddenly of a undetected heart defect. The foundation, inspired by stories of children in Ghana sold into slavery, has a presence, including schools, in Ghana, West Africa; Vietnam and Cambodia.
- New Tech will be adopting a school in Ghana as a partner school. Representatives from the Foundation will be at the school throughout the year, including a visit from students in October. The official kick off of the program will be September 16. Students from the school will be visiting October 4.

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- Tabitha and Sharon encouraged all PTSO members to look at the web site, and even read the book Jantzen's Gift, that describes the events that led to the creation of the foundation (Corbin's or Amazon. See web site for more info). Learners will be reading and doing a book study of the book.
- In addition to PTSO fund-raising to support our school, there is another goal is to find opportunities to support the Foundation in many ways, financial and otherwise.
- Tabitha mentioned that she, her staff, and the Enrichment/Community Service Committees, have planned a full slate of Wonderful Wednesday events for the year, including marketing and film-making, complete with a visit to the Las Colinas film studio.

Director's Update

- Tabitha Branum welcomed everyone and noted that she's enthused and excited for a new year and thanked everyone for their work last year and welcomed new members. She said that the facilitators had a great experience at training in Michigan recently.
- In old business, Tabitha provided updates on the District transfer policy and the Texas HB3 (House Bill 3) regarding high school graduation requirements

Transfer Policy

- At last week's School Board meeting, the trustees approved a policy (that is currently common practice, but not policy) whereby students transferring within the district or into the district would receive GPA credits consistent with the highest ranking similar course offered at the school to which the student is transferring. As an example, NTH's Digital Portfolio class (Level 3) is considered similar to BCIS at CHS (Level 2). A student transferring to CHS would receive a GPA based on a Level 2 course for that transferred credit.
- A proposal to simply not rank transfer students wasn't seriously considered after TASB (our legal counsel) advised that Texas Education Code requires ranking at least the top 10% of a high school class.
- Jean Ainsworth mentioned that she'd attended the meeting, and both she and Tabitha noted that we're very fortunate to have such a committed school board that cares about our district and our students.

HEB3

- In late July, HEB3 was passed, to be effective immediately. The Bill changes high school graduation requirements by reducing PE, Health, Speech and other requirements to allow more elective options. Since it was passed so late in the summer, after 2009-10 staffing was in place, districts generally have little opportunity to adjust this year. Additionally, TEA has been making revisions to the requirements. Tabitha said that she anticipates that the final plan will look different than current.
 - Coppell ISD's local practice and requirements for this school year will not change. Please see the CISD web site for more information.
- Tabitha said that NTH is fully staffed for this school year, with several new facilitators on board. She says that each of the new facilitators brings great enthusiasm and experience to bear. She gave a brief overview of the new hires at the meeting.
 - The Main Event Summer Fun function will be Wednesday afternoon (1:00-3:00). If learners didn't register on My Sign Up, please e-mail Tabitha ASAP if they are planning to attend. Cost is \$20.
 - NTH @C Movie Night will be August 18 at New Tech with two outdoor screens, popcorn, etc.
 - The summer mailing with school registration information and forms will be out this week. Registration is next week. Monday/ Tuesday for freshmen and sophomores and Wednesday for freshmen. Students do not necessarily need a parent to attend, as long as they bring completed forms (esp. proof of residency, truancy and ethnicity), and payment (no credit cards and separate checks for various items). Tabitha will send an e-blast explaining payment options.
 - Josten's will get at New Tech this fall so that juniors can order class rings October 1.

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School Start-Up

- Connie Braun will send a My Sign Up to get 10 volunteers/shift for registration.
- PTSO will have stations for Write-A-Check, Community Service, and Spirit Wear. There will be specified locations to drop off other forms, i.e., membership.

Future Meetings

- All future meetings will be the first Monday of each month at 5:30, except for the next meeting which would fall on Labor Day.
- The next meeting will be the second Monday, September, 14

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM

Becky Gross
Secretary
NTH@C PTSO