

# AJH PTO Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2022

9:00 am

Meeting called to order at: **9:10am** by President, Darcie Parsons

**President: Darcie Parsons** ([ajhpto1@gmail.com](mailto:ajhpto1@gmail.com))

- Grant request
  - Mrs. Williams submitted a grant request for \$100 for the Agents of Change Club, to benefit staff members, so the students can purchase coffee, sugar, creamers, toppings, and donuts to serve AJH staff.  
Elizabeth Fought motioned to approve the grant request. Heather Pearch seconded the motion. Vote all ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
- PTO asked to purchase comet gear (\$501) to be used for students who violate dress code or need a change of clothes to minimize them missing valuable instruction time.
  - Students who will use these clothes have to leave something of value in the office, then return the clothes at the end of the day to get their time back. Clothing is washed afterwards to be used again.
  - Instead of purchasing clothing items, Heather Pearch will chair and Sherry Glass Strohsack and Jen Vrooman will co-chair a clothing drive to fill this need, and any other items after the drive that are needed can be purchased.
- Kalahari is approved for the summer by Mr. Sayers and the Principals, Heather Hattan will look into date options.

**Principal: Andrew Gibson** ([andrew\\_gibson@amherstk12.org](mailto:andrew_gibson@amherstk12.org))

- Recess update
  - There are plans to put a parking lot at the back of the school building that will also be used for a recess area. This will increase safety for students as well as allow students to have more outdoor space to be kids, as well as install basketball hoops, and options like a gaga pit and 9 square. The project is still a top priority and the funding is being worked out. Construction prices are constantly fluctuating.
  - In the meantime, there is a \$1000 approved budget voted on in December 2021 for recess items to be used during ME. Mrs. Walsh emailed a list of items needed for recess which will be ordered, such as footballs, soccer balls, basketballs, games, etc.
  - Storage of 9 Square and larger recess items is an issue, as space is limited. Rachele Diaz suggested getting a storage shed specifically for recess items, and asking Lowes or Home Depot for a donation.
- Dances
  - Mr. Gibson's top concern is student safety; having a waiver for parents to sign with ticket sales was discussed.
  - Sherry Glass Strohsack said that there is a lot of parent support; Sherry offered to chair and Jen Vrooman offered to co-chair.
  - Ticket sales are split with the Student Council, so Mr. Gibson will work with Mrs. Williams and Student Council on dates and other details.
  - Potential dates being looked at are Thursday, May 12th from 2:30-4:30pm for 6th grade, and Friday, May 13th from 2:30-4:30pm for 7th and 8th grade. Having a dance immediately after school increases attendance and allows staff more flexibility in supporting the dances.

- Ticket sales will be cash only, with 20 tickets being set aside for counselors to give to students at their discretion.
  - Concessions have been sold in the past, which included pizza, chips and drinks.
  - Sherry will look into a DJ or instead having party speakers with a clean playlist option as she knows someone who may be able to put together a playlist.
  - Potentially, decorations set up for 6th grade can be left up for the 7th/8th grade dance as well. The PTO will cover the cost of decorations and items needed to be purchased.
  - In the future, Heather Pearch suggested having a multi-activity event, with sports, games and activities, as well as a dance to allow students to have other options.
  - Sherry Glass Strohsack made a motion to have a PTO sponsored dance, Laura Potts seconded the motion. Vote all ayes, no nays. Motion passed.
- DC Trip/Magazine sales update
    - The AJH magazine sale fundraiser was a huge success, with around \$10,000 raised and 3 students fully paying for their trips. (This was a school fundraiser, not PTO)

**Vice President: Heather Hatten** ([heathermhatten@gmail.com](mailto:heathermhatten@gmail.com))

- Heather will look into Kalahari summer dates.

**Secretary: Elizabeth Fought** ([ohhappyday789@gmail.com](mailto:ohhappyday789@gmail.com))

- Please sign attendance sheet
- Heather Pearch made a motion to waive the reading of last month's minutes, Sherry Glass Strohsack seconded the motion. Vote all ayes, no nays. Motion passed.

**Treasurer: Dawn Clappas** ([ajhptotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ajhptotreasurer@gmail.com))

- Remember that we are tax exempt; if you need to get any donations or supplies for your committee, please email Dawn for a copy of the form needed.
- Bank Balance: \$23,746.31
- Quickbooks: \$23,307.77
- Outstanding: -\$438.54 outstanding eSports check

**Committee Chairs:**

**Apparel Sale (Spring): Heather Hatten** ([heathermhatten@gmail.com](mailto:heathermhatten@gmail.com))

- District wide sales, though not all PTOs may be involved.
- Heather is looking into using Personal Stitch.
- Options previously discussed of person pick up, sending items home with students with permission, and possible delivery within school district

**Community Support, General:**

- Link Amazon Smile through Powers Elementary; Coke rewards- you can enter them yourself on Coke's website, under Powers Elementary. All money earned is split evenly between Powers, Nord, and AJH PTO's.

