



ATHENS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7pm

MINUTES

I. Call to Order at 7:01pm

Attendees: Danielle Buser, Kristin Kennaugh, Colleen Geyer, Peggy Chinoski, Ami Shah, Shawn DuFresne, Kim Bryson, Karen Hunt, Lara Dixon, Armida Johnson, Jyl Boehms, Jessie Mitchell, Kelly Jones, Kenyanna Weatherspoon, Kristy Osterlund, Lisa Oakes, Marti Steiner, Michelle Ketterman, Pat Shoales, Renee Zaits, Susan Holle, Tricia Albery, Erica Fonk, Lynnea Baron, Christine DiPilato, Marc Emerson

II. Introductions: Board introductions

III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda: none

IV. Reports

a. Principal:

- Priorities are equity and humanity – especially this week given technological hack; want to make sure that we are listening and promoting Anti-racism
- Constantly in communication with students/staff
- On Monday 3/22 at 10pm, students will be about to login with Counselors and administration to ask ANY questions
- If not available Monday there will be more of these...love talking with kids!!
- If choose in-seat for the next session, can always go back to virtual learning; choice are built for fluidity and we will be responsive as possible
- Prom/Senior Events: these decisions will be made and announced after Spring break, don't want to prematurely make decisions
- Please feel free to email or contact us regarding any ideas for these events
- Our priority is happiness, health and success academically!
- Credit/No credit: no decision yet, awaiting 3rd quarter grades
- Love to celebrate any achievements – please let us know if you have any stories to share – email Dr. Dixon
- Varsity Basketball quarantined sad....cheer on JV as they are taking their spot in competition at District level; if they win hopefully the Varsity can jump back in for State competition!
- Questions:
 1. How many students are there in Athens: 1560 (about 25% inseat)
 2. What resources are available for Senior activity questions – feel free to contact Dr. Dixon via email or phone (248-823-2920 office)

b. Secretary – Review & Approve February Minutes: Motion to approve by Kim Bryson and Renee Zaits

- Can be viewed on the Website (thank you Ami)

c. Treasurer – Treasurer Report: posted on Website

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Christine DiPilato (joining for Dr. Machesky)

-Please see PowerPoint Presentation link - ***

- Questions:

- 1. Will in-seat teachers be different than virtual teachers in the Fall: Yes there is no plan for Hybrid, teachers could overlap between sections if needed; will all be Troy Teachers**
- 2. What if your child tests positive for COVID while in-seat: we will follow guidelines set forth by the Health Dept as always, there will be no Virtual option, not interchangeable; working on how to support these students**
- 3. Will there be extra classes/activities to make up for virtual Science labs: No, we are working on incorporating this virtually but urge those choosing the virtual option to take this into account**
- 4. Will there be Summer School for credit recovery: this was provided last summer and likely will be this summer; Dr. Dixon and I are working this out but has not been decided; there are credit recovery options currently and will be for the 1st semester in the Fall; the Board has also approved flexibility in the Graduation requirements for 2021, and will likely do so for 2022**
- 5. What is the failure rate in Troy School District: across Troy grades 6-12 there has been no increase in failure rate; Dr. Dixon – 1st quarter was 8% and by the 2nd quarter decreased to <4%, usually have 98% passing rate and is currently 96.2 (this is pre credit/no credit option); please contact Dr. Dixon or any Counselor with any questions/concerns; always working to prevent failing grades and continue to provide many measures/support options**

d. Teacher Representative (Shawn DuFresne):

-StuCo:

- 1. Very successful drive for Friends of Foster Kids; collected 800 items! Will deliver soon and share pictures**
 - 2. Community Week: in place of Charity week, doing this from a Social Media/Virtual standpoint; Encourage students to post on their Class Instagrams**
Raising money for a newly created local organization – Alex's Saints; he is a former graduate of Athens who passed away from drug addiction; this organization raises money to help families and individuals facing this problem; promoted on Social Media; there is a VenMo and GoFundMe page – alexssaints.org
 - 3. Online raffle for students participating in Flocking yards – yards are flocked with Flamingos for \$10 a spot; 1st hour class competition for this; prize is an asynchronous day!**
- Project Lead: Small Toy and Coloring book Drive – raising money for Bottomless Toy Chest; they give these items to children in local hospitals; collection box at front entrance of the school 730am-230pm**
 - Powerlifting – Mr. Lusk: took 10th at the State Meet, finished 3rd of 13; 10 participants placed in the Top 10, 6 received medals and 2 school records were set**
 - Athens Theater Company – Krista Manfredi: Thank you for the Grant, thank you notes to come soon!**
 - Mrs. Dunneback - using Donorschoose.org project – raised enough money to purchase 360 degree OWL camera**
 - Athens Staff would like to thank PTO for the Valentine's day treats and messages and also for the continued support this year...have a relaxing and great Spring Break!**

e. Vice President: no updates

- f. **President**
 - Thank you notes: received several thank you notes from Staff for Valentine's day treats and messages
 - Thank you note received from Skylar Emmerson for Underclassman Grant

V. Old Business: none

VI. New Business

- a. **Innovations Student Presentation: Jessie Mitchell**
 - Student of Mr. Flessa in his Innovations class
 - Initiated the One Smart Cookie Project
 - The One Smart Cookie Initiative is a School-wide program which encourages literacy and the use of library material.
 - Students, Faculty members, Family members, and even previous graduates of Athens have all been encouraged to participate
 - The sender fills out a survey providing their name, the name of the person they would like to send a book gram to, and the genre of book they would like sent
 - Included in the book gram is a book, a personal note from the sender, customized bookmark, candy, and an individually packaged cookie
 - Students then pick up their Book Grams and return the library books later
 - This week 200 book grams sent
 - About 30 book grams a week on average, about 150 more orders this year
 - Dr Dixon received one last week – loved it!!
 - Asking for funding, as she has been been funding this herself
 - Found less expensive options on Amazon for white paper bags, nut-free candy, and clear bags for treats
 - Needs \$85.92 to last the rest of this school year
 - Kristy Osterlund, Kristin Kennaugh and Colleen Geyer graciously offered to donate a \$50 Amazon card each to Jennifer
 - There are book give-aways each week, through donations from the Teachers
 - Advertising on her Instagram page - @onesmartcookieahs_ahs
 - Email – jessiemitchell816@gmail.com
- b. **Staff Appreciation (Peggy):**
 - Appreciation week with tentative plans
 - Will be a full weeks
 - Will include Food Truck Lunch, Classroom door treats and mailbox treats
 - Full all Athens Staff
 - Theme : Survivor!
- c. **Scholarship applications (Renee): Applications due 3/31; see PTO website for all information**
- d. **Restaurant Night schedule (Kenyanna)**
 - Buddy's pizza in Troy, all day – March 24th
 - Panda Express – April 1st
 - Chipotle – May 10th
 - Pending – Noodles and company and MOD Pizza
- e. **Ford for your Drive (Pat): still on hold but will beck back with Elder Ford in 3-4 weeks about plans for the Fall....keeping fingers crossed!!**
- f. **There are still open Board positions for next year – please email any of us if you're interested!**

VII. Open Discussion: none

VIII. Adjournment: 8:13pm...Thank you all for attending!

**Meeting Schedule: April 21, May 19
Zoom at 7:00 pm**