

NewTech High @ Coppell PTSO

November 2, 2009

Minutes

Attendees:

Jean Ainsworth	Krista Finnegan	Sharon Mankin
Bridget Bell	Becky Gross	Michele McClew
Laura Bitterman	Beth Hohfeler	Gretchen Pace
Tabitha Branum	Tina Jenkins	Karen Pearsall
Connie Braun	Donna Hunter	Donna Ramsey
Kristen Brown	Lu Ann Kamstra	Sydney Sadler
Laura Clay-Fix	Mary Keane	Anne Tatum
Alison Durkee	JoAnn Leach	Rene' Watten

Jean Ainsworth called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Jean introduced and welcomed Sydney Sadler, New Tech Learning Council PTSO rep. Sydney gave an update of Learner's Council activities/accomplishments: Rules to Live By update, homecoming and Red Ribbon Week. Sydney also mentioned that the Council is beginning to plan for prom. New Tech will have its own (not with CHS) Junior-Senior prom in 2011. Tabitha mentioned that that the New Tech prom will be a special event that is consistent with the size of the school. She hopes to plan a special, memorable event. More details will follow, but deposits will be due this spring.

PTO President's Meeting Update

- This month's PTO President's meeting will be held this Friday. Jean will send an e-mail with updates following the meeting.
- Jean encouraged everyone to attend "The Discussion" sessions, led by Dr. Turner. This Wednesday's session will focus on high school graduation requirements.

Director's Update

- Tabitha thanked the PTSO for organizing Fright Fest, car wash and smores day. The car wash raised \$3,785. Because we're still under-budget for fund-raising, another car wash will be held in the spring. Next year, we'll plan a fall car wash for early September when there aren't competing fund-raisers in the community, and when the weather is warmer.
- The faculty and staff extended a thank you to the hospitality committee who had special treats and pumpkin waffles last week. .
- A Pumpkin Chunkin' event will be held this Thursday from 5-6:30. The physics project will tie-in with a Touch-of-Life fund-raiser planned by various networking groups. Middle school science teachers have extended invitations to their students.
- Last Wednesday was Film Appreciation Day, with an improve routine. Break-out sessions focused on the links between improvisation and effective oral presentation. Next spring, New Tech will host a couple of 12- and 24-hour film races.
- The TCU game outing is still being planned, although there may be a conflict with the Coppell Cowboys play-off game.
- On Wednesday, freshmen will receive PSAT scores and related information. Sophomore/junior PSAT scores will be available in December.
- Several college reps, including UT and OU, visited campus a few weeks ago and expressed were very impressed with the students, particularly their maturity and their ability to articulate objectives associated with projects. The reps shared information with the school administration regarding transcripts. They noted that an important aspect that makes a transcript competitive is a challenging set of courses, based on what is offered on the campus, either AP or dual credit. UT and OU are moving toward unweighted GPAs, recognizing that all schools have different courses and weighting criteria. The UT rep will offer an essay writing workshop to Junior English classes in the spring.
- A Lock-In is planned for December 11.
- The Engineering Expo will be at CHS on Sunday, Nov. 15. All students, even those not interested in engineering, are encouraged to attend. Many college reps will be there.

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Treasurer's Report

- Allison e-mailed the financial statement. Cash on hand October 31 was \$16,658. We are currently (\$600) below budget. Jean, Allison, and Tabitha will be meeting to discuss the Gifts to School budget item.
- Jean suggested that it might be wise to create a separate line item in the budget to track Prom. No action was taken, but discussion will continue.
- Tabitha asked for the Board's opinion on the Benevolence fund, particularly related to the Spanish IV immersion trip planned for spring. The Benevolence fund is budgeted as 10% of fund-raising.

Community Service

- Items for boxes that will be sent to Touch of Life "adopted" students are due by November 11.

PR/Newsletter

- Items for the next newsletter are due November 15. The newsletter will be published on December 1, to cover December/January activities, as well as retrospective on other recent events.

Web Site

- Marcia Hiller reported that the new web site will be launched next week.
- Jean thanked Marcia and the committee for the hard work on a big and challenging project.

Learner Activities

- The next program will be on Veteran's Day. Please let Sharon Mankin know if any family has a personal military connection, or if anyone has specific ideas for a program. Sharon is hoping for an upbeat day and program.

Spirit Wear

- Spirit wear is for sale at school on Fridays. The committee is gradually adding new items.
- Information will be sent in the next newsletter to make sure that parents are aware of the items available.

Graduation

- The committee is beginning to narrow down potential locations. They are brainstorming ideas for speakers. Please let Tabitha know if you have ideas, or if you have connections.

December Meeting

- The December meeting will be a dinner meeting at 6:00 on Monday, December 7. Details to follow.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Becky Gross
Secretary
NTH@C PTSO