**Community Support:**

- **Donation Drives:** Teri Burich ([teri@danbinford.com](mailto:teri@danbinford.com))  
In the Spring, before Easter, there will be a food drive for Good Shepherd Baptist Church, with collection boxes in the school office. More details to follow.
- **Cram the Cruiser:** Heather Hatten ([heathermhatten@gmail.com](mailto:heathermhatten@gmail.com))  
More details to follow, with a tentative plan for early August

**Dance: Sherry Glass Strohsack** ([sherryglassLAW@gmail.com](mailto:sherryglassLAW@gmail.com)) and **Jen Vrooman** ([jenlvrooman@gmail.com](mailto:jenlvrooman@gmail.com))

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**End of School Reward: Elizabeth Fought** ([ohhappyday789@gmail.com](mailto:ohhappyday789@gmail.com)) and **Dawn Clappas** ([dclappas@gmail.com](mailto:dclappas@gmail.com))

- Elizabeth and Dawn met with Karen from Sugar Buzz
  - Monday, May 2, 9, or 23rd are best for her- Mr. Gibson preferred May 23rd
  - One scoop cups- can select up to 8 ice cream options- recommended a dairy free, a sherbert, a vanilla, and a cookies and cream or chocolate chip cookie dough (50 scoops in 3 gallon tub)
  - Cotton candy will be the candy option
  - She will provide gloves, ice cream cups, spoons, napkins, and will do at cost, charging only for ice cream/candy, 3 employees, and moving the equipment,
  - Possibly have orders ahead of time, before students come out
  - Mr. Gibson suggested having students fill out a Google Form ahead of time for planning

**Fundraisers:**

- **Cleveland Monsters Hockey game: Darcie Parsons** ([ajhpto1@gmail.com](mailto:ajhpto1@gmail.com))
  - Weeknight game will need volunteers to sell 50/50 - March 29th (Tuesday)
- **Mama Joe Pies: Teri Burich** ([teri@danbinford.com](mailto:teri@danbinford.com))
  - Canceled for this year

**Membership: Dawn Clappas** ([dclappas@gmail.com](mailto:dclappas@gmail.com))

Families: 49

Staff: 53

**Newsletter to paid PTO members: Elizabeth Fought** ([ohhappyday789@gmail.com](mailto:ohhappyday789@gmail.com))

- A newsletter is emailed monthly to paid members to inform of upcoming events and news.

**Social Media: Jen Vrooman** ([jenlvrooman@gmail.com](mailto:jenlvrooman@gmail.com))

- If you need anything posted for Social Media, please let Jen know.

**Staff Hospitality: Elizabeth Fought** ([ohhappyday789@gmail.com](mailto:ohhappyday789@gmail.com)) & **Dawn Clappas** ([dclappas@gmail.com](mailto:dclappas@gmail.com))

- March: St. Patrick's Day theme- AJH notebooks, pens, chocolate coins, and a note
- April: chocolates and/or Easter candy bags; what would be a nice boost for staff?
- Chair massages were done in the past and suggested as a future option

**Student Clothing Drive: Heather Pearch** ([pearch896@gmail.com](mailto:pearch896@gmail.com)), **Sherry Glass Strohsack** ([sherryglassLAW@gmail.com](mailto:sherryglassLAW@gmail.com)) and **Jen Vrooman** ([jenlvrooman@gmail.com](mailto:jenlvrooman@gmail.com))

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Instead of purchasing clothing items, Heather Pearch will chair and Sherry Glass Strohsack and Jen Vrooman will co-chair a clothing drive to fill this need, and any other items after the drive that are needed can be purchased.

**Student Gifts: Dawn Clappas ([dclappas@gmail.com](mailto:dclappas@gmail.com)) & Elizabeth Fought ([ohhappyday789@gmail.com](mailto:ohhappyday789@gmail.com))**

- More pick-me-up goodie bags in the office
- April- the PTO will purchase four large bags wintergreen mints for testing
- Candy bags at Easter- may need to increase budget?

**Sunshine Fund: Mrs. Aufdenkampe**

**Other Business:**

**Next AJH PTO meeting will be April 1, 2022, at 9 am**

**Meeting adjourned: 10:49am by President, Darcie Parsons**

**Attendees:** Mr. Gibson, Darcie Parsons, Dawn Clappas, Jen Vrooman, Heather Pearch, Laura Potts, Sherry Glass Strohsack, Elizabeth Fought, Alexandria Ruiz (Zoom), Allie Sacharski (Zoom), Amanda Messer (Zoom), Beth Prater (Zoom), Lisa Beckler (Zoom), Rachelle Diaz (Zoom), Vanessa Kabat (Zoom), Cathy Reichert (Zoom), and Heather Hattan (Zoom)