

Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) Meeting – October 7, 2021

Attendees: Julie Faure, Brett Wilson, Kari Gardner, Joel Barber, Stacey Arens, Mohamad Jama, others?

Julie thanked parents for coming by the PTSO table at PT conferences, for signing up to volunteer and for donating to the PTSO. She also thanked parents for volunteering to buy and bring breakfast items to PSAT and College App day.

1. Principal Wilson's update

The parent-teacher conferences had good attendance especially on the first night when the meeting were on Zoom. Cottonwood seemed to have better attendance for the in-person meeting day.

Fights have been breaking out at the corner gas station during lunch. The fights seem to be involving Cottonwood and students from outside Cottonwood. AMES students have not been involved. Brett has recommended for students not to go off site during lunch especially to this small gas station that tends to get overwhelmed with students during lunch.

The vandalism and Nik Tok issue seem not to be a huge issue and can be monitored. Brett has recommended that Cottonwood reopen bathrooms to students.

Covid did impact students. AMES is finding that students are behind socially and academically and that is larger than it has ever been. However, some of the very best achievers are students of color.

AMES has hired many peer tutors to help get students back up to speed academically.

AMES will be holding its first dance on November 5. He has asked parents attending to weigh in as to whether pre-dance activities were appropriate considering the on-going pandemic.

Brett and Kari gave their input as to why the PSAT was not necessarily useful to take as a sophomore.

2. Counselors update

Counselors have gone through 3/4 of their meetings with seniors and will be meeting with them as a group tomorrow. They are anxious about graduation, college applications, scholarships and the future.

The counselors are working on a new website for the counseling room.

3. Joel Barber for Jenica Barber, treasurer update

PTSO has \$7,356 in the account. \$1,000 will be paid out to a student who won one of the scholarships last year. \$3,000 will be put aside for this year's scholarships. We will need additional fundraising and donations to fund this school year's events. Thank you to Miguel Guzman for providing food at a very generous price for our teachers and staffs' dinners during parent-teacher conferences (\$500 for both dinners).

4. Upcoming volunteer opportunities

- Providing snacks and drinks for FASFA night on October 28, 6:00-7:30 PM
Not very many families attend. PTSO should get the word out.
- Providing a meal for students before the fall dance on November 5
After discussing whether pre-dance activities and dinner were appropriate, it was decided that it would be good for the students (especially the Freshman and Sophomores) to have an opportunity to socialize and get to know each other. We need to plan for about 100 students.
- Help providing holiday gifts to teachers and staff from PTSO
Julie will reach out to a group of parents to help make some gifts bags for teachers and staff.

5. Planning ahead for the spring and graduation

- Should we start planning Senior party? (venue, games, dance, food, etc.)

Ms. Freestone is overseeing Student Council and will be the contact for Senior activities.

Kari said she would bring up the party with seniors tomorrow so that they can start a discussion of what they'd like to do (put out a survey?). PTSO will help support what seniors would like to organize. Casino Party vs. Senior Prom.

- Reserving a venue for the Senior party?

Spy Hop was used last year and was a very nice venue. Venue will depend on what seniors choose they'd like to do.

- Reserving the Wasatch Casino (if that's what we think we'd like to do)
- Creating a panel of parents to help design PTSO scholarships applications and judge entries.

Julie will reach out to parents to see who would like to chair this panel and who would like to be on it.

- Kuddos to Allie Jones for getting the Environmental Club going.

From Allie: The AMES students are meeting tomorrow at 9:00, probably in one of the "pods" near Social Studies (we were supposed to be meeting in Skunk Works but the PSAT registration is happening in there tomorrow at 9:00). We will send the deets for tomorrow out via the new Remind group tonite once we're sure where we're meeting (and I'll also just have Kaiya text everyone in case they haven't signed up for that yet).

So one thing you can pass on to interested parents and teachers to get out is that students interested in being in the Club **should text @cwoodgreen to 81010** to get Env Club Communications through Remind from here on in!

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